



OFFICIAL MINUTES OF THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

April 9, 2014

The Boston School Committee held a meeting at 6 p.m. on April 9, 2014 at the Edward Winter Chambers, 26 Court Street, Boston, Massachusetts.

For more information about any of the items listed below, visit www.bostonpublicschools.org, email feedback@bostonpublicschools.org or call the Boston School Committee Office at (617) 635-9014.

DOCUMENTS PRESENTED

Minutes of the March 26, 2014 School Committee Meeting

International Travel Request: Boston Arts Academy – Qatar, May 2-9, 2014

International Travel Request: Boston Latin School – Canada, May 23-26-2014

International Travel Request: Charlestown High School – France, May 25-May 31, 2014

Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) Statements of Interest:

- Blackstone Elementary School
- Curley K-8 School
- Excel High School
- Rogers Middle School
- Umana Academy
- Urban Science Academy

Report: Interim Salary Payment Order for External Funds

Report: Superintendent Search Update

Report: Strategic Planning Update

Report: Fiscal Year 2015 Capital Budget

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District's Response to State's Turnaround Plan for Holland Elementary School

District's Response to State's Turnaround Plan for Dever Elementary School

English Language Learners Task Force Response to State's Turnaround Plan for Dever Elementary School

ATTENDANCE

School Committee Members Present: Chairperson Michael O'Neill; Vice-Chairperson Claudio Martinez; Dr. Hardin Coleman; Michael Loconto; Margaret McKenna; and student representative Ayomide Olumuyiwa.

School Committee Members Absent: Meg Campbell; and Rev. Gregory G. Groover.

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. O'Neill called the meeting to order and led the pledge of allegiance. He announced that interpretation services were available in Spanish. The meeting was broadcast live by Boston City TV (Comcast Channel 24 and RCN Channel 13) in cooperation with BNN-TV and would be rebroadcast at a later date.

Mr. O'Neill announced the passing of Edward Winter, who served as Secretary to the School Committee from 1962-1987. The School Committee meeting chamber at 26 Court Street is named in his honor.

CITATIONS

The School Committee and Superintendent presented citations to the following leaders and staff from the John D. O'Bryant School of Mathematics and Science who came to the aid of a teacher who suffered a life-threatening medical emergency:

- Carrie Peace, school nurse
- Elizabeth Canfield, World Language teacher
- Bettie Nolan, assistant headmaster
- Steve Sullivan, headmaster

APPROVAL OF SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

The School Committee approved by unanimous consent the minutes of the March 26, 2014 School Committee meeting.

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SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

The Superintendent expressed deep sadness at the tragic violence that took place earlier in the day at Franklin Regional High School in Murrysville, Pennsylvania. BPS is making counselors available to talk with students and has reminded staff of important safety protocols.

April is Autism Awareness Month. Mayor Walsh joined the Teamsters Local 25 on March 29th for the seventh annual Light up the Night Gala for Autism. Many BPS schools are also raising awareness through a variety of activities. Students at the Lee School created a mosaic and raised more than \$500,000.

In the past two weeks, BPS held two teacher recruiting events. The first was targeted at building a diverse teaching staff, and the second was co-hosted by BPS and TeachPlus. More than 200 educators attended each of the events.

Today was “Talk Read Play Day” around the city of Boston. Countdown to Kindergarten, First Teacher, Fields Corner and Dudley Children Thrive partnered to have a series of “flash rhyme mobs” around the area. Also, last week Countdown to Kindergarten celebrated Arabic Culture Day with the East Boston Play to Learn group.

BPS schools and partners sponsored a number of other events this week to support their work with BPS students. On April 8th, the Superintendent attended the EdVestors Showcase and the Arts Festival at City Hall. He also recently attended the Green Gala for Boston Green Academy. Several schools held benefit events last Friday that offered fun and festive times for families at the Hernandez, Mary Lyon, and Beethoven schools. The Henderson Elementary welcomed Mayor Walsh yesterday for a school visit. Tomorrow, all our school leaders will also use a case study of the Henderson as a way of learning from best practices that are being used right here in BPS.

For the past few weeks, students in about 80 schools have taken the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) field test. About half of students are taking the test on paper and the other half are online. Many students are using the Chromebooks as part of the District’s investment in technology to enhance learning.

Earlier this week, the District submitted feedback to the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) on the draft turnaround plans for the Dever and the Holland Elementary Schools. The Superintendent expressed disappointment in the recommendation to discontinue the dual-language program at the Dever. As part of its commitment to strategically expanding dual language opportunities for students, BPS will offer a priority to Dever families who wish to access to a dual language opportunity, and has extended Round 2 registration until this April 11th for Dever families.

Last month, the Superintendent launched an intervention to rapidly improve student achievement at Madison Park Technical Vocational High School. The District is mobilizing a school management team to support the day-to-day operation of the school. In partnership with the BTU,

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the District will also establish a joint intervention team to examine the reasons for underperformance and develop an improvement plan. Both teams will be announced shortly.

Two Madison Park television production students - one current student and one recent graduate - have had their films selected for a screening at a national youth video and film festival on May 2nd at the Boston Institute of Contemporary Art. Only 10 films nationwide were selected. Janey Canuela made a public service announcement about teen dating violence, and Kystal Edwards, produced a documentary that tells the story of twins who are gay.

Last week, WriteBoston held a “Pros and Con-versation gala” honoring former Mayor Thomas M. Menino. Several of students had the opportunity to interview authors Ben Bradley, Derek Jackson, Martin Espada, and Elizabeth Searle. Janice He, a student at the John D. O’Bryant School of Mathematics and Science, also spoke about her cover story in the latest issue of “Teens in Print.”

The Superintendent congratulated Beth McCoy of Boston Latin School who was named “Massachusetts Assistant Principal of the Year” by the National Association of Secondary School Principals.

Next week marks the one-year anniversary of Boston Marathon tragedy.

Several BPS staff will run this year’s Boston Marathon. Ross Wilson and Jared Joiner are running to support buildOn, which has built more than 500 schools over the last 20 years in countries such as Brazil, Senegal, Malawi, Nepal, Haiti and Nicaragua. Ross and Jared are running to help Build. Ann Chan is also running the marathon this year, and Business Manager Ed Glora will be running this year for the 9th time. The Snowden has put a team of teachers and staff together for the school’s “Run for Change” campaign. This campaign will help Snowden students visit Costa Rica, France and Japan. At Orchard Gardens K-8 School, Toby Romer is running to support uAspire, which provides financial aid advising and scholarships in every BPS high school. And at Boston Arts Academy, Bill Schawbel, who is 75, has personally pledged \$75 thousand to support BAA as a dollar-for-dollar match in fundraising. Ten members of the BAA running team are going to join the race as well.

School communities across the city are raising money and support following the tragic deaths of Boston Fire Lieutenant Edward Walsh and Firefighter Michael Kennedy. At the Perry K-8 School, students have raised hundreds of dollars by drawing and selling Boston Fire Department posters. At the Mildred Ave K-8, a student with an older brother who is a firefighter brought his boot in to school to raise money. At the Sumner Elementary School, students invited firefighters to bring their truck to school and show them how they do their job; students returned the favor by giving them cookies and “thank you” cards.

The Superintendent praised school leaders and staff from the John D. O’Bryant School of Mathematics and Science for their quick actions when a teacher suffered a medical emergency on March 31. Carrie Peace, the school nurse, and Bettie Nolan, the Assistant Headmaster, performed CPR and used the defibrillator while they waited for emergency crews to arrive.

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Mr. Martinez announced that the English Language Learners Task Force sent DESE a formal response regarding the elimination of the Dever's dual language program, noting that copies were available for the public.

The School Committee approved the Superintendent's Report by unanimous consent.

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

Imani Jiles, BPS student and member, Boston Youth Organizing Project, testified regarding the transportation policy modifications approved by the Committee on March 26.

James Watson, BPS student and member, Boston Youth Organizing Project, testified regarding the transportation policy modifications approved by the Committee on March 26.

Susan Fung testified regarding student assignment for Chinese language students.

Nicole Ellis, parent, Dever Elementary School, testified regarding the school's Turnaround Plan.

Rev. Daniel Deguglielmo testified regarding the benefits of book clubs.

Carolyn Kain, chair, Boston Special Education Parent Advisory Council (SpedPac), testified regarding special education issues.

Thuy Truong, teacher, Holland Elementary School, testified regarding the school's Turnaround Plan.

Tim Colby, staff assistant to Boston City Councillor Matt O'Malley, read a statement on behalf of Councillor O'Malley in support of the Statement of Interest proposals to the Massachusetts School Building Authority.

Darren Wells, teacher, Timilty Middle School, testified regarding the impact of budget cuts.

M. Cheryl Ashley, teacher, Timilty Middle School, testified regarding the impact of budget cuts.

Kate Lipman, social worker, Timilty Middle School, testified regarding the impact of budget cuts.

Min Kuang, BPS parent, testified regarding student assignment for Chinese language students.

Angela Tang testified regarding student assignment for Chinese language students.

The following parents testified regarding the loss of Family and Community Outreach Coordinators positions:

Anita Cooper, parent, J.F. Kennedy Elementary School
John Connolly, parent, Trotter Elementary School

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Ward Myers, parent, Trotter Elementary School
Paula Bowles, parent, Trotter Elementary School
Lakisha Hayes, parent, Trotter Elementary School
Warren Sol, parent, Trotter Elementary School
Nylah Sol, student, Trotter Elementary School
Molly Marmanillo, parent, Trotter Elementary School
Elizabeth, parent, Trotter Elementary School
Ed Crowder, parent, Trotter Elementary School
Reggie Brady, parent, Trotter Elementary School
Rachel Tunick, parent, Trotter Elementary School
Jody Silverman, parent, Trotter Elementary School

The Superintendent thanked Ms. Tang for raising concerns around student assignment for Chinese language students, adding that his team will work to resolve any issues. He also clarified that the Vietnamese Sheltered English Immersion (SEI) program is not being eliminated. Finally, the Superintendent explained that 18 Family Community Outreach Coordinator (FCOC) positions are being cut as part of the Fiscal Year 2015 budget in order to allow the District to build community engagement capacity at all schools. The Superintendent will present a detailed report on the redesigned Office of Engagement in the near future.

ACTION ITEMS

Approved – As part of the consent calendar, the School Committee approved by unanimous consent an International Travel Request for students and chaperones from Boston Arts Academy to travel to Qatar from May 2-9, 2014.

Approved – As part of the consent calendar, the School Committee approved by unanimous consent an International Travel Request for students and chaperones from Boston Latin School to travel to Canada from May 23-26-2014.

Approved – As part of the consent calendar, the School Committee approved by unanimous consent an International Travel Request for students and chaperones from Charlestown High School to travel to France from May 25-31, 2014.

Approved – On roll call, the School Committee unanimously approved a Statement of Interest to the Massachusetts School Building for the William Blackstone Elementary School.

Approved – On roll call, the School Committee unanimously approved a Statement of Interest to the Massachusetts School Building for the Curley K-8 School.

Approved – On roll call, the School Committee unanimously approved a Statement of Interest to the Massachusetts School Building for Excel High School.

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Approved – On roll call, the School Committee unanimously approved a Statement of Interest to the Massachusetts School Building for the William Barton Rogers Middle School.

Approved – On roll call, the School Committee unanimously approved a Statement of Interest to the Massachusetts School Building for Mario Umana Academy.

Approved – On roll call, the School Committee unanimously approved a Statement of Interest to the Massachusetts School Building for Urban Science Academy.

REPORTS

Interim Salary Payment Order for External Funds – The Superintendent requested that the School Committee approve an interim salary payment order for personnel who are paid through external funds. This order is requested annually due to the delay in receiving external fund award letters and finalized budgets from various funding sources. The Committee is scheduled to vote on the request on April 30th.

Superintendent Search Update – Superintendent Search Committee Co-Chairs Dr. Hardin Coleman and Robert Gallery presented an update on the search process. More than 300 individuals attended one of seven public hearings held by the Search Committee in March, including a large number of students who attended a youth-focused hearing at Madison Park Technical Vocational High School. Search Firm HYA has also met with numerous stakeholders from inside and outside the district. On April 16th, the Search Committee will meet to review a leadership profile and develop a job description for the position. The leadership profile and job description will then be posted online at www.bostonpublicschools.org to give the public the opportunity to provide feedback. The School Committee is scheduled to vote on the job description on April 30th.

Strategic Planning Update – John Kim, Chief Executive Officer of the District Management Council (DMC) and facilitator of the School Committee’s strategic planning process, presented a revised draft of the Committee’s aspirational goals and priorities for the district. The goals fit into the following broad thematic categories: increased student outcomes; improved school quality, strong district leadership/high-quality, action-oriented teachers and staff; effective resources allocation; and greater community engagement. The Committee revised its strategic vision based on feedback from representatives of dozens of community-based organizations at a series of public roundtable discussions. The School Committee is scheduled to vote on the final aspirational goals and priorities of the strategic vision on April 30th. The Committee and Superintendent will then work together to set measurable goals which will be executed by the Superintendent and his staff.

Mr. O’Neill noted that the Committee will work with DMC to create a preamble and a glossary to make the strategic vision clear and accessible to all. Mr. Martinez cautioned that there must be a way to measure college readiness if it is to be part of the strategic vision.

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Fiscal Year 2015 Capital Budget – Carlton Jones, Executive Director of Capital and Facilities Management, presented the District’s FY15 Capital Budget, which calls for approximately \$62 million in spending. The District’s capital needs exceed the capital budget, which is estimated at about \$600 million. Therefore, capital projects are prioritized by the District using a capital needs rubric which Mr. Jones provided. BPS is currently engaged in a Facility Master Planning process with several other city departments and is working with Mayor Walsh’s office to hire an education and facility planning firm to perform a comprehensive Facility Condition Assessment.

School Committee members asked a number of clarifying questions about the capital budget and the rubric, all of which were answered by the Superintendent, Mr. Jones and Khadijah Brown, director of Facilities Management.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON REPORTS

Megan Wolf, BPS parent, testified regarding the superintendent search process.

John Mudd, education advocate, testified regarding the strategic vision and superintendent search process.

NEW BUSINESS

Ms. McKenna requested monthly updates on the new hiring process for teachers. She also requested a report on summer programs, raising questions about whether the most at-risk children are being served.

ADJOURN

At 9:50 p.m., the School Committee voted by unanimous consent to adjourn the meeting.

Attest:



Elizabeth Sullivan
Executive Secretary