



OFFICIAL MINUTES OF THE BOSTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

May 21, 2014

The Boston School Committee held a meeting at 6 p.m. on May 21, 2014 at the Edward Winter Chamber, 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 May 7, 2014 School Committee Meeting

Grants for Approval Totaling \$70,000.

- o Summer Food Service Program Expansion - \$50,000
- o Summer Food Service Program Start Up - \$20,000.

Superintendent's Memo: National School Boards Association - Membership for SY 2014-2015

International Travel Request: Boston Community Leadership Academy, Community Academy of Science and Health, Excel High School – Malawi, June 17-28, 2014

International Travel Request: Boston Latin Academy, Boston Latin School, Excel High School, John D. O'Bryant School of Mathematics and Science, Muriel Snowden International School at Copley, TechBoston Academy – France and Germany, July 8-28, 2014

International Travel Request: Boston Latin Academy – Australia, New Zealand and Fiji, August 11-22, 2014

International Travel Request: Muriel Snowden International School at Copley – Japan, June 9-19, 2014

Report: Boston Student Advisory Council Presentation

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Report: Boston ELL Youth Voices

Report: BPS Policy on Expectant and Parenting Students

ATTENDANCE

School Committee Members Present: Chairperson Michael O’Neill; Vice-Chairperson Claudio Martinez; Meg Campbell; Dr. Hardin Coleman; Rev. Dr. Gregory G. Groover; Michael Loconto; and student representative Ayomide Olumuyiwa.

School Committee Member Absent: Margaret McKenna.

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. O’Neill called the meeting to order and led the pledge of allegiance. He announced that the meeting was being 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.

MEETING MINUTES

The School Committee approved by unanimous consent the minutes of the May 7, 2014 School Committee meeting.

SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

Nathan Han, of Boston Latin School, recently won first place in the Intel International Science and Engineering Fair, the world's premier high-school science and engineering competition. Nathan developed software that can help detect a certain kind of cancer with incredible accuracy. He was awarded \$75,000 to continue his work.

Students at the Mario Umana Academy continue to outperform the competition in “First in Math.” Ooviya Sathiyamoorthy, an 8th grade student, finished 12th in the nation among more than 1.6 million people competing online. The school finished 14th overall in the country and first in Massachusetts out of more than 7,000 schools. Jose Melendez, a BPS paraprofessional, finished 8th nationwide for teachers and school staff.

On May 20th, Mayor Walsh and the Boston Red Sox honored BPS teachers at “Educator night” at Fenway Park. The same day, Boston Arts Academy held its annual gala at the Wang Theatre.

Also on May 20th, Superintendent McDonough celebrated the expansion of the Turnaround Arts with a performance by Orchard Gardens K-8 students in front of First Lady Michelle Obama at the White House.

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The Winthrop, Channing and Mattahunt Elementary Schools are joining the program. The Superintendent thanked BPS Executive Director for the Arts Myran Parker-Brass and EdVestors for their leadership and support.

The Superintendent congratulated Vice-Chair Claudio Martinez, Deputy Superintendent for Academics Dr. Eileen de Los Reyes, and Margarita Muñiz Academy Headmaster Dania Vazquez, for being named to the *El Planeta* Powermeter 100.

BPS will host its annual Wellness Summit on May 28th highlighting the progress and initiatives underway in the Health and Wellness Department.

On May 19th, the District released a report by the Council of the Great City Schools (CGCS) about the BPS Food and Nutrition Services department. The Superintendent pledged to solve the challenges raised in the report.

Today the Superintendent released a CGSC report on Academics in BPS. The Council was impressed with the District's implementation of Common Core to date but had recommendations in other areas, such as professional development and the integration of priorities and practices across departments.

The Superintendent clarified that BPS is not eliminating History and Social Studies, as rumored, but rather changing reporting lines as part of a broader academic reorganization.

Several events are scheduled for May 22nd: The Ten Boys Initiative Goes to College program at UMass-Boston; City Year celebrates its 25th anniversary with a visit from former President Clinton; more than 100 BPS students will showcase their digital media projects as part of the Adobe Youth Voices Digital Media Showcase; and the City Council will hold a hearing on how the Fiscal Year 2015 budget impacts transportation. The Superintendent will update the School Committee on the progress of the Safe Transport Working Group at the June 4th Committee meeting.

The Superintendent announced the following personnel changes for school year 2014-2015:

At Brighton High, Dr. Patrick Tutwiler will become permanent headmaster after serving as interim headmaster this year.

At East Boston High, Phil Brangiforte will also become permanent headmaster after serving as interim headmaster this year.

At the Clap Innovation School, Chi Nguyen will join the school as principal next year. He is currently a principal intern at the Edison K-8 School.

Robby Chisholm will become principal of the Condon this fall. He is currently a principal resident at the Mather Elementary School.

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Nicole Gittens will serve as headmaster of the O’Bryant School of Math and Science. She helped found Urban Science Academy, where Jeff Cook will serve as interim headmaster.

Megan Webb will serve as interim principal of Orchard Gardens K-8 School, where she currently serves as a principal resident.

Richard Sullivan is currently serving as interim headmaster at Boston Latin academy, while Emilia Pastor is on maternity leave; Tom Hopkins is serving as interim headmaster at Snowden International School at Copley while Cara Livermore is on maternity leave.

Klare Shaw is stepping down as Executive Director of Expanded Learning, Advancement and Partnerships to take a position outside of BPS.

Mr. O’Neill noted that the Superintendent has agreed to present the Committee with a full presentation on the Council of Great City Schools reports at a later date.

Rev. Groover congratulated Councilor Pressley on her upcoming wedding.

Ms. Campbell thanked the Superintendent for being transparent having the courage to address the challenges facing the District.

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

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

The following people testified in favor of the Superintendent’s policy recommendation on expectant and parenting students:

- o Boston City Councilor At-Large Ayana Pressley
- o Bette O’Gara, executive director, Key Steps
- o Consuela Greene, BPS parent and member, Massachusetts Alliance on Teen Pregnancy
- o Ciara Mejia, member, Massachusetts Alliance on Teen Pregnancy
- o Lola Akintobi, program coordinator, ABCD Health Services
- o Natasha Vianana, former teen mother

John St. Amand, Vice Chair, Boston Special Education Parent Advisory Council (SpedPac), testified regarding the SpedPac Resource Fair on May 22.

Kim Janey, Massachusetts Advocates for Children, testified regarding the superintendent search process.

Aymara Solonzvo, parent, E. Greenwood Leadership Academy, testified regarding bullying.

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Maura O'Toole, BPS parent and member, Quality Education for Every Student (QUEST), testified regarding the Home Based School Choice System.

Frank Hart, member, Boston Parent Organizing Network (BPON), testified regarding teacher diversity.

ACTION ITEMS

Approved – As part of the consent calendar, the School Committee unanimously approved grants totaling \$70,000.

Approved – As part of the consent calendar, the School Committee unanimously approved membership dues for the National School Boards Association in the amount of \$12,975.

Approved – As part of the consent calendar, the School Committee unanimously approved an International Travel Request for students and chaperones from Boston Community Leadership Academy, Community Academy of Science and Health, and Excel High School to travel to Malawi from June 17-28, 2014.

Approved – As part of the consent calendar, the School Committee unanimously approved an International Travel Request for students and chaperones from Boston Latin Academy, Boston Latin School, Excel High School, John D. O'Bryant School of Mathematics and Science, Muriel Snowden International School at Copley, and TechBoston Academy to travel to France and Germany from July 8-28, 2014.

Approved – As part of the consent calendar, the School Committee unanimously approved an International Travel Request for students and chaperones from Boston Latin Academy to travel to Australia, New Zealand and Fiji from August 11-22, 2014.

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REPORTS

Boston Student Advisory Council – Student leaders from the Boston Student Advisory Council (BSAC) presented an update on their projects and accomplishments from the 2013-2014 school year. The presenters included Marcus Wade (Dorchester Academy), Boya Zhou (Boston Latin School), Kalise Osula (Boston Community Leadership Academy), and Ayomide Olumuyiwa (John D. O'Bryant School of Math and Science). BSAC's wide range of initiatives includes hosting a well-attended youth hearing for the superintendent search process, conducting outreach to students regarding student rights and responsibilities and advising district leaders on policies ranging from transportation to school quality.

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Committee members applauded the students for their work and encouraged BSAC to expand its membership in high schools throughout the District. Ms. Campbell questioned the group's position against raising the charter school cap and encouraged the students to do more research on the issue.

Boston ELL Youth Voices – Students from several English Language Learners (ELL) Youth Groups, led by BPS graduate Wilmer Quiñones, presented an update on their work. More than 40 percent of BPS students are ELLs or former ELLs. The presenters included representatives from the Boston Chinatown Neighborhood Center, Sociedad Latina and ACEDONE. The students have been engaged in a variety of community service projects and citywide initiatives to support immigrant youth and ELLs, such as after school programming and leadership workshops.

The School Committee praised the students for supporting the expansion of dual-language programs, which the Committee also supports. Mr. Martinez urged the District to find a systemic way to work with the many small community groups in Boston.

Superintendent Search Update – Dr. Hardin Coleman, co-chair of the Superintendent Search Committee, announced that on May 19th, the Superintendent Search Committee voted to extend the superintendent search timeline into the next school year. Their recommendation was based on extensive community feedback about the good work that Interim Superintendent John McDonough is doing in the district and the desire to have him continue for another year to implement a number of ongoing initiatives. The time extension will also allow the search firm more time to seek a strong, diverse pool of candidates for superintendent. Under the new timeline, the search firm will present a slate of candidates to the Search Committee in early January 2015, with the goal of bringing candidates to the School Committee in February. The Search Committee co-chairs will continue to provide periodic updates to the School Committee over the next several months as the recruitment of candidates continues.

The School Committee expressed support for the revised timeline. Superintendent McDonough thanked the Committee for its support and stated that BPS is well positioned to achieve success.

BPS Policy on Expectant and Parenting Students – Laura Dziorny, Deputy Chief of Staff, presented the Superintendent's proposal to update the District's policy on expectant and parenting students, which was last updated in 1987. The proposed policy would maintain student confidentiality, ensure a safe and supportive learning environment, promote academic success, implement sensible attendance policies and use school liaisons to share information. A working group of internal and external stakeholders helped devise the policy recommendation.

School Committee members asked clarifying questions about the proposed policy and the policy development process, all of which were answered by the Superintendent and Ms. Dziorny. Ms. Campbell requested state and local data on teen pregnancy rates.

The Committee is scheduled to vote on the recommendation on June 4th.

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Kenny Jervis, parent, Clapp Innovation School, testified regarding the superintendent search process.

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

NEW BUSINESS

Ms. Campbell thanked the Boston Plan for Excellence for hosting the Fund for Teachers Fellows Reception on May 19.

Ms. Campbell requested clarification on the use of BPS logos and letterhead by organizations such as BSAC who receive support from the District.

ADJOURN

At 9:09 p.m., the School Committee voted by unanimous consent to adjourn the meeting.

Attest:



Elizabeth Sullivan
Executive Secretary