



**OFFICIAL MINUTES OF THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE
PUBLIC HEARING ON MASSACHUSETTS
SCHOOL CHOICE PLAN AND MEETING**

May 22, 2013

The Boston School Committee held a meeting on May 22, 2013 at 6 p.m. at the Edward Winter Chambers, 26 Court Street, Boston, Massachusetts.

For more information about any of the items listed below, contact the office of the Boston School Committee: feedback@bostonpublicschools.org or 617-635-9014.

DOCUMENTS PRESENTED

Superintendent's Memo: Massachusetts School Choice, 2013-2014 School Year

Superintendent's Memo: Grants for Approval Totaling \$182,050

- Coordinated Family and Community Engagement Grant - \$29,050.
- Strategic Alliance for Health Grant - \$20,000.
- Summer Food Service Program Expansion Grant Existing Sponsors - \$72,500.
- Summer Food Service Program Start-Up Grant for Existing Sponsors and/or New Sponsors - \$60,500.

Superintendent's Memo: Council of Great City Schools – Membership Dues for SY 2013-2014

Report: Educator Evaluations

Report: Supplemental Appropriation for Special Education

MASSACHUSETTS SCHOOL CHOICE PLAN PUBLIC HEARING

The School Committee held a public hearing concerning Boston Public Schools' participation in the Massachusetts School Choice program for the 2013-2014 school year. There were no speakers.

On roll call, the Committee unanimously voted to adjourn the hearing and begin the regular School Committee meeting.

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ATTENDANCE

School Committee Members Present: Chairperson Michael O’Neill; Vice-Chairperson Alfreda Harris; Meg Campbell; Claudio Martinez; Mary Tamer; and student representative Dan Chu.

School Committee Members Absent: Rev. Gregory G. Groover.

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.

SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

The Superintendent congratulated Irma Camacho of Boston Day and Evening Academy, BPS Assistant Superintendent for English Language Learners Eileen de los Reyes, Margarita Muñiz Academy Headmaster Dania Vázquez and Boston School Committee member Claudio Martinez for being named *El Planeta’s* Powermeter 100 Massachusetts Most Influential People for Latinos. The honorees were recognized at the annual Powermeter reception on May 21st at the Museum of Fine Arts.

Today the BPS Newcomers Assessment Center hosted its third annual community gathering at the Vietnamese Community Center in Dorchester. Mr. Martinez received the “Visionary Leadership and Youth Empowerment Award and Ms. Tamer presented certificates to adults who had completed an ESOL class at the Newcomers Assessment Center. Ms. Tamer thanked Ofelia Pedraza, Vera Johnson and other staff who organized the event.

Also today, BPS hosted the 6th annual Ten Boys Go to College event, part of the district’s effort to raise graduation rates and close achievement gaps. The Superintendent thanked University of Massachusetts Boston Chancellor Motley for hosting the celebration and for his continued support of the program. Ms. Harris delivered remarks at the event on behalf of the Committee. Mr. O’Neill thanked the Superintendent for commitment to the program, which was conceived by former BPS Assistant Superintendent Dr. Ingrid Carney.

The Boston Foundation today released a report examining the progress of charter high schools in Boston entitled *Charter Schools and the Road to College Readiness: The Effects of College Preparation, Attendance and Choice*. One important finding is that flexibility, innovation, extra time, teacher support and accountability work well in driving student success. Ms. Tamer and Ms. Campbell attended the release event.

The City of Boston, including BPS, will soon begin using Cloud for its email and document sharing systems. The shift will create more reliable email access and enable collaborative tools that will drive stronger engagement among teachers, parents, students and staff.

School Committee Meeting
Edward Winter Chambers

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On May 23rd, BPS will hold its annual Stay In School Event with the Boston Celtics at Northeastern University honoring students with perfect attendance. That same day, Mayor Menino will hold his annual School Awards at Faneuil Hall honoring students from across the district. On May 28th, BPS will celebrate its top graduates at the annual Valedictorian Luncheon at the Boston Harbor Hotel.

Boston Arts Academy held a benefit gala honoring Bill Schawbel on May 21st.

Six BPS science teachers have been awarded the competitive Wipro Science Education Fellowship. This two-year program helps experienced teachers improve their practice by focusing on closing achievement gaps in science. Congratulations to:

- Kathleen Carroll, Harbor Middle School
- Sarah Colella, Conley Elementary School
- Robert Cho, Timilty Middle School
- George Pappayannis, Fenway High School
- Victor Pereira, Excel High School
- Josephine Tavares, Mason Elementary School

May is Bus Drivers and Monitors Appreciation Month. Every day BPS drives nearly 32,000 children to and from 228 schools on 732 buses. Only 64 percent of the miles driven are to and from BPS schools, half of which service students with disabilities. The rest are charter, private and parochial schools, as well as private placements for students with disabilities. BPS families and schools recently shared letters and cards showing their support and appreciation for these team members. The Superintendent thanked bus drivers, monitors and central staff who work hard to bring students to and from school safely and on-time.

The Committee voted by unanimous consent to accept the Superintendent's Report.

APPROVAL OF SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

The School Committee approved by unanimous consent the minutes of the May 8, 2013 School Committee meeting.

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

Boya Zhou, student, Boston Latin School and Ayomid Olumuyiwa, student, Edward W. Kennedy Academy for Health Careers, both members of the Boston Students Advisory Council, testified regarding the Code of Conduct.

Justin Palmer, parent, Dennis Haley Pilot Elementary School, testified in support of expanding the school to a K-8.

Jennifer Potter, parent, Dennis Haley Pilot Elementary School, testified in support of expanding the school to a K-8.

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Carolyn Kain, Chair of the Special Education Parents Advisory Council, and John St. Amand, Vice Chair of SpedPAC, testified regarding special education issues.

Karen Kast-McBride, parent, Washington Irving Middle School, testified regarding special education issues and the School Quality Working Group.

ACTION ITEMS

Approved – As part of the consent calendar, the Committee unanimously approved grants totaling \$182,050.

Approved – As part of the consent calendar, the Committee unanimously approved membership dues to the Council of Great City Schools in the amount of \$41,281.

Approved – On roll call, the Committee unanimously approved motion for the district to withdraw from the Massachusetts School Choice Plan for the 2013-2014 school year.

Approved – On roll call, the Committee unanimously approved the establishment of Boston Public Schools School Quality Working Group.

REPORT

Superintendent's Search – Mr. O'Neill led the Committee's discussion on the search for a new superintendent, suggesting that the process consist of four phases:

Phase One - May/June: Discuss proposed timeline and framework for process; prioritize up to five key policy issues for District moving forward; and appoint Interim Superintendent.

Phase Two – Summer: School Committee holds a series of community hearings to gather feedback on the proposed areas of focus as well as qualities desired in a new superintendent. By late August, Committee finalizes policy items and develops job requirements. Committee and Mayor jointly develop a search panel for final consideration by the Committee.

Phase Three – Early Fall: Search Panel Formation and Request for Proposals for Search Firm. Panel Chair will present an update on the Panel's progress at each School Committee meeting.

Phase Four – Fall and Beyond: Search Panel Recruits and Vets Initial Candidates. Panel to propose to School Committee the timeline it will follow upon commencement of search responsibilities.

Ms. Harris suggested that School Committee members who had served on previous superintendent search committees should not serve on this one. She recommended Mr. O'Neill and Mr. Martinez. Ms. Tamer respectfully disagreed and volunteered to serve on the Panel.

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Ms. Campbell suggested that the RFP for a search firm be issued sooner than initially proposed. Ms. Tamer agreed. Mr. O'Neill stated that a revised framework would be presented at the next meeting.

Several Committee members stated that the Committee's top priority should be the appointment of an Interim Superintendent. Ms. Tamer recommended that the Committee appoint Chief Financial Officer John McDonough as Interim Superintendent, describing him as a capable and well-respected throughout the district. Several other Committee members agreed. Mr. McDonough expressed confidence that he could find a suitable replacement as CFO if he were to be appointed Interim Superintendent.

ACTION ITEMS

On roll call, the Committee voted unanimously to take a vote to offer the position of Interim Superintendent.

On roll call, the Committee voted unanimously to offer the position of Interim Superintendent to BPS Chief Financial Officer John P. McDonough.

REPORTS

Educator Evaluations – Dr. Ross Wilson, Assistant Superintendent of the Office of Educator Effectiveness, presented the results of the first year of district-wide implementation of the Massachusetts Model System for Educator Evaluation. Nearly 80 percent of teacher evaluations have been completed. Teachers are requesting additional support in lesson planning, meeting the needs of diverse learners, using data to drive instruction and engaging families. Dr. Wilson expressed concern about data that shows potential racial, gender and age disparities, stating that the system is being carefully reviewed to eliminate potential biases. Principals and headmasters are evaluated by Network Superintendents using the same five-step process as teachers.

School Committee members asked questions about the supports provided to teachers who receive unsatisfactory ratings and the penalties for school leaders who do not submit their evaluations on time, all of which were answered by Dr. Wilson and the Superintendent. Ms. Campbell expressed concern that the vast majority of teachers received a rating of proficient or exemplary, stressing the need for continuous improvement. Ms. Tamer requested a more detailed breakdown of teacher evaluations by age, which Dr. Wilson agreed to provide.

Supplemental Appropriation for Special Education – John McDonough, Chief Financial Officer, requested Committee support for a \$6 million supplemental appropriation request to provide services for students with disabilities. The Committee is expected to vote on the matter on its June 5th meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON REPORTS

No speakers.

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NEW BUSINESS

The Superintendent thanked Jenna Fitzgerald, who is retiring as the Paraprofessional/Substitute Teachers Field Representative for the Boston Teachers Union, for her many years of dedicated service to the students and families of the Boston Public Schools.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

On roll call, the Committee unanimously voted to adjourn to Executive Session to conduct a strategy session in preparation for negotiations with non-union personnel. The Committee did not return to public session.

ADJOURN

At 9:05 p.m., the School Committee voted by unanimous consent to adjourn the meeting.

Attest:



Elizabeth A. Sullivan
Executive Secretary