



## **OFFICIAL MINUTES OF THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING**

**June 10, 2015**

The Boston School Committee held a meeting at 6 p.m. on June 10, 2015 at the Bruce C. Bolling Building, 2300 Washington Street, second floor, Roxbury, Massachusetts.

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

### **DOCUMENTS PRESENTED**

School Committee Meeting Minutes: May 13, 2015 and May 27, 2015

Grants for Approval Totaling \$4,442,774:

Children's Pilot Funds - \$381,524

Preschool Expansion Grant (Fund Code 518) - \$4,061,250

Council of Great City Schools Membership Dues, School Year 2015-16: \$42,345.

International Travel Request: Community Academy of Science and Health – Malawi, July 7-19, 2015

UP Academy Charter School of Boston School Minor Charter Amendment Letter to Department of Elementary and Secondary Education Re: School Calendar, April 15, 2015

UP Academy Charter School of Boston Minor Charter Amendment Letter to Department of Elementary and Secondary Education Re: School Dismissal Times, April 15, 2015

UP Academy Charter School of Dorchester Minor Charter Amendment Letter to Department of Elementary and Secondary Education Re: School Calendar, April 15, 2015

Superintendent's Memo: Proposal to Modify Middle School Pathways: Perkins and Tynan to McCormack Middle School and Dudley Street Neighborhood Charter School to Dearborn STEM Academy

**School Committee Meeting**  
Bruce C. Bolling Building  
School Committee Chamber

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English Language Learners (ELL) Task Force Proposed 2015-2016 Priorities in Relationship to Task Force Goals

ELL Task Force: ELL-SWDs Subcommittee Report, May 27, 2015

Memo to Dr. Tommy Chang from Boston School Committee's English Language Learners Task Force Re: Time Sensitive Actions Items for the New Superintendent, April 28, 2015

Boston Student Advisory Council (BSAC) Power Point Presentation

Office of Engagement Update and Policy Recommendations Power Point Presentation

Boston Public Schools Engagement Policy Proposal

2015 Horace Mann Charter Renewal Applications Power Point Presentation

Boston Green Academy Power Point Presentation

UP Academy of Boston Power Point Presentation

Madison Park Technical Vocational High School Update Power Point Presentation

## **ATTENDANCE**

School Committee Members Present: Chairperson Michael O'Neill; Vice-Chair Dr. Hardin Coleman; Meg Campbell; Michael Loconto; Jeri Robinson; Regina Robinson; Dr. Miren Uriarte; and student representative Ayomide Olumuyiwa.

School Committee Members Absent: None.

## **CALL TO ORDER**

Mr. O'Neill led the pledge of allegiance and called the meeting to order.

## **APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES**

The Committee approved by unanimous consent the minutes of the May 13, 2015 and May 27, 2015 School Committee meetings.

## **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

Last week, BPS held its third annual Citywide Arts Festival, presented in collaboration with EdVestors. The three-day festival on Boston Common showcased the visual and performing arts.

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in our schools. New data indicates that 93 percent of K-1 to eighth-grade students receive weekly, year-long arts instruction, a 26 percent increase since 2009.

On June 8th, Mayor Walsh and the Superintendent attended the Boston Teachers Union (BTU) Math Rocks Competition in which 175 elementary and middle school students solved math problems. The Superintendent thanked BTU President Richard Stutman and BTU volunteers for hosting this annual contest.

On June 9<sup>th</sup>, the Superintendent participated in a ribbon cutting to unveil the city's first school-based student business incubator at the Jeremiah E. Burke High School. Another incubator is planned for the Community Academy of Science and Health. These new spaces, which will support student entrepreneurs in their efforts to launch real businesses, are run in partnership with BUILD and through a grant from the PwC Charitable Foundation. Thanks to this new initiative, students will no longer have to travel to a downtown site to connect with their professional mentors. Instead, classrooms are now being transformed into dedicated incubator labs, complete with 3-D printers and other high-tech tools, to allow them to remain in school while their mentors, from companies like Google and CVS, come to them.

Today former Congressman Patrick Kennedy visited the Bolling Building as the district honored the extraordinary work the 56 BPS school psychologists are doing to make our Comprehensive Behavioral Health Model so impactful in schools. To date, 31 BPS schools have adopted the program and the number of students served has grown from 6,565 in the 2012-13 school year, to more than 17,000 this year. Patrick Kennedy believes strongly in the critical role early intervention plays in behavioral health.

The Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education will again honor this year's Massachusetts Teacher of the Year awardee, the Manning Elementary School's Audrey Jackson, at the State House on June 11th.

Next week, the John F. Kennedy School will be presented with the Human Rights Campaign Foundation's "Welcoming Schools Seal of Excellence," which recognizes schools that have shown an exemplary commitment to ensuring safe and accepting environments. Teachers at the elementary school, the first in the state to receive this certification, completed 20 hours of professional development and now teach their students to embrace family diversity, avoid gender stereotyping, and end bullying and name-calling.

The Manilow Music Project has teamed up with BPS to give away two free tickets to his "One Last Time!" concert on June 16<sup>th</sup> to anyone who donates an instrument, which will then be given to BPS students. Manilow will also donate a brand-new Yamaha keyboard to BPS.

The Superintendent congratulated the BPS Class of 2015 as they celebrate a well-earned milestone and look ahead to college and career.

The Superintendent introduced the following school leaders who were recently appointed to new positions:

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- Boston International High School - [Tony King, Interim Headmaster](#)
- Brighton High School - [Emily Bozeman, Interim Headmaster](#)
- Frederick Pilot Middle School - [Pauline Lugira, Principal](#)
- Winship Elementary School - [Mona Ford, Principal](#)

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

## CITATIONS

The Committee and Superintendent presented citations to the following members of the Boston Student Advisory Council who are graduating from Boston Public Schools:

Ayomide Olumuyiwa, John D. O'Bryant School of Mathematics & Science, Student Representative to the School Committee  
Deross Jordan, Dorchester Academy  
Rebecca-Madori Holland, Boston Latin Academy  
Kalise Osula, Boston Community Leadership Academy  
Glorya Stamford-Wornum, Edward M. Kennedy Academy for Health Careers  
Marcus Wade, Dorchester Academy

Mr. O'Neill recognized the following graduating BSAC students who were unable to attend the meeting:

Pharadia Berret, Brighton High School  
Justin Cummisky, Dorchester Academy  
Fajr Harris, Edward M. Kennedy Academy for Health Careers  
Boya Zhou, Boston Latin School

The Committee and Superintendent presented citations to the following members of the Superintendent's cabinet who are retiring from Boston Public Schools (BPS):

Eileen Nash, Deputy Superintendent of Individualized Learning  
Michele Brooks, Deputy Superintendent of Engagement  
Dr. Eileen de los Reyes, Deputy Superintendent of Academics (*unable to attend*)

## GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

The following people testified regarding Boston Green Academy (BGA)'s charter renewal proposal:

J'Saun Bastien, student, BGA  
Gabby James, student, BGA  
Macon Guyton, student, BGA

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Linda Freeman, parent, BGA  
Dennis Bane, parent, BGA  
Marisa Olivo, staff, BGA  
Tra'Neal Rodgers, staff, BGA

Kenny Jervis, BPS parent, testified regarding investing in public education.

Chris Fung, parent, Another Course to College, testified regarding finding a permanent location for the school.

Alison Pultinas, Coalition for a Better Site for Dearborn STEM Academy, testified in favor of preserving the Dearborn building.

## **ACTION ITEM**

**Approved** – On roll call, the Committee approved the consent calendar, which consisted of:

- Grants for Approval Totaling \$4,442,774
- Council of Great City Schools Membership Dues, School Year 2015-16: \$42,345.
- International Travel Request: Community Academy of Science and Health – Malawi, July 7-19, 2015

Mr. O'Neill abstained, citing his role as a member of the executive committee of the Council of Great City Schools. All other members voted "yes."

**Approved** – On roll call, the Committee unanimously approved UP Academy Charter School of Boston's School minor charter amendment regarding the school calendar.

**Approved** – On roll call, the Committee unanimously approved UP Academy Charter School of Boston's School minor charter amendment regarding dismissal times.

**Approved** – On roll call, the Committee unanimously approved UP Academy Charter School of Dorchester's School minor charter amendment regarding the school calendar.

The Committee engaged in a robust discussion about the Superintendent's middle school pathways proposal. Ms. Campbell requested that the district create an action plan focused on community building for middle school pathways, which the Superintendent agreed to provide. She also asked the district to provide data on any current Perkins & Tynan elementary school 5<sup>th</sup> graders who made choices other than the Dearborn but were still assigned to the Dearborn.

**Approved** – On roll call, the Committee unanimously approved a proposal to modify middle school pathways: establishing a pathway from the Perkins Elementary and Tynan Elementary schools to the McCormack Middle School and from the Dudley Street Neighborhood Charter School to the Dearborn 6-12 STEM Academy.

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*Approved* – On roll call, the Committee approved the continuation of the English Language Learners Task Force as a monitoring body through June 30, 2016.

## REPORTS

***Boston Student Advisory Council (BSAC) Report*** – BSAC leaders Rebecca-Madori Holland, Kalise Osula, Gloria Stamford-Wornum, and Savina Tapia presented an update on the group’s advocacy work on behalf of BPS students. During the 2014-15 school year, BSAC participated in the superintendent search process, served on Dr. Chang’s transition team, advocated for student voting rights on the School Committee and launched a Student Rights and Responsibilities phone app ([www.bostonstudentrights.org](http://www.bostonstudentrights.org)). BSAC asked for additional support from the district and the Committee to help expand its membership and increase fundraising.

School Committee members thanked the students for their advocacy and commitment to BPS and encouraged BSAC to expand its membership using social media.

***Office of Engagement’s Update and Policy Recommendations*** – Deputy Superintendent of Engagement Michele Brooks and her successor, Monica Roberts, presented an update on the district’s family and community engagement efforts. The Office of Engagement’s many initiatives include building capacity at the school level to strengthen engagement and build partnership; hosting Parent University twice a year; and training school site councils. Ms. Brooks presented a revised Engagement Policy, noting that the current policy was approved by the School Committee in the mid-1990’s. The proposed policy includes practice that meets the federal and state requirements for family and community engagement, including the engagement of families of English Language Learners and students with disabilities; meets Massachusetts Fundamentals for Family and School Partnerships; and aligns with the U.S. Department of Education Capacity Framework for Family School Partnership.

Committee members thanked Ms. Brooks for her many years of service and dedication. The Committee is scheduled to vote on the policy recommendation on July 15.

***Horace Mann In-District Charter School Renewals and Amendments: Boston Green Academy and UP Academy Charter School of Boston*** – Jill Conrad presented a brief overview of the Horace Mann In-District Charter School renewal application process. Matt Holzer, headmaster of Boston Green Academy (BGA), and Dr. Molly Schen, chair of BGA’s Board of Trustees, then presented BGA’s five-year charter renewal application, as well as charter amendment proposals related to its mission statement and schedule. Mr. Holzer highlighted BGA’s successes, including its dramatic rise in MCAS scores, college acceptance rates and 4-year graduation rate. He also discussed BGA’s efforts to comply with its conditions of probation with the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.

Ms. Campbell praised Mr. Holzer for his leadership and accountability. Mr. O’Neill requested more detailed information on BGA’s probation status, which Mr. Holzer agreed to provide.

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Scott Given, founder and CEO of UP Education Network, then presented a five-year charter renewal application for UP Academy Charter School of Boston, formerly the Gavin Middle School. In just three years, UP Boston has seen a dramatic rise in MCAS proficiency rates, doubling ELA proficiency rates and more than doubling math proficiency rates. Like BGA, UP Boston serves a diverse population of students.

Committee members asked a number of clarifying questions about MCAS scores, PARCC testing and parent engagement, all of which were answered by Mr. Given. The Committee is scheduled to vote on both the BGA and UP Boston charter renewals and amendments on June 24.

***Madison Park Technical Vocational High School (MPTVHS) Update*** – MPTVHS Executive Director Kevin McCaskill and interim headmaster Dr. Al Holland presented an update on several ongoing efforts to strengthen the school. The schedule for the 2015-16 school year is nearly complete; and candidates are currently being interviewed for the position of headmaster. MPTVHS is now offering the physics and biology MCAS and has also expanded its co-op partnerships. Kelsey Pemberton, a MPTVHS junior studying culinary arts, co-presented the report.

Ms. Campbell requested school data on tardiness as well as an update on the Roxbury Massachusetts Academic Polytech Pathway (RoxMAPP). Ms. Jeri Robinson urged additional business and community organizations to develop partnerships with MPTVHS. Ms. Regina Robinson asked the school to start tracking student participation in dual enrollment programs. Mr. Loconto asked that the school's next update to the Committee refer back to recommendations of the intervention team that conducted an assessment of the school in 2014.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT ON REPORTS**

Megan Wolf, Quality Education for Every Student (QUEST), testified regarding the Office of Special Education and Support Services Update presented on May 27, 2015.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

None.

## **ADJOURN**

At 10:28 p.m., the Committee voted by unanimous consent to adjourn the meeting.

Attest:



Elizabeth A. Sullivan  
Executive Secretary