



OFFICIAL MINUTES OF THE BOSTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

June 4, 2014

The Boston School Committee held a meeting at 6 p.m. on June 4, 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 21, 2014 School Committee Meeting

Grants for Approval Totaling \$218,813.

- o FY 2014-2015 RTTT-ELCG Project 5.3: Early Education Partnership: Birth to Third Grade Strategy Round Two - \$198,813.
- o MADESE 21st Community Learning Center Summer Enhancement Grant Summer Food Service Program Start Up - \$20,000.

Superintendent's Memo: Expectant and Parenting Students Policy

Report: Safe Transportation Implementation Plan: 7th and 8th Graders on the MBTA

Report: School Quality Working Group Preliminary Recommendations

Report: Acceptable Use Policy

ATTENDANCE

School Committee Members Present: Chairperson Michael O'Neill; Meg Campbell; Dr. Hardin Coleman; Rev. Dr. Gregory G. Groover; Michael Loconto; Margaret McKenna; and student representative Ayomide Olumuyiwa.

School Committee Member Absent: Vice-Chairperson Claudio Martinez.

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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. Neighborhood Network News of BNN-TV also filmed the meeting.

CITATIONS

The School Committee and Interim Superintendent McDonough presented citations to two organizations that have supported the District's international travel program for several years. Quest Adventures, co-founded by Claudia Bell, has helped organize and fund national and international service-learning trips for middle and high school students for 10 years. The Maple Leaf Foundation, founded by Ken Rossano, has been funding exchanges between BPS students and their Canadian counterparts since 1985.

MEETING MINUTES

The School Committee approved by unanimous consent the minutes of the May 21, 2014 School Committee meeting.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Today the Quincy Upper School received the first-ever Carol R. Johnson Arts Education Award, presented in honor of the former BPS superintendent. The selection committee chose the Quincy Upper because of the depth of arts experiences available to students and its commitment to strengthen the connections between arts and academics.

The BPS Citywide Arts Festival will take place from June 5th-6th at the Wang Theater and Boston Common.

The Superintendent congratulated students from the Irving, Edison and McCormack Schools for participating in a performance of "Home Around the World," at the Strand Theatre.

The 16th Annual BPS Valedictorians Lunch took place on May 30th at the Boston Harbor Hotel. Nearly half of the 35 valedictorians were not born in the United States and more than half will be the first members of their families to attend college.

The BPS K-8 school Special Olympics, sponsored by the Office of Special Education and Student Support, was a big success. The High School Special Olympics will take place next week.

BPS is hosting a number of events the weekend of June 7th-8th, including Parent University graduation, the Technology Goes Home graduation and the Robotics Olympics!

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Today's *Boston Herald* featured a story about the BPS "Bee Bot" program, which has brought effective robotics lessons into all K2 classrooms.

BPS is becoming a part of President Obama's "ConnectEd" initiative as part of the President's goal to connect 99 percent of America's students to the digital age through next-generation broadband and high-speed wireless in schools and libraries. It also involves teacher training and technology tools. BPS will partner with Microsoft to launch "IT Academy," an online blended-learning technology-skills curriculum in high schools.

BPS has won a \$150,000 grant from Target for the District's Summer Reading Academy. The funding will allow BPS to open an additional site and serve another 200 students in grades K-3. The Summer Reading Academy is part of the District's effort to focus on early literacy and stem the cycle of summer learning loss. BPS has also received \$100,000 from the Cummings Foundation for the Summer Scholars Program and the expansion of the Boston Debate League.

Two BPS schools have been awarded turnaround grants from the state: The Winthrop will receive \$1.2 million and the Channing will receive \$1.35 million.

Today BPS joined the "Pledge by America's Great City Schools," joining many other large urban school districts around the nation in a pledge to eliminate achievement gaps and focus even more intently on improving outcomes and opportunities for students of color - especially male students of color. For these students, achievement levels are far too often well below other demographic groups. The pledge is being coordinated by the Council of Great City's Schools.

The Superintendent thanked Bethany Wood for her leadership coordinating the District's international travel program and thanked the District's many partners, including the Maple Leaf Foundation and Quest Adventures, for supporting the effort. BPS has doubled the number of international experiences our students have access to and offered students more exposure to diverse cultures and communities around the world.

The Superintendent introduced Chi Nguyen, incoming principal of the Clap Innovation School, and Ed Lee, incoming Interim Network C Superintendent. Mr. Lee is currently the principal of the Perry School. Geoff Rose, will serve as interim principal of the Perry.

The Edison K-8 School has received accreditation from the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC).

The report *The Path Forward: School Autonomy and Its Implications for the Future of Boston's Public Schools* is now available at www.bostonpublicschools.org. The report was prepared by Education Resource Strategies and the Center for Collaborative Education in collaboration with BPS and support from the Boston Foundation

The Superintendent noted that District's decision to provide MBTA passes to 7th and 8th grade students will reduce transportation expenses by \$8 million, preventing deeper cuts to schools. More than 14,000 high school students ride the MBTA to and from school every day, as do more

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than 1,600 7th and 8th grade students. He explained that the District is working to address safety concerns and encouraged people to utilize the online engagement tool Community PlanIt starting June 9th.

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

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

The following people testified regarding the Safe Transportation Implementation Plan for 7th and 8th graders:

Boston City Councilor Tito Jackson

Rahsaan Hall, Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights Under Law

Matt Cregor, Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights Under Law

Stacey Beutell, Walk Boston

Judy Davis, BPS parent and member, Mothers for Justice

Monica Cannon, BPS parent and member, Warren Gardens Peace Collaborative

Rhianwen Kast-McBride, student, Irving Middle School, testified regarding the presentation by the Boston Student Advisory Council on May 21, 2014.

Karen Kast-McBride, parent, Irving Middle School, testified regarding the presentation by the Boston Student Advisory Council on May 21, 2014.

ACTION ITEMS

Approved – The School Committee approved by unanimous consent grants totaling 218,813.

Approved – On roll call, the School Committee unanimously approved a policy on expectant and parenting students.

REPORTS

Safe Transportation Implementation Plan: 7th and 8th Graders on the MBTA – Chief Operating Officer Kim Rice presented an update on the development of a detailed implementation plan to address concerns about student safety as the District prepares to move most 7th and 8th grade students from yellow bus service to the MBTA beginning in School Year 2014-15. As stipulated by the School Committee, the Superintendent has convened a Multi-Stakeholder Working Group comprised of families, students and community partners to address three main areas of concern: safety, operations/accessibility, and communications. Additional information is available online at www.bostonpublicschools.org/safetransit. Ms. Rice announced that travel waivers will be granted to students whose travel time exceeds one hour or who will have to make three or more transfers. Siblings will be allowed to ride together if there is room on the bus. In addition, the District will provide 65 shuttles to and from transportation hubs to offset the reduction of yellow school buses. Beginning June 9th, people can learn more about the plan and offer feedback by visiting www.communityplanit.org/bpsdot.

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School Committee members asked a number of clarifying questions about the implementation planning process, all of which were answered by Ms. Rice and the Superintendent. Ms. Campbell noted that the plan offers potential health and environmental benefits. At the Committee's request, Ms. Rice agreed to provide additional data on students who live in Roxbury, Dorchester and Mattapan. Ms. Rice will return to the Committee with quarterly updates.

School Quality Working Group Preliminary Recommendations – Rahn Dorsey, who co-chairs the School Quality Working Group (SQWG) together with Committee member Meg Campbell, presented a set of preliminary recommendations following the group's year-long effort to identify the core indicators of quality schools. The SQWG has conducted extensive community outreach and research in its quest to develop the Quality Framework, which will include a validated set of metrics, assign weights to various components, and define four tiers of schools for the student assignment process. The proposed School Quality Domains are: student performance, teaching and learning; family, community and culture; student access and opportunities; and leadership and collaboration. On June 18th, the School Committee will vote on the School Quality Domains and the proposed policy statement. The SQWG and BPS will continue to work this summer to develop a final version of the Quality Framework that will be shared with the School Committee for their review and vote in September.

The School Committee thanked the members of the SQWG for the tremendous effort they have put into the process. School Committee members asked a number of clarifying questions about the process, all of which were answered by Mr. Dorsey and Ms. Campbell. Mr. O'Neill cautioned the SQWG to beware of unintended consequences and advised them to closely monitor the process and track results.

Acceptable Use Policy – Chief Information Officer Mark Racine presented the Superintendent's Acceptable Use Policy Recommendation, which governs the use of technology by BPS students and staff. Mr. Racine explained that the aim of the policy is to empower users to know their rights and responsibilities and to use technology to strengthen teaching and learning. The proposed policy was developed with input from school staff, student groups and community partners.

The School Committee requested additional information on the proposed policy's potential impact on collective bargaining and personnel matters. Mr. Loconto praised the proposal for empowering users.

The School Committee is scheduled to vote on the Acceptable Use Policy on June 18h.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON REPORTS

John Mudd, education advocate, testified regarding the School Quality Working Group Preliminary Recommendations.

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Edward Winter Chamber

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NEW BUSINESS

No new business was introduced.

ADJOURN

At 9:30 p.m., the School Committee voted by unanimous consent to adjourn the meeting.

Attest:

Elizabeth Sullivan

Elizabeth Sullivan
Executive Secretary