



## OFFICIAL MINUTES OF THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

**July 16, 2014**

The Boston School Committee held a meeting at 5 p.m. on July 16, 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](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

Minutes of the June 18, 2014 School Committee Meeting

Superintendent's Memo: Personnel Update

Grants for Approval Totaling \$10,058,408:

- 21st Century Community Learning Centers Expanded Learning Time and OST (Fund 647-B1) - \$577,584
- 21st Century Community Learning Exemplary Programs Grant (Fund 647-B2) - \$50,000
- Adult Career Pathways (Fund 541) - \$99,278
- Community Adult Learning Center (Fund 345) - \$170,709
- Empowering Teens Through Health District-wide - \$370,000
- English Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) for Parents - \$60,000
- Expanded Learning Time (ELT) (Fund 225-C) - \$409,600
- Expanded Learning Time Implementation Grant (Fund 225) - \$1,218,199
- Family Literacy - \$97,548
- Junior Reserve Officers' Training corps (JROTC) - \$960,000
- Perkins Secondary Allocation Grant 2014-2015 - \$1,311,745
- Race to the Top – STEM Early College High Schools - \$26,000
- School Redesign Grant – Cohort V (Fund 511) - \$2,550,000
- School Redesign Grant – Year 2 Renewal (Fund 511) - \$1,226,333
- Title III – English Language Acquisition (Fund 184) – \$121,537
- USDA Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program - \$809,875

**School Committee Meeting**  
Edward Winter Chambers

**July 16, 2014**

Superintendent's Memo: Massachusetts Association of School Committees (MASC) – Annual Membership Renewal

Superintendent's Memo: Field Trip Transportation Providers - Revised

Private School Approval: Bais Yaakov of Boston High School for Girls

Private School Approval: The Torit School

Private School Approval: Yeshiva Ohr Yisreal

Report: Back to School Preparations

Report: Code of Conduct Update

Report: Athletics Department Update

Report: Horace Mann Charter School Application – Dudley Street Neighborhood Charter School

**ATTENDANCE PRIOR TO EXECUTIVE SESSION**

School Committee Members Present: Chairperson Michael O'Neill; Meg Campbell; Dr. Hardin Coleman; Michael Loconto.

School Committee Members Absent: Vice-Chairperson Claudio Martinez; Rev. Gregory G. Groover; and Margaret McKenna.

**CALL TO ORDER**

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

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

On roll call, the Committee voted unanimously to adjourn to executive session to discuss (1) strategy for collective bargaining and (2) the deployment of security personnel or devices, or strategies. Mr. O'Neill explained that having such discussions in an open meeting could have a detrimental effect on the Committee's bargaining position. He announced that the Committee would return to public session.

**ATTENDANCE FOR SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING**

School Committee Members Present: Chairperson Michael O'Neill; Vice-Chairperson Claudio Martinez; Meg Campbell; Dr. Hardin Coleman; Michael Loconto; and Margaret McKenna.

**July 16, 2014**

School Committee Members Absent: Rev. Dr. Gregory G. Groover; and student representative Ayomide Olumuyiwa.

## **CALL TO ORDER**

Mr. O'Neill called the meeting to order and announced that the proceedings were being broadcast live by Boston City TV (Comcast Channel 24 and RCN Channel 13) and would be rebroadcast at a later date.

## **APPROVAL OF SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**

The School Committee approved by unanimous consent the minutes of the June 18, 2014 School Committee meeting.

## **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

Last year, the BPS summer learning project received the New York Life Excellence in Summer Learning Award, which recognizes summer programs that demonstrate excellence in accelerating academic achievement and promoting healthy development for low-income young people. This year, BPS is continuing its strategy of deploying summer programs that are data-driven and focused on improving student achievement by connecting at-risk students with great teachers.

The Dearborn School, which is entering its fifth year as a turnaround school, has not demonstrated adequate progress academically. To position the school for success, tonight the Superintendent will make a recommendation to establish an in-district charter partnership with the Dudley Street Neighborhood Charter School, beginning in the 2015-16 school year. In addition to accelerating academic progress, the partnership would ensure that the Dearborn remains part of the BPS portfolio of schools. The Dearborn will be the first Boston school in years to move into a state-of-the-art, new building that's designed for the 21st century from the ground up.

The Greater Boston Interfaith Organization will host a community meeting about the proposal on August 19<sup>th</sup> at 6 p.m. at Roxbury Presbyterian Church. The Superintendent will present his final recommendation to the School Committee for a vote in September.

BPS is in the process of installing video cameras on school buses, a practice that is common among other school districts throughout the country. The cameras will help the District investigate accidents if they occur and will help drivers and BPS staff to ensure student safety on-board buses. The cameras store video only temporarily and the video will be used only in the event of an incident. The District will post notices about the cameras aboard buses.

BPS is exploring the concept of phasing in the use of MBTA passes by 7th and 8th grade students over the course of two years. The District continues to work out details about issues regarding safety waivers, shuttles and communications; the Safe Transit Plan working group is scheduled to meet in August.

**July 16, 2014**

Young Achievers School of Science & Math has been awarded a Massachusetts Extended Learning Time grant by the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE). Previously, the Eliot and Sarah Greenwood schools learned that they have also received the grant. BPS is proud to be the only district in the state that successfully received grant funding from DESE for all of the applications submitted as part of the District's TIME Collaborative planning process.

The Superintendent made the following personnel announcements for School Year 2014-15:

- Andrew Rollins will serve as principal of the Mildred Avenue K-8 School.
- Mweusi Willingham will serve as acting principal of the Dearborn School.
- Jose Duarte, former principal of the Dearborn School, will work as an administrator at central office.
- Erin Borthwick has been appointed permanent principal at the Mozart Elementary School.
- Carline Pignato has been appointed permanent principal at the Channing Elementary School.

The Superintendent showed a video produced by parents at the Mather Elementary School inviting President Obama and the First Lady to the school's 375th birthday celebration this fall.

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

#### **GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT**

The following people testified regarding the Dudley Street Neighborhood Charter School's Horace Mann Charter School Application:

Peggy Wiesenberg, former BPS parent  
Tony Hernandez, parent, Dudley Street Neighborhood Charter School  
Hakim Harris, parent, Dudley Street Neighborhood Charter School  
Yvonne Powell, volunteer, Dearborn School

The following people testified regarding the proposed updates to the Code of Conduct:

Susan Maze Rothstein, co-chair, Code of Conduct Advisory Council  
Myriam Ortiz, Executive Director, Boston Parents Organizing Network

The following people testified regarding translation of the School Site Council handbook:

Tom Coughlin, organizer, Stand for Children  
Jonathan Charley, parent, Mattahunt Elementary School  
Haley Creed, community member

*July 16, 2014*

## **ACTION ITEMS**

***Approved*** – As part of the consent calendar, the School Committee approved by unanimous consent grants totaling \$10,058,408.

***Approved*** – As part of the consent calendar, the School Committee approved by unanimous consent annual membership dues to the Massachusetts Association of School Committees in the amount of \$7,320.

***Approved*** – As part of the consent calendar, the School Committee approved by unanimous consent a slate of field trip transportation providers for the 2014-15 school year.

***Approved*** – On roll call, the School Committee unanimously approved a private school application for the Bais Yaakov of Boston High School for Girls.

***Approved*** – On roll call, the School Committee unanimously approved a private school application for the Torit School.

***Approved*** – On roll call, the School Committee unanimously approved a private school application for Yeshiva Ohr Yisrael.

## **REPORTS**

***Back to School Preparations*** – Melissa Dodd, the Superintendent’s Chief of Staff, presented a brief overview of the District’s efforts to prepare for the start of the 2014-15 school year. Approximately 9,200 students are participating in BPS summer learning programs. The Facilities Department is overseeing 50 summer projects at schools throughout the city. As of July 2, BPS has completed 85 percent of its hiring for open teaching positions, a dramatic increase over last year. BPS has reposted the bid for a new three-year food service contract in an effort to bring more nutritious, locally sourced meals to schools. At Madison Park Technical Vocational High School, Dr. Diane Ross Gary will continue to serve as headmaster and the high-level administration team will be restructured as part of the school’s ongoing intervention efforts.

Committee members asked questions about summer learning programs, diversity in recruitment, and intervention efforts at Madison Park. The Superintendent and staff answered most questions and agreed to follow up with additional information.

Ms. Campbell called upon the District to support schools that are implementing new changes this year, such as the Henderson K-12 Innovation School. Ms. McKenna said that a comprehensive facilities plan is needed to provide Committee members with context when making decisions. Carleton Jones, Executive Director of Capital and Facilities Management, explained that BPS is seeking a firm to assist with the District’s comprehensive facilities assessment.

***Code of Conduct Update*** – Chief Operating Officer Sam Depina and BPS Attorney Jeff Becker presented a set of revisions to the Code of Conduct recommended by the Code of Conduct

**July 16, 2014**

Advisory Council (COCAC) and the Superintendent. Last year, following an extensive community process, BPS updated its Code of Conduct to align with changes in state law. Based on experience following its first year of implementation, the District partnered with COCAC to recommend further updates, such as revising due process requirements and clarifying definitions.

Committee members asked clarifying questions about the appeals process, interpretation and translation services, cell phone searches and rules for controlled substances, all of which were answered by the presenters. Mr. O'Neill requested that COCAC be given the opportunity to review the Superintendent's final recommendation prior to the Committee's scheduled vote on September 10<sup>th</sup>.

***Athletics Department Update*** – BPS Athletics Director Avery Esdaile and Chief Operating Officer Sam Depina provided an update the mission, operations and goals of the Athletics Department. Thousands of middle and high school students currently play organized sports; BPS hopes to increase participation by allowing schools to apply for new sports teams that are of interest to their students and by increasing opportunities for students with disabilities. The District is also developing advisories of students and coaches and working to ensure equity in resources.

Committee members asked clarifying questions and requested additional data about student athletes, head injuries, college athletic scholarships and the Boston Scholar Athletes program, which the District agree to provide.

***Horace Mann Charter School Application – Dudley Street Neighborhood Charter School*** – Jesse Solomon, Executive Director of the Boston Plan for Excellence and founder of the Dudley Street Neighborhood Charter School, presented a joint proposal to submit a Horace-Mann in-district charter application to serve students currently attending the Dearborn School. As a Level 4 school entering its fifth year of turnaround status, the Dearborn must demonstrate rapid academic improvement to avoid possible state intervention. The proposal would transform the Dearborn into a K-12 Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) pathway for students in Roxbury.

Committee members asked a number of clarifying questions about the proposal, all of which were answered by Mr. Solomon and the Superintendent. Mr. Martinez requested data on external funding. Mr. O'Neill stated that he is pleased with the progress that the Dudley Street Neighborhood Charter School has made to date, adding that he is sensitive to the concerns of some people in the community regarding ownership of the Dearborn School.

If approved by both the School Committee and the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, the in-district charter would go into effect for school year 2015-16. The Committee is scheduled to vote on the prospectus on September 10<sup>th</sup>.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT ON REPORTS**

The following people testified regarding the Dudley Street Neighborhood Charter School's Horace Mann Charter School Application:

**School Committee Meeting**  
Edward Winter Chambers

**July 16, 2014**

Barbara Fields, Boston resident  
Theresa Perry, professor of Africana Studies and Education, Simmons College

## **NEW BUSINESS**

No new business was introduced.

## **ADJOURN**

At 9:48 p.m., the School Committee voted by unanimous consent to adjourn the meeting.

Attest:



Elizabeth A. Sullivan  
Executive Secretary