



## OFFICIAL MINUTES OF THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

**September 10, 2014**

The Boston School Committee held a meeting at 6 p.m. on September 10, 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 July 16, 2014 School Committee Meeting

Grants for Approval Totaling \$41,625,013.

- 21st Century Community Learning Center Out-of-School Time Continuation Grant Expanded Learning Time and OST (Fund 647-B1) - \$410,478
- BPS Adult Career Pathways (Fund 541) - \$2,496
- BPS Department of Adult Education Family Literacy Program - \$2,452
- BPS Department of Adult Education (Fund 345) - \$4,291
- Coordinated Family and Community Engagement Grant - \$902,000
- Expanded Learning Time (ELT) - \$437,000
- MA 21st Century Community Learning Centers – Enhanced Programs for Students with Disabilities - \$22,500
- Quality Full-Day Kindergarten Grant - \$2,289,600
- Reading Recovery: Massachusetts Early Literacy Intervention Program Grant - \$34,935
- Reading Recovery: Scaling Up What Works i3 Federal Grant - \$37,200
- Teen Pregnancy Prevention: Partners for Youth Success Continuation - \$90,000
- Title I - \$31,621,787
- Title II-A – Improving Educator Quality - \$5,770,274

Superintendent's Memo: Field Trip Transportation Providers – Revised

Superintendent's Memo: Code of Conduct

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Report: Back to School

Report: UP Education Network Charter Amendments for Existing Horace Mann Charter Schools

## **ATTENDANCE**

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

School Committee Members Absent: Vice-Chairperson Claudio Martinez and Dr. Hardin Coleman.

## **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 July 16, 2014 School Committee meeting.

## **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

A team from BPS central office leadership has been working at Madison Park Technical Vocational High School for the last several days to create the school schedule. All students now have complete schedules, which took effect today. The Superintendent emphasized that Madison Park now has a schedule that will better serve students and the school's administration will be able to make adjustments as necessary.

Scheduling difficulties at Madison Park reflect much deeper challenges at the school. Madison Park must deliver on its promise of a true technical education that balances great academics with hands-on experience for all students. English Language Learners and students with disabilities must be able to count on the highest level of services. To ensure equity and pave the path to excellence, District officials had to redesign schedules from scratch at a very late date. The Superintendent expressed his gratitude to the Madison Park teachers and staff for their support and to the students for holding the District accountable.

The Superintendent formally withdrew his in-district charter proposal for the Dearborn School, explaining that the District will work with the community to create a new plan to bring rapid academic improvement to the school.

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Next week, the Superintendent will bring a formal proposal before the School Committee to transition to the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Career (PARCC) assessment this year. PARCC is designed to measure rigor and success in the classroom and at the student level. The District has already begun to engage school leaders, as well as the Boston Teachers Union, parent organizations, student groups and others about the potential transition to PARCC. Also at next week's Committee meeting, the Superintendent and the Committee will discuss the findings of the School Quality Working Group, which has worked with experts and engaged the community for more than a year to develop a strong measure of school quality.

September 12<sup>th</sup> is the 40th anniversary of U.S District Judge W. Arthur Garrity's order desegregating the Boston Public Schools. The subject is part of the BPS 10th grade US 2 Civics curriculum, and next month, BPS will partner with Facing History and Ourselves to host an educator conference that will help teachers develop additional ways to share lessons with students.

Hispanic Heritage Month begins on Monday, September 15<sup>th</sup>. Over the next four weeks, the District will gather stories from schools to share with the public, culminating in a student performance at the October 15<sup>th</sup> School Committee meeting.

Ms. Campbell proposed an amendment to the Superintendent's Report calling for the School Committee to hire an outside firm to conduct an independent audit of Madison Park Technical Vocational High School and the Roxbury Massachusetts Advanced Polytech Pathway (RoxMAPP). Several members stated that while they are also deeply concerned about the situation at Madison Park, they feel that conducting another audit of the school is not the best course of action at this time.

On roll call, the amendment failed by the following vote:

YES – Meg Campbell - 1

NO – Gregory G. Groover, Michael Loconto, Margaret McKenna, Chair Michael O'Neill – 4

ABSENT – Vice Chair Claudio Martinez, Hardin Coleman - 2

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

## **GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT**

The following people testified regarding the Henderson K-12 Inclusion School:

Henry Cohen on behalf of Boston City Councilor Michelle Wu

Carolyn Kain, parent, Henderson K-12 Inclusion School, and chair, Boston Special Education Parent Advisory Council (SpedPac)

John St. Amand, vice-chair, SpedPac

Maura Flaherty, parent, Henderson K-12 Inclusion School

The following people testified regarding the Dearborn School:

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Carl Todisco, abutter  
Brian Keith, Roxbury resident  
Joanne Keith, neighbor  
Elaine Miller, retired BPS teacher

Tony Hernandez, parent, testified in favor of the possible expansion of the Dudley Street Neighborhood Charter School.

Dr. Maria Serpa, member, English Language Learners Task Force and Inclusion Task Force, testified regarding services for English Language Learners with disabilities.

Peggy Wiesenberg, former BPS parent, testified regarding transparency and accountability.

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

Susan Maze Rothstein, co-chair, Code of Conduct Advisory Council (COCAC)  
Tom Melia, Massachusetts Advocates for Children and member, COCAC

## **ACTION ITEM**

**Approved** – The School Committee approved by unanimous consent grants totaling \$41,625,013.

Following a discussion in which Ms. Campbell raised concerns about field trip transportation providers being vetted for safety issues, the Chair tabled the Committee's vote on field trip transportation providers until the District can provide additional information about the proposed vendors. The vote was rescheduled for September 17, 2014.

The Chair tabled Committee's vote on the updated Code of Conduct, asking Mr. Loconto to meet with the Code of Conduct Advisory Council (COCAC) and District leaders to further discuss the expulsion and appeal process. The vote was rescheduled for September 17, 2014.

## **REPORTS**

**Back to School** – Dr. Ross Wilson, Assistant Superintendent for Human Capital, presented a brief update on the District's early hiring and diversity initiative, which has yielded a significant increase in the number of teacher jobs posted and teacher applicants over last year. The District is also strengthening professional development opportunities for teachers and school administrators.

Chief Operating Officers Sam Depina and Kim Rice updated the Committee in the areas of facilities, operations and transportation:

- The District's new three-year food service contract with Whitson's Culinary Group will provide students with more fresh, local options and healthy choices.

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- Facilities oversaw approximately 50 ongoing projects over the summer.
- The District is undertaking communications, engagement, partnership and evaluation strategies to ensure successful implementation of the transition to MBTA passes for 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders, which is being phased in over two years.

Deputy Superintendent of Academics Dr. Eileen de los Reyes provided an overview of the work of the Office of Academics, which is becoming a more nimble, data-driven and project-based organization with the capacity to turnaround, transform, improve and sustain schools. The Network Superintendent structure is designed to leverage central office resources to support instruction. At Madison Park Technical Vocational High School, all students have received schedules and a master schedule is being built to better meet the needs of students; 54 of 57 open positions have been filled. Having withdrawn a proposal to convert the Dearborn School into a Horace Mann in-district charter school, the District is now developing a new draft intervention plan to bring about rapid academic improvement at the Level 4 school.

School Committee members requested information on a variety of issues, including bids received for a master facilities audit and performance data for afternoon bus service, which the District agreed to provide.

***UP Education Network Charter Amendments for Existing Horace Mann Charter Schools*** – Chief Executive Officer of UP Education Network Scott Given and UP President Tim Nicolette presented several proposed amendments to the charters of UP Academy Boston and UP Academy Dorchester, both of which are BPS Horace Mann in-district charter schools. The amendments are related to enrollment and funding.

School Committee members asked clarifying questions about the implications of the proposed amendments, all of which were answered by the presenters. The Committee is scheduled to vote on the charter amendments on September 17, 2014.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT ON REPORTS**

Peggy Wiesenberg, former BPS parent, testified regarding the proposed UP Education Network charter amendments for existing Horace Mann Charter Schools

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Ms. Campbell highlighted a May 7, 2014 *Boston Globe* article about Crystal Transportation. She also noted that the Dearborn School failed to demonstrate adequate student growth. Ms. Campbell also called for a District review of the Advanced Work Program.

Mr. O'Neill wished Mr. Olumuyiwa a happy birthday.

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**ADJOURN**

At 10:25 p.m., the School Committee voted by unanimous consent to adjourn the meeting.

Attest:

*Elizabeth Sullivan*

Elizabeth A. Sullivan  
Executive Secretary