

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

**September 4, 2013**

The Boston School Committee held a meeting on September 4, 2013 at 4 p.m. at the Edward Winter Chambers, 26 Court Street, Boston, Massachusetts.

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

### **DOCUMENTS PRESENTED**

Superintendent's Memo: Grants for Approval Totaling \$41,712,092

- 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers – Enhanced Program for Students with Disabilities Pilot Fund Code 245A - \$22,500
- 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers Fund Code 647A Continuation Grant - \$592,814
- Department of Adult Education: Adult Learning Center - \$100,000
- Reading Recovery: Massachusetts Early Literacy Intervention Program Grant - \$39,471
- Reading Recovery: Scaling Up What Works i3 Federal Grant - \$18,600
- Title I, Part A - \$35,044,301
- Title II-A – Improving Educator Quality - \$5,877,689
- Title III – English Language Learners: Carry-Forward - \$16,717

Superintendent's Memo: International Travel Request – New Mission High School - Japan

Superintendent's Memo: Proposed Code of Conduct Revision

RoxMAPP: Massachusetts Academic Polytech Pathway – Roxbury: A Model for Student Success and Community Revitalization

Report: Back to School Presentation: Start Strong, Stay Strong

### **ATTENDANCE**

School Committee Members Present: Chairperson Michael O'Neill; Meg Campbell; Dr. Hardin Coleman; Claudio Martinez; Mary Tamer; and student representative Ayomide Olumuyiwa.

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

**September 4, 2013**

## **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.

Mr. O'Neill announced that Mrs. Alfreda Harris stepped down from the School Committee after 20 years of service. He thanked her for her advocacy and commitment to the children of Boston.

Mr. O'Neill welcomed Ayomide Olumuyiwa as the student representative to the School Committee for the 2013-14 school year. Mr. Olumuyiwa is a junior at the John D. O'Bryant School of Mathematics and Science and a member of the Boston Student Advisory Council (BSAC).

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

The School Committee approved by unanimous consent the minutes of the July 29, 2013 School Committee Strategic Planning Workshop and the July 31, 2013 School Committee meeting.

## **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

On this first day of school for grades 1-12, the Superintendent visited the Roosevelt K-8 School with Mayor Thomas M. Menino, who was marking his 21<sup>st</sup> and final first-day-of-school as Mayor. Yesterday, Mrs. Alfreda Harris resigned from the School Committee after nearly 20 years of service. The Superintendent thanked Mayor Menino and Mrs. Harris for being powerful and tireless advocates for Boston's children.

Today's on-time transportation performance today was 60.5 percent, approximately 6 points lower than the first day of school last year. The Superintendent noted that the district expects to resolve many of the delays quickly. More than 600 people logged on to our "Where's my School Bus" app to track the status of their school bus in real time.

The Boston Public Schools (BPS) enrollment is meeting projections, with approximately 1,000 more students enrolling in BPS this year than last. The Superintendent will present a complete enrollment report to the Committee in the near future.

BPS is participating in a national pilot program offering free to all children in all schools. Students no longer have to fill out meal forms to apply for free-or-reduced status. The district may still request income information from students, however, because many other state and federal agencies rely on this data for other reasons.

Melissa Dodd, former Chief Information Officer, has been named Chief of Staff.

Mark Racine, former Project Manager for the Office of Instructional and Information Technology, has been named Chief Information Officer.

**September 4, 2013**

Improved data collection will provide more accurate suspension data this year.

The BPS Criminal Offender Record Information (CORI) panel has screened nearly 10,000 people, including volunteers, new hires and contractors as well as the re-screening of nearly all current employees. Approximately 500 current employees have yet to be rescreened. Everyone working for BPS has already gone through at least one background check, however, and often more.

The district currently has 30 vacant teaching positions left to fill, 10 fewer than last year.

The Curley K-8, the Gardner and the Mendell Elementary Schools recently earned accreditation from the National Association for the Accreditation of Young Children (NAEYC), bringing the district's total of school number of NAEYC accredited schools to 20.

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

## GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

The following people testified in favor of the proposed revisions to the BPS Code of Conduct:

- Dawn Ash, Co-Chair, Code of Conduct Advisory Council
- Susan Maze Rothstein, Co-Chair, Code of Conduct Advisory Council
- Teena Marie Johnson, BPS student and BSAC member
- Joan Meschino, Massachusetts Appleseed Center for Law and Justice
- Ann Lambert, American Civil Liberties Union of Massachusetts
- Janie Crecco, Federation for Children with Special Needs
- Thomas Mela, Massachusetts Advocates for Children and member, Code of Conduct Advisory Council
- Kim Janey, Massachusetts Advocates for Children

The following people testified in favor of expanding wrestling programming throughout the district:

- Jose Valenzuela, teacher, TechBoston Academy
- Elvis Alvarado student, New Mission High School

## ACTION ITEMS

**Approved** – As part of the consent calendar, the Committee unanimously approved grants totaling \$41,712,092.

**Approved** – As part of the consent calendar, the Committee unanimously approved an international field trip request for nine student and two chaperones from New Mission High School to travel to Japan from October 14 to October 21, 2013.

**September 4, 2013**

**Approved** – After additional discussion by the Committee in which clarifying questions were answered by the Superintendent and staff, the Committee unanimously approved, by roll call, revisions to the Boston Public Schools’ Code of Conduct.

**Approved** – On roll call, the Committee unanimously approved RoxMAPP: Massachusetts Academic Polytechnic Pathway – Roxbury, a partnership between Madison Park Technical Vocational High School and Roxbury Community College. Mr. O’Neill announced that Mr. Martinez will serve as the School Committee representative on the RoxMAPP Joint Industry Advisory board.

## **REPORTS**

**Back to School Presentation: Start Strong, Stay Strong** – Following a brief overview from the Superintendent, Deputy Superintendent of Operations Joe Shea, Chief Academic Officer Eileen de los Reyes and Deputy Superintendent of Individualized Learning Eileen Nash presented an update on the district’s priorities for 2013-14 school year. BPS enrollment has risen to 58,000 students, the highest in eight years. While BPS remains one of the highest-performing urban school districts in the nation, opportunity and achievement gaps remain and will be a central focus of the district’s work this year, along with implementing Common Core standards and increasing the number of students in fully inclusive programs. The district continues to make transportation improvements in terms of efficiency, safety, and customer service. BPS will soon launch a personalized web site for families about the school choice process [www.bostonschoolchoice.org](http://www.bostonschoolchoice.org). The School Quality Working Group continues its work to enhance the current tier system to better reflect school quality beyond MCAS scores.

School Committee members asked questions about enrollment, budget, and community engagement, all of which were answered by the Superintendent and the presenters. Ms. Tamer suggested that district leaders hold an annual roundtable with school leaders to gather feedback about their experiences starting the new school year.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT ON REPORTS**

No speakers.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Ms. Tamer requested a response from the Superintendent regarding the district’s varsity wrestling program, which was raised during general public comment. She also encouraged the district to explore new funding partners to continue the Boston Schoolyard Initiative.

Ms. Campbell requested data on the sports participation rate by school and gender.

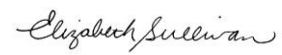
## **ADJOURN**

At 6:27 p.m., the School Committee voted by unanimous consent to adjourn the meeting.

**School Committee Meeting**  
Edward Winter Chambers

**September 4, 2013**

Attest:



Elizabeth A. Sullivan  
Executive Secretary