



Official Minutes of the Boston School Committee

February 1, 2012

Executive Session

The Boston School Committee held an executive session on February 1, 2012 at 5 p.m. at 26 Court Street, Boston.

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

DOCUMENTS PRESENTED

No documents were presented.

ATTENDANCE

School Committee Members Present: Chairperson Rev. Gregory G. Groover; John Barros; Meg Campbell; Alfreda Harris; Claudio Martinez (participated remotely via speaker phone); Mary Tamer.

School Committee Members Absent: Vice-Chairperson Michael O'Neill.

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION

John Simon, attorney with Stoneman, Chandler & Miller, LLP, the law firm providing outside counsel to the Boston Public Schools, presented an overview of a pending federal class action lawsuit filed by Massachusetts Advocates for Children (MAC) against BPS. MAC alleges that BPS failed to identify and place special education students in a timely manner. BPS is preparing to file a motion to dismiss.

Superintendent Carol R. Johnson and members of her staff were on hand to answer questions, including Assistant Superintendent for Special Education and Support Services John Verre, Director of Strategic Planning Ann Waterman Roy, Legal Advisor Ali Ocasio and Deputy Superintendent Michael Goar.

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School Committee members asked questions regarding the details of the lawsuit as well as the Superintendent's proposal to open the Fifield building for interim use for early childhood education.

Mr. Martinez requested demographic data on the special education students who are awaiting placement. Ms. Waterman Roy agreed to follow up with the information.

The Superintendent agreed to provide the Committee with a broader recommendation prior to June 30, 2012.

ADJOURN

At 6 p.m., Rev. Groover adjourned the executive session and the Committee returned to public session.

Attest:



Elizabeth A. Sullivan
Executive Secretary