

THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE OF THE CITY OF BOSTON



MEMORANDUM

TO: Boston School Committee and Interim Superintendent Laura Perille
FROM: Michael Loonto, Chairperson, Boston School Committee
SUBJECT: Opportunity and Achievement Gaps Task Force Nominations
DATE: February 27, 2019

At the February 6, 2019 School Committee meeting, I presented for the Committee's consideration the nomination of Rev. Willie Bodrick II, chairperson of the Boston Network for Black Student Achievement, to serve as a member of the School Committee's Opportunity and Achievement Gaps (OAG) Task Force. I also noted that other nominations were in formation. Tonight, following close consultation with the co-chairs of the OAG Task Force, I would like to nominate two additional members: Dr. Lisa Gonsalves, Associate Professor, College of Education and Human Development, UMass Boston; and Dr. James Jennings, Professor Emeritus, Urban & Environmental Policy & Planning, Tufts University.

Established in 2015, the OAG Task Force was charged with updating the district's OAG policy. Since the approval of the updated policy in 2016, the OAG Task Force has remained active as a monitoring body. The Task Force has worked closely with Dr. Colin Rose, Assistant Superintendent for the Office of Opportunity Gaps, to monitor the district's implementation of the policy. I am grateful to co-chairs Jeri Robinson, School Committee member, Ayele Shakur, CEO of Build, and Pastor Sam Acevedo, executive director of the Boston Higher Education Resource Center, for their leadership.

Rev. Bodrick, Dr. Gonsalves, and Dr. Jennings each bring their unique expertise to this critical work, which the Committee has identified as its top priority. I respectfully request the Committee's approval of these three additions to the OAG Task Force at tonight's School Committee meeting.