

Official Minutes of the Boston School Committee September 1, 2010

Executive Session

The Boston School Committee held an executive session on September 1, 2010 at 9 p.m. at 26 Court Street, Boston.

ATTENDANCE

School Committee Members Present: Rev. Gregory G. Groover (Chairperson); Marchelle Raynor (Vice Chairperson); John Barros; Alfreda Harris; Claudio Martinez; Michael O'Neill; and Mary Tamer.

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION

Department of Justice Update:

BPS Legal Advisor Alissa Ocasio explained that an interim settlement agreement has been reached between the Boston Public Schools and the US Department of Justice (DOJ). As part of the agreement, BPS will hire 60 English as a Second Language (ESL) certified teachers and centrally deploy them. Other key points of the agreement include:

1. DOJ is seeking a mandate that 15 of 18 hours of teacher professional development be dedicated to English Language Learners (ELL). The district contends that such a mandate would reduce the number of professional development hours that teachers receive. In a compromise, the BPS Office of English Language Learners can require up to 15 hours of teacher professional development based upon individual school plans.
2. DOJ is seeking a mandate that states that ELL certified teachers must dedicate 20 percent of their course load to ELL instruction. The district contends that such a mandate may violate the current Boston Teachers Union (BTU) contract but committed to making a good faith effort.

Boston Teachers Union Contract Update:

Deputy Superintendent Michael Goar stated that the negotiating team comprised of representatives from BPS and the BTU has met five times. Negotiations in September will focus on teacher evaluations and professional development. Rev. Groover stated that the grass-roots organization Boston United for Students is calling for more parental and student voice in the contract. Several Committee members questioned whether stronger language is needed in the contract regarding this issue or if the current language simply needs to be better implemented. The Superintendent agreed to provide School Committee members with talking points articulating the district's goals in the new contract.

ADJOURN

The School Committee voted by unanimous consent to adjourn the meeting.

Attest:

Elizabeth Sullivan

Elizabeth A. Sullivan
Executive Secretary