

THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE OF THE CITY OF BOSTON



MEMORANDUM

To: Boston School Committee

From: Michael O'Neill, Chair and Hardin Coleman, Vice Chair

Re: Opportunity and Achievement Gap Task Force

Date: September 9, 2015

Cc: Dr. Tommy Chang, Superintendent

At our July meeting, you approved the formation of an Opportunity & Achievement Gap Task Force, its goals, priorities and three co-chairs. Subsequent to that, we have worked with the co-chairs to put together a recommended membership for this Task Force. We also said that we anticipated asking several nationally recognized educational experts to be Senior Advisors to the co-chairs, providing advice, expertise and guidance on the work of the Task Force.

Tonight, we ask approval of the Boston School Committee of 13 specific individuals to serve on this Task Force. Also, we ask approval for two more spots, to be filled by at BSAC and a BTU representative (each organization is considering who to recommend for the respective slot). Every recommended name is an individual who is deeply committed to this work and would bring a level of expertise and a viewpoint that would add value, whether a teacher, school leader, parent, student, community advocate, educational expert or partner.

Additionally, we expect to recommend two more individuals for this Task Force, but due to vacations, work travel, etc., we were unable to receive confirmation to submit their names prior to tonight's meeting, so if they are willing to serve, we will recommend them for consideration at the next School Committee meeting.

While we have confirmed interest from two national educational and legal experts to serve as Senior Advisors to the Task Force and are discussing with an additional individual as to their potential involvement, it would be best to name all three together at the next School Committee meeting.

Lastly, recognizing that the ELL Task Force and the Inclusion Task Force each have primary responsibility for our ELL and Students with Disabilities, respectively, but that we anticipate that cross-functional issues will arise, we are asking both Task Force's to formally name a member to be the liaison to this Task Force, so that we can encourage collaboration across issues.

Boston School Committee Opportunity & Achievement Gap Task Force

Recommended Membership

Co-Chairs: Jeri Robinson (Boston Children's Museum and BSC), Ayele Shakur (BUILD Boston and NAACP Education Chair), Samuel Acevedo (Boston H.E.R.C.)

ELL Task Force Advisor to the OAGTF – Dr. Miren Uriarte / Suzanne Lee

Inclusion Task Force Advisor to the OAGTF – TBD

Recommendations for Task Force Members

- 1.) Dr. Vanessa Calderón-Rosado, chief executive officer, Inquilinos Boricuas en Acción
- 2.) Kim Janey, senior project director, Massachusetts Advocates for Children
- 3.) Dr. Hardin Coleman, BSC and dean, Boston University School of Education
- 4.) Dr. Carroll Blake, retired BPS administrator
- 5.) Liliana Mickle, Special Assistant, VP for Academic Support Services, UMASS-Boston
- 6.) Alexandra Oliver-Dávila, executive director, Sociedad Latina
- 7.) Sherman Zemler Wu, Mather Elementary School Site Council
- 8.) Carline Pignato, principal, Channing Elementary School
- 9.) Boston Student Advisory Council representative
- 10.) Adrienne Level, vice president, Black Educators Alliance of Massachusetts
- 11.) Boston Teachers Union representative
- 12.) Jennifer Aponte, K1 SEI teacher, Ellis Elementary School, and Teach Plus Fellow
- 13.) Heshan Berents-Weeramuni, co-chair, City-wide Parents Council, and BPS parent
- 14.) Marinell Rousmaniere, senior vice president of strategic initiatives, EdVestors, and BPS parent
- 15.) Gil Noam, PEAR Institute, Harvard University

Note, two additional members are expected to be recommended, but due to vacations, work travel etc. they will have to be considered at a future BSC meeting.