



**OFFICIAL MINUTES OF THE BOSTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE
OPPORTUNITY AND ACHIEVEMENT GAPS TASK FORCE REMOTE MEETING**

March 29, 2022

The Boston School Committee Opportunity and Achievement Gaps (OAG) Task Force held a remote meeting on Zoom on March 29, 2022 at 4 p.m. For more information about any of the items listed below, visit www.bostonpublicschools.org/gaps, email feedback@bostonpublicschools.org or call the Boston School Committee Office at (617) 635-9014.

ATTENDANCE

Task Force Members Present: Co-Chair Jeri Robinson; Co-Chair Ayele Shakur; Co-Chair Sam Acevedo; Dr. Carroll Blake; Rev. Willie Bodrick; Dr. Hardin Coleman; Dr. Carline Pignato; Marinell Rousmaniere; and Kimberley Williams.

Task Force Members Absent: Jennifer Aponte; Dr. Lisa Gonsalves; Dr. James Jennings; Dr. Noam; and Filiberto Santiago-Lizardi. Student representatives Catherine de Jesus and Dorian Levy were also absent.

BPS Staff Present: Dr. Charles Grandson, Chief Equity & Strategy Officer; Yozmin Gay, Assistant Superintendent, Office of Opportunity Gaps; and Sam DePina, Deputy Superintendent of Operations.

DOCUMENTS PRESENTED

Agenda

OAG Task Force Meeting Minutes: January 25, 2022 and February 22, 2022

CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Robinson called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone. Ms. Sullivan called the roll. With only seven members present, Ms. Robinson announced that she was postponing the approval of minutes until a quorum was present.

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SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION

Ms. Robinson announced that today's Task Force meeting would be abbreviated to one hour in order to provide members with the opportunity to attend the 5 p.m. Superintendent Search Committee meeting.

Update on Office of Opportunity Gaps FY23 Budget - Chief Equity & Strategy Officer Dr. Charles Grandson thanked the Superintendent and her team for committing an additional \$1 million in funding for the Division of Equity, Strategy, and Opportunity gaps to support the Anti-Racist Strategic Leadership Cohort, Targeted Innovative Programming, OAG Policy Consultation, and Professional Development. Dr. Grandson and Ms. Gay continue to work on possible additional investments. The division is working with the City to provide racial equity training for all city employees. Dr. Grandson thanked Ms. Gay and Assistant Superintendent of Equity Becky Schuster for their support in this effort.

Dr. Grandson clarified for Dr. Blake that the \$1 million in additional funding would bring the total funding amount for the Office of Opportunity Gaps to approximately \$2.8 million. Ms. Gay said that the anti-racist leadership cohort will be funded for FY23 in partnership with the Division of Accountability. Mr. DePina said that some budget items will be shared with other departments. Ms. Rousmaniere praised the Superintendent's additional funding commitment for the OG Office budget.

Ms. Robinson said that she has shared the 2016 OAG policy with the Superintendent Search Committee for their review as they prepare to revise and update the superintendent's job description. Dr. Pignato spoke about the feedback that the Search Committee has received from various stakeholders. Ms. Williams encouraged the Task Force to collectively draft its priorities for the Search Committee. Ms. Robinson noted that the Committee is scheduled to meet with BPS school leaders later this week.

Ms. Shakur said that the OAG Task Force should issue a statement to the Superintendent Search Committee stating that the top priority for the next BPS superintendent must be the full implementation of the OAG policy. She recommended the following language:

The top priority of the Superintendent is to eliminate the opportunity and achievement gaps facing students of color, English Language Learners, students with disabilities, and students of low socio-economic status. Therefore the number one goal of the Boston Superintendent is to fully implement the 2016 Opportunity and Achievement Gaps Policy, voted and approved by the Boston School Committee, and to assign appropriate funding to achieve the goals of the policy.

Ms. Robinson suggested that the Task Force consider crafting a question for the Search Committee to ask the candidates.

Ms. Shakur recommended the following question:

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How will you go about implementing the 2016 Opportunity and Achievement Gaps Policy, voted and approved by the Boston School Committee, and what do you see as the role of the Office of Opportunity & Achievement Gaps?

Ms. Robinson recommended moving the time of the April 26, 2022 OAG Task Force meeting to 3-5 p.m. to avoid a conflict with the Superintendent Search Committee meeting the same day. She recommended moving the May OAG Task Force meeting, currently scheduled for May 31, to an earlier date, to provide the Task Force with time to prepare for its May 25 presentation to the School Committee. She asked Ms. Sullivan to follow up with scheduling.

Ms. Robinson announced that due to time constraints, the following agenda items were being tabled: Update from the Division of Equity, Strategy, and Opportunity Gaps; and Preparing for Spring OAG Task Force Presentation to the School Committee.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Approved - On roll call, the Task Force unanimously approved the minutes of the January 25, 2022 and February 22, 2022 OAG Task Force meetings.

PUBLIC COMMENT

John Mudd, advocate, said that the elimination of Opportunity and Achievement Gaps must be the district's top priority.

Barbara Fields, advocate, suggested that the Task Force conduct a line item review of the OG budget at its next meeting and recommended that the Task Force craft a longer statement to the Superintendent Search Committee.

ADJOURN

Approved - On roll call, the Committee unanimously approved a motion to adjourn the meeting at 5 p.m.

Attest:



Elizabeth A. Sullivan
Executive Secretary