

City of Boston

In School Committee

July 15, 2015

ESTABLISHMENT OF SCHOOL COMMITTEE **OPPORTUNITY AND ACHIEVEMENT GAPS TASK FORCE:** **CHARGE, PRIORITY GOALS AND LEADERSHIP**

ORDERED, That the School Committee immediately establishes an Opportunity and Achievement Gaps Task Force to provide guidance to the School Committee, the Superintendent and Boston Public Schools (BPS).

Charge

The Opportunity and Achievement Gaps Task Force is charged with investigating and recommending to the Boston School Committee (BSC) and the Superintendent of Boston Public Schools (BPS) system-wide policies, programs and practices designed to eliminate achievement and opportunity gaps for Boston Public Schools (BPS) students, including potential adjustments, improvements and additions to the existing BPS Achievement Gap Policy and Goals. Thereafter, this Task Force will provide on-going leadership and monitoring, including direction, metrics and support, for the implementation of said policy by the District, with regular reporting to the BSC on actual results.

Priority Goals

1. Provide a thorough review of the existing BSC Achievement Gap Policy and Goals, in order to develop additions, adjustments and improvements to include a more explicit focus on opportunity gaps for recommendation to the BSC by December 31, 2015. This review will include examining recent data and reports, including national best practices across urban school districts, as well as an analysis of where the District has done well - so-called "bright spots", existing barriers for replications of said "bright spots" and past challenges within BPS.
2. Upon revision of said Policy and Goals, provide input, support, and resources to BPS staff for the development of implementation plan, including plans for aligning practices and operations at all district levels, in order to embed Opportunity and Achievement Gaps Policies and Goals comprehensively and systematically throughout the district.

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3. Provide the BSC with recommendations for ongoing monitoring and accountability of the implementation plan, including specific recommended metrics, as well as recommendations for sustainability through adequate funding, staffing and resources.
4. On an on-going basis, review existing BPS policies and programs targeting the elimination of opportunity and achievement gaps, and provide (i) an assessment to the BSC regarding the efficacy of the policies and programs in closing the *gap(s)*, and (ii) recommendations for ongoing monitoring by the BSC of *gap-* related programs.
5. Provide recommendations to the BSC regarding the metrics and associated weights for the *Access and Opportunity* domains of the School Quality Framework.
6. Coordinate with ELL and Inclusion Task Forces in eliminating achievement, performance, and opportunity gaps for students receiving ELL and special education services.
7. Identify additional city-wide efforts (beyond BPS) that are focused on elimination of Opportunity and Achievement gaps and assist in strengthening cross-initiative efforts between the City of Boston, BPS and community organizations.

The Opportunity and Achievement Gaps Task Force will be led by three co-chairs: Ms. Jeri Robinson, Boston School Committee member and Vice-President of Early Learning Initiatives at the Boston Children's Museum; Ms. Ayele Shakur, Regional Executive Director of BUILD Greater Boston and chair of the NAACP Education Committee; and Mr. Samuel Acevedo, Executive Director of Boston Higher Education Resource Center (HERC).

On roll call, the order was approved by the following vote:

YEAS – Meg Campbell, Michael T. Loconto, Regina M. Robinson, Miren Uriarte, Vice-Chairperson Hardin Coleman and Chairperson Michael D. O'Neill – 6

NAYS – 0

ABSENT – Jeri Robinson - 1

Attest:



Elizabeth A. Sullivan
Executive Secretary