



## **OFFICIAL MINUTES OF THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE'S OPPORTUNITY AND ACHIEVEMENT GAPS TASK FORCE MEETING**

**April 9, 2019**

The Boston School Committee's Opportunity and Achievement Gaps Task Force held a meeting on April 9, 2019 at 4 p.m. at the Bruce C. Bolling Municipal Building, 2300 Washington Street, School Committee Chamber, Roxbury, Massachusetts. For more information about any of the items listed below, visit [www.bostonpublicschools.org/gaps](http://www.bostonpublicschools.org/gaps), email [feedback@bostonpublicschools.org](mailto:feedback@bostonpublicschools.org) or call the Boston School Committee Office at (617) 635-9014.

### **ATTENDANCE**

Task Force Members Present: Co-Chair Samuel Acevedo; Co-Chair Jeri Robinson; Co-Chair Ayele Shakur; Dr. Carline Pignato; Kimberly Williams; Rev. Willie Bodrick; Dr. Lisa Gonsalves; Dr. James Jennings; Sherman Zemler Wu; and Filiberto Santiago-Lizardi.

Task Force Members Absent: Marinell Rousmaniere; Jennifer Aponte; Dr. Gil Noam; Dr. Hardin Coleman, Liliana Mickle, and Dr. Carroll Blake.

The following BPS staff were present: Ilyitch Tabora, Office of Opportunity Gaps; Harold Miller, Office of Opportunity Gaps (via phone); and Becky Shuster, Assistant Superintendent of Equity.

### **DOCUMENTS PRESENTED**

Agenda

2016 Policy of the Boston Public Schools to Eliminate Opportunity and Achievement Gaps for Students of Color, English Language Learners, Students with Disabilities, and Students of Low Socio-Economic Status.

OAG Policy Implementation Plan

OAG Task Force 2019 Membership Roster

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### **CALL TO ORDER**

Ms. Robinson called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone. She welcome new OAG Task Force members Rev. Bodrick, Dr. Gonsalves, and Dr. Jennings. Each Task Force member took a few moments to introduce themselves and share their personal stories about why they are committed to this work. All members affirmed their commitment to closing gaps and increasing opportunities for marginalized children.

### **APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES**

**Approved** – The Task Force approved by unanimous consent the minutes of the December 18, 2018 OAG Task Force meeting.

### **SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION**

Ms. Shakur reviewed aloud the 2016 OAG policy, which consists of six major goals, each with corresponding objectives. She reminded the members that the OAG Task force was charged with writing the policy, monitoring the district's implementation, and providing an annual report to the School Committee. The Task Force determined that the policy should be reviewed and/or revised every six years.

The members reviewed and discussed the district's implementation plan. Dr. Gonsalves praised the plan for touching all department, calling it a powerful tool. She suggested that BPS department heads meet regularly to discuss their shared objectives. Rev. Bodrick encouraged some departments to rethink their goals. Dr. Jennings asked about the district's progress with expanding partnerships to close opportunity gaps. Ms. Shakur said the collaboration has not come to fruition and that the work is still driven by BPS. Rev. Bodrick requested a summary of department's mission statements. Ms. Tabora agreed to follow up. Dr. Pignato asked how new district leaders are being trained on this work. Mr. Miller explained that staff from the Office of Opportunity Gaps meet regularly with the Office of Human Capital to operationalize the work. He said that a BPS staff retreat may also be planned.

Ms. Tabora presented a brief update on the work of the Office of Opportunity Gaps. She explained that Assistant Superintendent of Opportunity Gaps Dr. Rose and the OG team will present an update on their work at a central office alignment meeting, setting up their 2019-2020 goals. The OG Office will work with BPS department leaders to co-construct next-step goals, as some goals have been completed or need to be refined. Ms. Shakur invited the following departments, whose goals are in need of examination or refinement, to present at an upcoming OAG Task Force meeting: Office of Academics and Professional Learning; Office of English Learners, Social-Emotional Learning; and Office of Human Capital.

Dr. Pignato suggested that department heads write narratives to accompany their goals. Ms. Tabora explained that the OF Office is monitoring the action steps of departments. Task Force

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members requested access to that portal. Ms. Tabora said that she would look into the request. The Task Force discussed barriers to implementation, including staff turnover.

Ms. Shakur briefly reviewed the subcommittees of the Task Force: Cultural Proficiency/Human Capital; Dismantling Structures; Students, Families, and Communities; Opportunity Gaps; and Academics and Data. The co-chairs asked Ms. Sullivan to email the list of subcommittees to the Task Force so that members can select or revisit their area(s) of interest.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

John Mudd, advocate, testified regarding a report by Bellwether Education Partners that shows stubborn opportunity and achievement gaps. He expressed concern about the lack of a significant increase in teachers of color, calling for a sense of urgency. She suggested that the district push to increase language diversity among teachers and staff. He said that the next superintendent must have experience closing gaps.

**ADJOURN**

At approximately 6:05 p.m., the co-chairs adjourned the meeting.

Attest:



Elizabeth A. Sullivan  
Executive Secretary