



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

**June 25, 2019**

The Boston School Committee's Opportunity and Achievement Gaps Task Force held a meeting on June 25, 2019 at 4 p.m. at the Bruce C. Bolling Municipal Building, 2300 Washington Street, Room 2-12, 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 Ayele Shakur; Co-Chair Jeri Robinson; Rev. Willie Bodrick; Sherman Zemler Wu; Dr. Carline Pignato, and Dr. Gil Noam.

Task Force Members Absent: Co-Chair Sam Acevedo; Kimberley Williams; Dr. James Jennings; Dr. Lisa Gonsalves; Jennifer Aponte; Carroll Blake; Dr. Hardin Coleman; Liliana Mickle; Marinell Rousmaniere; and Filiberto Santiago-Lizardi.

BPS Staff Present: Dr. Colin Rose, Assistant Superintendent, Office of Opportunity Gaps; Ilyitch Tabora, executive director, Immigrant/Targeted Populations, Office of Opportunity Gaps; Harold Miller, senior director, Office of Opportunity Gaps; Luanne Silva, fellow at the Office of Opportunity Gaps.

**DOCUMENTS PRESENTED**

Agenda

OAG Task Force Meeting Minutes: May 21, 2019

**CALL TO ORDER**

Ms. Robinson called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone. She announced that the co-chairs would defer the approval of meeting minutes until a quorum was present.

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Bruce Bolling Municipal Building  
2300 Washington Street  
Room 2-12  
Roxbury, MA 02119

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## SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION

Dr. Rose invited the attendees to break into three working groups to start thinking of the next generation of the Opportunity and Achievement Gaps (OAG) policy implementation plan and explained that the objective was to set up another set of goals from various BPS departments before November.

He encouraged the members to look at the wording of the policy, the part of the implementation plan that pertained to the pieces of the policy and then to think about the work and the direction they are heading as a starting point and to think about if there were other places they should be advising offices or the district to focus on.

Dr. Rose discussed the suggestion raised by members at the May meeting that the Office of Opportunity Gaps would try to schedule workshops where BPS department leaders could present their initial goals and receive feedback from OG staff and OAG Task Force members.

Before the attendees broke up into groups, Dr. Rose encouraged them to try to boil down their recommendations to a few per group.

The three groups were:

Cultural Proficiency (not only diversity and staff but also teaching and learning and social-emotional support); Dr. Carline Pignato, Dr. Gil Noam, Ayele Shakur, Rev. Willie Bodrick, and Dr. Colin Rose.

Structural Barriers (including operations and finance): Ilyitch Tabora, Luanne Silva, and Jeri Robinson.

Ecological Support (bringing the City, the students, families, and community together to help bridge opportunity gaps): Barbara Fields, Sherman Zemler Wu, Harold Miller.

At approximately 5:55 p.m., Ms. Shakur asked the participants to reconvene for reflections and closing remarks.

Dr. Rose discussed highlights from the Excellence for All Capstone Showcase recently held at WGBH. Ms. Robinson, who attended the event, remarked how impressed she was by the students' projects. She said that BPS needs to celebrate the wins and events such as this demonstrate that all children can achieve at high levels. Dr. Noam congratulated Dr. Rose and his team. He said that if Boston Public Schools could provide this kind project-based learning for all students, it would raise student achievement. Dr. Rose said that it is important that EFA gets the support it needs. He added that students need to be provide with these types of experiences very early in their educational career. Dr. Rose also suggested that the state should consider using project-based learning, rather than standardized testing, to assess students.

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**PUBLIC COMMENT**

No speakers.

**ADJOURN**

At approximately 6:17 p.m., the co-chairs adjourned the meeting.

Attest:



Lena Parvex  
Administrative Assistant  
Boston School Committee