



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

June 6, 2022

The Boston School Committee Opportunity and Achievement Gaps (OAG) Task Force held a remote meeting on Zoom on June 6, 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 (joined after roll call); Co-Chair Ayele Shakur; Co-Chair Sam Acevedo; Dr. Hardin Coleman; Dr. James Jennings; Dr. Carline Pignato; Marinelle Rousmaniere; Filiberto Santiago-Lizardi; and Kimberley Williams.

Task Force Members Absent: Jennifer Aponte; Rev. Willie Bodrick; Dr. Lisa Gonsalves; and Dr. Gil Noam. Student representatives Catherine de Jesus and Dorian Levy were also absent.

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

DOCUMENTS PRESENTED

Agenda

OAG Task Force Meeting Minutes: May 9, 2022

Office of Opportunity Gaps Updates PowerPoint, June 6, 2022

CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Shakur called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone. Ms. Sullivan called the roll. A quorum of the Task Force was present.

June 6, 2022

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Approved - On roll call, the Task Force unanimously approved the minutes of the May 9, 2022 OAG Task Force meeting.

REPORT

Assistant Superintendent of Opportunity Gaps Yozmin Gay took a moment to reflect on recent mass shootings across the country, many of which targeted people of color. She then presented an update from the Division of Equity, Strategy, and Opportunity Gaps, including:

- Progress on School-based Equity Roundtable (SBERT) Implementation:
 - Finalized SBERT Progress Continuum
 - In Collaboration with Insight Education Group - Created Three Year Plan for SBERT Implementation
 - Year 1: Strong Relaunch
 - Year 2: Adaptive Change
 - Year 3: Cultural Norm
 - Office of Opportunity Gaps will present at CERT on June 26th to share the specifics around support and accountability of the Three Year Plan
- Creation of new Data Scientist position - Data reporting on student gaps and targeted district support; Assistant Superintendent will report findings to OAG Task Force for reactions, thought-partnership, and accountability around equity strategy on a monthly basis
- Luther Josney Bio will serve as the new Coordinator of Targeted Programming

Dr. Coleman, Mr. Acevedo, and Ms. Williams expressed support for the new data scientist position and the proposal of regular data updates to the Task Force. Mr. Santiago-Lizardi suggested sharing the information with school site councils and encouraged regular data collection throughout the school year. Ms. Shakur encouraged Ms. Gay to include professional development in the theory of change slide on the PowerPoint presentation. Dr. Jennings emphasized the importance of reviewing student data collected by the Boston Public Health Commission and other agencies. Ms. Gay said that she will dig deeper with the Division of Academics and Division of Schools. Dr. Jennings offered to share with Ms. Gay his research: [*Boston Housing Authority and Boston Public Schools: Exploring Academic Collaboration.*](#) Ms. Shakur expressed interest in the creation of a Children's Cabinet.

Dr. Pignato suggested reviewing existing 2016 OAG policy to see what needs to be prioritized. She spoke about the importance of special education, English Language Learners, and equitably literacy. She suggested that operations should be part of the theory of change. She asked about strategies for Tier 1 instruction and the impact on middle and high school students. Ms. Gay said that the approach applies to all grade levels, from pre-K through grade 12.

Ms. Williams said that BPS must go beyond remediation. She and Dr. Pignato spoke about the importance of focusing on all students in all grades. Dr. Pignato suggested focusing on a multi-tiered system of support (MTSS) for academics. Ms. Williams announced that she will begin a new position on July 1st as BPS Social Emotional Learning Director.

**Opportunity and Achievement Gaps Task Force Remote Meeting
Zoom**

June 6, 2022

Dr. Blake asked how the theory of change will be impacted by the BPS/DESE Strategic Improvement Plan and Incoming Superintendent Mary Skipper. Ms. Gay said that she will present the theory of change to Superintendent Skipper and include it in transition documents. Ms. Rousmaniere suggested tying the language in the theory of change to the language in the OAG policy. Ms. Robinson and Dr. Jennings agreed that the consistency of language is important.

Ms. Robinson said that the Superintendent Search Process is currently on track. The School Committee may vote on the selection of a final candidate on June 22nd or at a special meeting on June 29, 2022. Ms. Rousmaniere asked about the status of the OAG Task Force presentation to the School Committee. Ms. Robinson said that the update will be scheduled for the fall. She noted that the BPS/DESE Strategic Improvement Plan is largely focused on ELLs and special education. She encouraged Ms. Gay to focus her portion of the presentation on improving school-based equity roundtables. Ms. Shakur and Ms. Robinson asked Task Force members to hold June 27th for the next meeting. Ms. Robinson said that as School Committee Chair, she plans to ask the final candidates for the superintendent's position about their experience closing gaps during their public interviews with the School Committee. Dr. Pignato, who serves on the superintendent search committee, said the search committee is holding round two interviews on June 7 and 8th. Ms. Robinson said that public interviews with the School Committee will likely take place the week of June 15th. Additional details will be announced when confirmed. Ms. Gay reiterated that she will elevate the goals discussed and clearly articulate them.

PUBLIC COMMENT

John Mudd, advocate, spoke about the importance of fidelity of implementation. He suggested that the Task Force revisit the original OAG policy, review MCAS, staff diversity, and CLSP data and provide transition guidance to the incoming superintendent.

CLOSING AND ADJOURN

Approved - On roll call, the Committee unanimously approved a motion to adjourn the meeting at 5:49 p.m.

Attest:



Elizabeth A. Sullivan
Executive Secretary