



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

May 9, 2022

The Boston School Committee Opportunity and Achievement Gaps (OAG) Task Force held a remote meeting on Zoom on May 9, 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; Dr. Carroll Blake; Rev. Willie Bodrick (joined after roll call); Dr. Lisa Gonsalves; Dr. Gil Noam; Dr. Carline Pignato; Marinell Rousmaniere; Filiberto Santiago-Lizardi (joined after roll call); and Kimberley Williams (joined after roll call).

Task Force Members Absent: Co-Chair Sam Acevedo; Jennifer Aponte; Dr. James Jennings; 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: April 26, 2022

Office of Opportunity Gaps Updates PowerPoint, May 9, 2022

Draft Office of Opportunity Gaps/OAG Task Force Updates School Committee Presentation

May 9, 2022

CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Robinson called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone. Ms. Sullivan called the roll. Because a quorum was not present at that time, Ms. Robinson deferred the approval of minutes until a later time.

REPORTS

Ms. Robinson said that Superintendent Cassellius has requested that task force presentations to the School Committee scheduled for this spring be postponed until the fall in order to provide adequate time for the Committee to review and discuss the forthcoming review from the MA Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE). She requested that the Committee reschedule the May 31 Task Force meeting, which falls on the same day as the BPS Valedictorians Luncheon.

Dr. Blake asked how the postponement impacts the OG office. Dr. Grandon said that there is still meaningful work to be done. He noted that there are currently 900 teacher vacancies, saying that the district will be taking an “all hands on deck” approach to recruitment and structural changes over the next few months.

Dr. Gonsalves said that she has shared her concerns about teacher licensure in writing with the co-chairs. Members discussed structural challenges within the Office of Human Capital.

Dr. Blake asked about school leader resignations. Dr. Grandson said that school leader resignations in BPS are currently lower than the national average. He offered to follow up the exact information.

Dr. Noam asked how the Task Force can be supportive. Ms. Robinson explained that she will have a better sense of the road ahead after the DESE report is released. Ms. Gay expressed frustration that the OG Office seems to be considered ad hoc. Ms. Robinson suggested that Ms. Gay share her perspective with the Superintendent.

Dr. Blake voiced his disappointment that the OAG Task Force presentation to the School Committee is being deferred and expressed a sense of urgency to start the next school year strong.

Dr. Coleman expressed his support for Ms. Robinson’s leadership. He encouraged her to drive the agenda. He suggested that the Task Force identify one or two major initiatives that will impact equity and drive them.

Ms. Williams recommended that the Task Force proceed with its review and refinement of a School Committee report even though the date of the presentation is not currently known. Dr. Grandson said that DESE plans to present the BPS Review at its May 24th board meeting.

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Preparing for Spring OAG Task Force Presentation to the School Committee - Ms. Gay shared a draft of an upcoming joint presentation from the Office of Opportunity Gaps and the OAG Task Force to the School Committee.

Topics include:

- Anti-Racism & Equity Framework
- FY23 Budget
- ESSER Updates
- OAG Policy Implementation & Oversight
- OAG Policy Revision
- Capacity Building
- School-based Equity Roundtable Implementation
- Racial Equity Planning
- Innovative Programming
- Anti-Racist Strategic Leadership Cohort
- Bright Spots
- Dashboard
- Next Steps

Dr. Grandson suggested adding a meeting to provide the Task Force with the opportunity to provide additional feedback. Ms. Williams spoke about the important advocacy role of the Task Force. She asked about plans for vacant positions in the OG Office. Ms. Draper clarified that current vacancies will be filled and there is no pause in the work. She added that it needs to be clear that the implementation of the OAG policy is the work of the district. She emphasized the need for long-term funding and accountability. Dr. Grandson spoke about the need to set OG goals now for the next school year. Ms. Shakur suggested that members share recommended edits to the PowerPoint with Ms. Sullivan. The Task Force agreed to schedule its next remote meeting on Monday, June 6 from 4-6 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Approved - On roll call, the Task Force unanimously approved the minutes of the April 26, 2022 OAG Task Force meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT

John Mudd, advocate, encouraged the Task Force to stay strong and provide leadership through his period of transition. He suggested adding more data to the draft presentation and emphasized the importance of school site councils.

CLOSING AND ADJOURN

Mr. Santiago-Lizardi echoed the importance of school site councils. Dr. Grandson explained the roles of school site councils and school-based equity roundtables.

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Ms. Williams expressed concern that gap closing work should be streamlined. She spoke about the many responsibilities of school leaders and cautioned that the work should not become performatory.

Ms. Gay shared the implementation trajectory and agreed to add data on gaps to the presentation.

Approved - On roll call, the Committee unanimously approved a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6 p.m.

Attest:



Elizabeth A. Sullivan
Executive Secretary