



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

**June 27, 2022**

The Boston School Committee Opportunity and Achievement Gaps (OAG) Task Force held a remote meeting on Zoom on June 27, 2022 at 4 p.m. 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; Dr. Carol Blake; Dr. Hardin Coleman; Dr. Lisa Gonsalves; Dr. Carline Pignato; and Marinell Rousmaniere.

Task Force Members Absent: Co-Chair Sam Acevedo; Co-Chair Jeri Robinson; Jennifer Aponte; Rev. Willie Bodrick; Dr. James Jennings; Dr. Gil Noam; Filiberto Santiago-Lizardi; and Kimberley Williams. Student representatives Catherine de Jesus and Dorian Levy were also absent.

BPS Staff Present: Yozmin Gay, Assistant Superintendent, Office of Opportunity Gaps.

**DOCUMENTS PRESENTED**

Agenda

PowerPoint: Office of Opportunity Gaps Updates PowerPoint: School-Based Equity Roundtable 2022-2025 Proposed Three-Year Implementation Plan, June 27, 2022

**CALL TO ORDER**

Ms. Shakur called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone. Ms. Sullivan called the roll. Because a quorum was not present, Ms. Shakur tabled the approval of June 6, 2022 meeting minutes.

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## REPORT

Assistant Superintendent of Opportunity Gaps Yozmin Gay presented a report on School-Based Equity Roundtables (SBERT) 2022-2025 Proposed Three-Year Implementation Plan.

SBERT 2022-25 Overarching Goals:

- Shift focus and function of SBERT from “accountability” to an entity within each school that guarantees equitable access for every student.
- Bring common understanding & consistency to SBERTs in all schools (process, accountability, goal setting, progress monitoring for student success)
- Address “siloeing” of the equity work by actively engaging ILT, SST, SPC & SSC.
- Broaden types of data being examined & identify other data points (i.e. Lived experience, voice, story).
- Engage School Leaders, School Supes/Chiefs in Professional Learning that prepares (expects) them to lead and or support this work at school sites.
- Bring all stakeholders (collaborators) into the work (formal & deeply) specifically our most marginalized students and families.

SBERT Three-Year Implementation Plan:

Year 1: Strong Relaunch (Awareness and Function)

Year 2: Refining our Function (Problem-solving to Address Student Gaps)

Year 3: Institutional Norm (Structural and Culture Shift toward Equity)

Dr. Gonsalves expressed her support for the SBERT plan. Dr. Coleman echoed his excitement, saying the plan has the potential to get a broader representation of families involved in school communities. He cautioned that data tracking will be important. Ms. Rousmaniere agreed, saying that it will be important to share lessons learned. She noted that EdVestors, where she serves as President and CEO, supports the broader work of SBERT implementation.

Ms. Gay clarified for Dr. Gonsalves that all schools will be part of this process. Issues related to accountability are still being worked out. The SBERT will be part of every school’s Quality School Plan (QSP). Dr. Coleman offered to provide a summary report of QSPs. Rev. Bodrick asked how School Site Councils and the Office of Engagement are involved in this work. Ms. Gay said SBERTs provide opportunities for parents and caregivers to participate in their child’s school without first being elected or appointed. Dr. Pignato suggested connecting this work to the goals of the Opportunity and Achievement Gaps policy. She suggested setting explicit goals for each year that align with an overarching goal of the OAG policy in order to bring more coherence to the work. Ms. Shakur agreed that there should be more alignment to the policy. Dr. Pignato asked how the SBERT aligns with the DESE report of BPS. Dr. Coleman said it’s an important question that needs to be addressed and will require more conversation.

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## **SUPERINTENDENT FINALISTS DISCUSSION**

Because a quorum was not present, the Task Force members discussed the final candidates for the position of BPS superintendent but did not vote to endorse a candidate as previously scheduled. Ms. Shakur said that the School Committee is scheduled to vote to select the next superintendent on June 29th and encouraged the OAG Task Force, as a subcommittee of the School Committee, to weigh in. The final two candidates are Somerville Public Schools Superintendent Mary Skipper and BPS Region 1 School Superintendent Dr. Tommy Welch.

Ms. Rousmaniere raised concerns about the Task Force taking an official position to endorse a candidate or take an official position. Dr. Coleman agreed with Ms. Rousmaniere. Ms. Shakur encouraged the Task Force to make a recommendation on which candidate is better suited to close gaps. Dr. Gonsalves agreed that it could be helpful to the School Committee if the Task Force took a position. Rev. Bodrick suggested giving an assessment of both candidates. Dr. Blake said that he has worked with both candidates and recommended that the Task Force only engage in a discussion. Dr. Gonsalves said that she worked with Ms. Skipper when she was the leader of TechBoston Academy and knew her to be a hard worker and operational wizard who was committed to closing gaps. She said that Ms. Skipper increased ESL support as Somerville Superintendent. She expressed support for Ms. Skipper, adding that while Dr. Welch has shared a similar commitment to closing gaps, she has not seen data on his record. Dr. Blake questioned whether the search yielded the best field of candidates for black and brown students. Ms. Shakur said that the past two BPS superintendents did not move the needle. Dr. Coleman shared concerns about the process and whether Boston attracts national top interest from candidates. He said that he believes there is a correlation between mayoral instability and superintendent instability. He said that he respects both candidates for their willingness to take on this role. Ms. Shakur expressed support for Mary Skipper, saying that she has enough of an outsider point-of-view to make needed changes in the district. Rev. Bodrick expressed regret that the search process did not yield a more diverse pool of final candidates. Dr. Gonsalves noted that some members of the Task Force have written a letter from advocates stating that closing gaps must be a priority for the next BPS superintendent.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Barbara Fields, advocate, said that neither of the final candidates meet the job description criteria of having previously worked as superintendent in an urban school district of similar size to BPS.

John Mudd, advocate, encouraged the OAG Task Force to have a more thorough discussion about the lack of diversity among the final candidates, as well as their strengths and weaknesses. He encouraged the Task Force to share its priorities with the next superintendent.

## **CLOSING AND ADJOURN**

Ms. Shakur closed the discussion by summarizing that following much discussion, the Task Force had decided not to endorse a candidate.

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

***June 27, 2022***

***Approved*** - On roll call, the Committee unanimously approved a motion to adjourn the meeting at 5:55 p.m.

Attest:

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Elizabeth A. Sullivan".

Elizabeth A. Sullivan  
Executive Secretary