



OFFICIAL MINUTES OF THE BOSTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE EXAM SCHOOLS ADMISSIONS TASK FORCE

February 23, 2021

The Boston School Committee Exam Schools Admissions Task Force held a remote meeting on February 23, 2021 at 5.30 p.m. on Zoom. For more information about any of the items listed below, visit <https://www.bostonpublicschools.org/esataskforce>, email feedback@bostonpublicschools.org or call the Boston School Committee Office at (617) 635-9014.

ATTENDANCE

Exam Schools Admissions Task Force Members Present: Co-Chair Michael Contompasis; Co-Chair Tanisha Sullivan; Matt Cregor; Katherine Grassa; Zena Lum; Danyael Morales; Zoe Nagasawa; Rachel Skerritt; and Rosann Tung.

Exam Schools Admissions Task Force Members Absent: Samuel Acevedo; Acacia Aguirre; Tanya Freeman-Wisdom; and Tamara Waite.

BPS Staff Present: Monica Roberts, Chief of Student, Family and Community Advancement; and Monica Hogan, Senior Executive Director of Office of Data and Accountability.

DOCUMENTS PRESENTED

Agenda

Exam Schools Admissions Task Force Charge and Membership Motion, January 27, 2021

BPS Exam Schools Admissions Criteria PowerPoint, February 23, 2021

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Contompasis called the meeting to order and welcomed the Task Force members, as well as Monica Roberts, Chief of Student, Family and Community Advancement and Monica Hogan, Senior Executive Director of Office of Data and Accountability, who will be supporting the Task Force.

Exam Schools Admissions Task Force Remote Meeting
Zoom
February 23, 2021

Ms. Parvex called the roll. All members were present with the exception of Samuel Acevedo, Acacia Aguirre, Tanya Freeman-Wisdom, and Tamara Waite. Ms. Nagasawa and Mr. Cregor joined the meeting less than a minute after roll call.

Mr. Contompasis introduced Boston School Committee Chair Alexandra Oliver-Dávila and Vice Chair Michael O'Neill and invited them to say some words of welcome.

Ms. Oliver-Dávila thanked the members for their time and important work. She said that as a result of community input, new members had been added as the Working Group is elevated to a Task Force: two students, a fifth grade parent, and a researcher. Ms. Oliver-Dávila read aloud the charge of the Task Force as approved by the School Committee on January 27, 2021.

Mr. O'Neill thanked the members. He also pointed out the importance of the group as they are representative from across the community. He talked about the difference between a working group and a task force and what that would look like for the Task Force in terms of meetings, feedback, and adherence to Open Meeting Law.

Ms. Sullivan thanked the Chair and Vice-Chair and asked each of the members to introduce themselves to the public and state their connection to BPS.

- Mr. Cregor, staff attorney at Mental Health Legal Advisors Committee, parent of BPS students, and education attorney
- Ms. Grassa; Principal at Curley K-8 School, Dorchester resident, and Boston Latin Academy (BLA) alumna
- Ms. Lum, South End resident, former BPS employee, fundraiser for Boston Latin Academy Association, and parent of a BLA student
- Danyael Morales; BPS student, member of Boston Student Advisory Council and Equity team.
- Zoe Nagasawa, senior, Boston Latin School
- Rachel Skerritt, Head of School and alumna, Boston Latin School
- Rosann Tung, Boston resident, parent of BPS alum, researcher on BPS and equity.
- Co-Chair, Michael Contompasis, former Boston Latin School Head of School, and former BPS Superintendent.
- Co-Chair Tanisha Sullivan, Hyde Park resident, President of NAACP Boston Branch and former BPS Chief Equity Officer

Ms. Sullivan introduced Monica Roberts, Chief of Student, Family and Community Advancement and BPS graduate; and Monica Hogan, Senior Executive Director of Office of Data and Accountability.

Ms. Sullivan presented the draft working agreements of the Task Force. Mr. Contompasis noted an important point was for members to be mindful around the media and press.

Ms. Sullivan entertained a motion to approve the working agreement and it was approved by unanimous consent.

Ms. Sullivan presented the timeline of the process and delineated the structure of the meetings. She said the Task Force wants to make sure they hear from students, parents, families, and other community stakeholders and will therefore also schedule community listening sessions in addition to the regular scheduled meetings. In March, the Task Force will learn about selective school entrance models in other districts and also understand the rollout and implementation of the current policy. In April, the Task Force will start formulating admissions criteria and draft recommendations and hold additional community sessions for feedback. In May, the Task force will use the feedback before preparing the final policy recommendation to submit to the School Committee for consideration.

Mr. Contompasis talked about the importance of the community listening sessions. He suggested that, if schedules permit, the Task Force should meet on Tuesdays from 5-7 p.m. Starting after April vacation, the Task Force will meet twice a week. The first listening session will take place on Saturday, March 13.

Some members discussed potential scheduling conflicts; members agreed to try their best to attend. Ms. Tung asked if members could view a recording if they missed a meeting and if there was a listserv. Ms. Sullivan explained that because of Open Meeting Law, there was no listserv but all members and the general public could access recordings of the meetings.

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

- Sharon Hinton, BPS parent and Hyde Park resident, testified regarding quality education in BPS.

CLOSING COMMENTS

Mr. Contompasis acknowledged as a response to Ms. Hinton that in future meetings the Task Force will provide language interpretation.

Ms. Sullivan invited members to offer final comments or questions.

Ms. Lum asked how they could ensure that the community and listening session would be communicated broadly to the community and Ms. Sullivan inquired about the public participation in other Task Force meetings. Ms. Roberts said she would work with the Communications Team to make sure they got out the communication to families and community partners. She also added this Task Force would probably get more participation than other Task Forces.

Mr. Contompasis encouraged as much outreach as possible.

As they prepared to close, Ms. Sullivan remarked that this process would require hard work and said she wants members to feel comfortable engaging in dialogue. She invited the members to express final thoughts. All the members conveyed their enthusiasm and how they were looking forward to working together on the Task Force, doing what's best for the students of the City of Boston. Ms. Roberts reiterated she and Ms. Hogan were committed to supporting the Task Force. Mr. Contompais thanked all of the members for volunteering.

ADJOURN

At approximately 6:20 p.m., the Committee voted unanimously, by roll call, to adjourn the meeting.

Attest:



Lena Parvex
Administrative Assistant