



## **OFFICIAL MINUTES OF THE EXAM SCHOOLS ADMISSIONS TASK FORCE COMMUNITY LISTENING SESSION**

**March 13, 2021**

The Boston School Committee Exam Schools Admissions Task Force held a remote community listening session on March 13, 2021 at 10 a.m. on Zoom. For more information about any of the items listed below, visit <https://www.bostonpublicschools.org/esataskforce>, email [feedback@bostonpublicschools.org](mailto: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; Acacia Aguirre; Matt Cregor; Dr. Freeman-Wisdom, Katherine Grassa; Zena Lum; Rachel Skerritt; and Rosann Tung.

Exam Schools Admissions Task Force Members Absent: Samuel Acevedo; Zoe Nagasawa; 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](#)

### **CALL TO ORDER**

Mr. Contompasis called the meeting to order and welcomed the members, attendees, and speakers.

Ms. Parvex called the roll. All members were present with the exception of Samuel Acevedo, Zoe Nagasawa, and Tamara Waite. Ms. Aguirre joined the meeting less than a minute after roll call.

Mr. Contompasis announced that simultaneous interpretation services were available in Spanish, Haitian Creole, Cabo Verdean, Vietnamese, Cantonese, Mandarin, Portuguese, Somali, Arabic, and American Sign Language (ASL); the interpreters introduced themselves and gave instructions in their native language on how to access simultaneous interpretation by changing the Zoom channel.

Ms. Sullivan thanked everyone for joining the meeting. She reminded the attendees of the meeting calendar and said that there would be opportunities for the public to testify at all the meetings. She also encouraged written testimony, and emphasized the importance of the Task Force starting with a listening session to hear from the Boston community.

## **GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT**

- Anna Dore, West Roxbury parent, testified regarding additional criterias for admission.
- Amy Cleaveland-Hudson, Charlestown parent, testified regarding expanding the 9th grade admission pathway.
- Yuping Zhang, West Roxbury resident, testified in favor of keeping the exam.
- Kathleen Adams, West Roxbury parent, testified in favor of keeping the exam.
- Kristin Johnson, Jamaica Plain parent, testified in favor of suspending the exam.
- Mike Szkolka, Dorchester resident and Boston Latin School (BLS) alumnus, testified in favor of changing the admission process.
- Dora Golding, Jamaica Plain parent, testified in favor of changing the admission process.
- Sharon Hinton, Hyde Park resident, teacher, and community advocate, testified in favor of changing the admission process.
- Sung-Joon Pai, Jamaica Plain parent and BPS teacher, testified in favor of changing the admission process, and about the importance of high quality schools for all.
- Karyn Aiello, Waltham resident and BLS alumna, testified in favor of changing the admission process.
- Travis Marshall, Roslindale parent, testified in favor of changing the admission process.
- Lucia Colombaro, Dorchester resident and BLS alumna, testified in favor of changing the admission process.
- Celeste Atallah-Gutierrez, Roslindale parent, testified in favor of changing the admission process.
- Leah Wu, Charlestown parent, testified regarding the exam test.
- Jodie Cen, Charlestown parent, testified in favor of keeping the exam.
- Mei Yu, Roxbury parent, testified in favor of keeping the exam.
- George Sullivan, Roslindale parent, testified regarding quality schools for all students.
- Vijay Hegde, Jamaica Plain parent, testified in favor of the exam.

## CLOSING COMMENTS

Mr. Cregor thanked the participants and the interpreters.

Ms. Sullivan thanked all the members, BPS team, and the speakers that shared their testimonies and invited the public to sign up for public comment for the next meeting on Tuesday, March 16.

Ms. Sullivan said that even though this process has the potential of being divisive for the City of Boston, the Co-Chairs are committed not to let that happen. She reaffirmed her commitment to educational equity, access, and opportunity for all children. As a leader, she is committed to being inclusive and data driven and to reach an innovative and equitable outcome for all the students in Boston, while maintaining rigor and quality.

## ADJOURN

At approximately 11:25 a.m., the Committee voted unanimously, by roll call, to adjourn the meeting.

Attest:



Lena Parvex  
Administrative Assistant