



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

May 1, 2021

The Boston School Committee Exam Schools Admissions Task Force held a remote student listening session on May 1, 2021 at 1 p.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; Samuel Acevedo; Simon Chernow; Matt Cregor; Zena Lum; Zoe Nagasawa; Rachel Skerritt; and Dr. Rosann Tung.

Exam Schools Admissions Task Force Members Absent: Co-Chair Tanisha Sullivan; Acacia Aguirre; Dr. Tanya Freeman-Wisdom; Katherine Grassa; 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

Ms. Parvex called the roll. All members were present with the exception of Co-Chair Tanisha Sullivan; Acacia Aguirre; Dr. Freeman-Wisdom; Katherine Grassa; and Tamara Waite. Samuel Acevedo and Zena Lum 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.

Mr. Contompasis introduced student Task Force members Zoe Nagasawa from Boston Latin School and Simon Chernow from Boston Latin Academy

Ms. Nagasawa gave an overview of the exam schools admission process in the past, explained the School Year 2021-2022 one-year admission policy and said this Task Force's charge was to come up with a recommendation for a permanent admissions policy. The intent of the listening session was to hear the students' voices.

## GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

- Suri Yang, student, testified regarding her experience in the admission process.
- Shenghong Yang, parent, testified regarding his frustration with the admission process and in favor of an exam.
- Emmanuelle Bogomolni, student, Boston Latin School (BLS) testified regarding the possible criteria of students getting extra points for being in the Boston Public School district and the impact on immigrant students.
- Hua J., parent, testified regarding their child's experience with the admission process.
- Jessica Alvarez, asked if students that had been admitted to the exam schools still needed to take the test.

## GENERAL DISCUSSION

Throughout public comment, the Task Force members encouraged the public to give their thoughts on different criterias and solutions for the admission process.

- Emmanuelle Bogomolni testified in favor of having several criteria and less weight on the MAP test if there was a necessity of a test. She was against teacher recommendations and essays. She also added that she didn't think there was a "non-gamable" system. She also testified in favor of allocating seats to each school.
- Rayne Valentine testified in favor of teacher recommendations. She also added that there could be verification steps to confirm that essays had been written by the student.

## CLOSING COMMENTS

Ms. Nagasawa invited the public to attend the Exam Schools Admissions Task Force meetings during the weekdays.

ADJOURN

At approximately 2:07 p.m., the Committee voted unanimously, by roll call, to adjourn the meeting.

Attest:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lena Parvex". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Lena" and last name "Parvex" clearly distinguishable.

Lena Parvex  
Administrative Assistant