



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

June 22, 2021

The Boston School Committee and the Committee's Exam Schools Admissions Task Force held a joint remote community listening session on June 22, 2021 at 6 p.m. on Zoom. For more information about any of the items listed below, visit www.bostonpublicschools.org/schoolcommittee or <https://www.bostonpublicschools.org/esataskforce>, email feedback@bostonpublicschools.org, or call the Boston School Committee Office at (617) 635-9014.

ATTENDANCE

Boston School Committee Members Present: Chairperson Jeri Robinson and Vice Chairperson Michael O'Neill.

Boston School Committee Members Absent: Hardin Coleman; Ernani DeAraujo; Quoc Tran; and student representative Xyra Mercer.

Exam Schools Admissions Task Force Members Present: Co-Chair Michael Contompasis; Co-Chair Tanisha Sullivan (arrived after roll call); Simon Chernow; Katherine Grassa; Zoe Nagasawa; and Rachel Skerritt.

Exam Schools Admissions Task Force Members Absent: Samuel Acevedo; Acacia Aguirre; Matt Cregor; Tanya Freeman-Wisdom; Zena Lum; Rosann Tung; and Tamara Waite.

DOCUMENTS PRESENTED

[Agenda](#)

[Exam School Admission Task Force Update on Potential Considerations, June 16, 2021](#)

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Contompasis called the meeting to order and welcomed the members and attendees. Ms. Sullivan called the roll for the School Committee. Chairperson Jeri Robinson and Vice

Chairperson Michael O'Neill were present; Hardin Coleman; Ernani DeAraujo; Quoc Tran; and student representative Xyra Mercer were absent.

Ms. Parvex called the roll for the Exam Schools Admissions Task Force. Co-Chair Michael Contompasis; Simon Chernow; Katherine Grassa; Zoe Nagasawa; and Rachel Skerritt were present. Co-Chair Tanisha Sullivan arrived after roll call. Samuel Acevedo; Acacia Aguirre; Matt Cregor; Tanya Freeman-Wisdom; Zena Lum; Rosann Tung; and Tamara Waite were absent.

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. Robinson thanked the Task Force for their work. She encouraged people to read the update on potential areas for consideration that the Task Force presented to the School Committee on June 16. The Task Force will present its final policy recommendation to the School Committee on June 30th. The Committee will vote on a final exam schools admissions policy in July. She asked speakers to be respectful.

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

- Armando Martinez, Boston Latin Academy alumnus, Mattapan resident, testified against Advanced Work Class (AWC) and against using a test as part of exam schools admissions.
- Mary Battenfeld, Quality Education for Every Student (QUEST), Jamaica Plain resident, testified against using a test as part of exam schools admissions.
- Patricia Kinsella, former BPS parent and educator, Northfield resident, testified against using MCAS scores as part of exam schools admissions.
- Marie Mercurio, parent, Boston Latin School (BLS) and Curley K-8 School, testified in favor of using an exam as part of exam schools admissions.
- Annie Spitz, parent, Roslindale resident, testified in favor of ensuring the exam schools admissions process is equitable for all students.
- Sara Adaire, South Boston resident, parent, testified in favor of using an exam as part of exam schools admissions.
- Christine Langhoff, Dorchester resident, former BPS parent, spoke about the importance of equitable resources and suggested establishing a cutoff for exam schools eligibility.
- Micaiah Brown, Boston Latin School parent, spoke against using MCAS as part of exam schools entrance criteria.
- Christine Jiang, West Roxbury resident, parent, testified in support of keeping an entrance exam.
- Suzanne Elsasser, parent of BLS graduate, Brighton resident, testified regarding potential admissions criteria.

CLOSING COMMENTS


Mr. Contompassis thanked the speakers who provided testimony. He announced that the Committee and Task Force will hold another joint listening session tomorrow, Wednesday, June 23 from 4-6 p.m. The next remote meeting of the Exam Schools Admissions Task Force will take place on Thursday, June 24th at 5 p.m.

Ms. Sullivan thanked the interpreters and all who participated.

ADJOURN

At approximately 6:57 p.m. the Committee and Task Force voted unanimously, by roll call, to adjourn the meeting.

Attest:



Elizabeth Sullivan
Executive Secretary