



OFFICIAL MINUTES OF THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE'S OPPORTUNITY AND ACHIEVEMENT GAPS TASK FORCE MEETING

October 25, 2016

The Boston School Committee's Opportunity and Achievement Gaps Task Force held a meeting on October 25, 2016 at 4 p.m. at the Bruce C. Bolling Municipal Building, room 6-66/6-67, 2300 Washington Street, Roxbury, Massachusetts. For more information about any of the items listed below, visit www.bostonpublicschools.org/gaps, email feedback@bostonpublicschools.org or call the Boston School Committee Office at (617) 635-9014.

ATTENDANCE

Task Force Members Present: Co-Chair Samuel Acevedo; Co-Chair Jeri Robinson; Co-Chair Ayele Shakur; Jennifer Aponte; Dr. Carroll Blake; Keondre McClay; Alexandra Oliver-Dávila; Carline Pignato; Marinell Rousmaniere; Filiberto Santiago-Lizardi; Sherman Zemler Wu.

Task Force Members Absent: Heshan Berents-Weeramuni; Dr. Vanessa Calderón-Rosado; Dr. Hardin Coleman; Kim Janey; Adrienne Level; Liliana Mickle; and Dr. Gil Noam.

DOCUMENTS PRESENTED

Agenda

Flier: Opportunity and Achievement Gaps 2016-17 Speaker Series

EdWeek Article: Yale Study Probes the Complexity of Bias in Preschool

Opportunity and Achievement Gaps (OAG) Task Force Meeting Minutes: May 24, 2016; June 6, 2016; June 13, 2016; and June 14, 2016.

2016 Policy of the Boston Public Schools to Eliminate Opportunity and Achievement Gaps for Students of Color, English Language Learners, Students with Disabilities, and Students of Low Socio-Economic Status

Superintendent's Strategic Implementation Plan: Strong Schools, Stronger Boston

October 25, 2016

OAG Policy and Strategic Implementation Plan (SIP) Crosswalk

Office of Opportunity and Achievement Gaps Brief Update

CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Robinson called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone.

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION

Dr. Colin Rose, Assistant Superintendent, Office of Opportunity and Achievement Gaps, introduced his team:

- Hayden Frederick-Clarke, Director of Cultural Proficiency
- Donkor Issa, Coordinator of Targeted Programs
- Regine Pierre, Project Manager, Excellence for All
- Deandra Robinson, Coordinator of Special Projects

In addition, Harold Miller is assisting with the Success Mentors Initiative. The OAG Office has started multiple projects and initiatives directed towards eliminating opportunity and achievement gaps which are aligned to OAG policy. The work includes: beginning of the Excellence for All pilot, expansion of the Success Mentors program, redesign and implementation of the Exam School Initiative, curating of young men's groups and building of aligned curriculum, expansion of early warning systems (EWS), and the start of a multi-year professional learning series aimed at cultural proficiency across the district at all levels.

Ms. Oliver-Dávila suggested that Dr. Rose diversify his team to include Latinos and Asians. Rebecca Shuster, Assistant Superintendent of the Office of Equity, provided a brief update on the Boston Latin School resolution agreement with the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ). The DOJ found one incident to be an unlawful civil rights violation. The BPS Office of Equity, Boston Latin School and the BPS Office of Legal Advisor are collaborating to ensure that BPS meets the requirements laid out in the agreement.

Task Force members discussed removing barriers to the ISEE exam, expanding rigor in grades 1-3, and the Excellence for All initiative. Ms. Oliver-Dávila requested that Early Childhood Director Jason Sachs present to the Task Force at a future meeting.

Ms. Shakur explained that she and Dr. Rose examined the OAG policy as it relates to the Superintendent's Strategic Implementation Plan (SIP), looking for areas of alignment and recommendations for adjustments. Together they created the OAG/SIP Crosswalk document that was distributed to the Task Force. Ms. Shakur explained that the Task Force should use the crosswalk document as a starting point and identify areas that need to be expanded upon, ideally no later than December.

Members requested that the Task Force examine FY 18 school budgets and the central budget.

October 25, 2016

Ms. Shakur suggested that the Task Force establish sub-groups of 2-3 people to dig into the work. Ms. Lee discussed the structure of the English Language Learners Task Force, of which she is a long-time member. The ELL Task Force is comprised of four sub-committees which meet monthly. The full ELL Task Force meets every other month. Ms. Rousmaniere, a member of the School Quality Work Group, commented that their group had success with subgroups because they were charged with very clear, specific tasks.

Dr. Rose said that the Superintendent has charged Denise Pagan-Vega with overseeing the SIP. He suggested that department heads should present their SMART goals to the Task Force.

Ms. Pignato questioned the choice of photos in the SIP, suggesting that, though well intentioned, they may reinforce racial stereotypes.

The members then engaged in an extensive discussion about the best process moving forward. Ms. Shakur said that the co-chairs would invite department heads to present their SMART goals to the full Task Force on November 15.

ACTION ITEM

Approved – The Task Force approved by unanimous consent the OAG Task Force meeting minutes of May 24, 2016, June 6, 2016, June 13, 2016 and June 14, 2016.

PUBLIC COMMENT

John Mudd, advocate, said that he strongly supports Dr. Rose's approach to this work. He also supports Ms. Shakur's call for a close review of the SMART goals being developed by BPS department heads, saying the Task Force should review the final implementation plan.

ADJOURN

At approximately 6:20 p.m., the co-chairs adjourned the meeting.

Attest:



Elizabeth A. Sullivan
Executive Secretary