



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

**May 24, 2016**

The Boston School Committee's Opportunity and Achievement Gaps Task Force held a meeting on May 24, 2016 at 5 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](http://www.bostonpublicschools.org/gaps), email [feedback@bostonpublicschools.org](mailto:feedback@bostonpublicschools.org) or call the Boston School Committee Office at (617) 635-9014.

### **ATTENDANCE**

Task Force Members Present: Co-Chair Sam Acevedo; Co-Chair Jeri Robinson; Co-Chair Ayele Shakur; Jennifer Aponte; Dr. Carroll Blake; Kim Janey; Adrienne Level; Liliana Mickle; Carline Pignato; Marinelle Rousmaniere; and Filiberto Santiago-Lizardi. Suzanne Lee, English Language Learners Task Force liaison to the OAG Task Force, was also present.

Task Force Members Absent: Heshan Berents-Weeramuni; Dr. Vanessa Calderón-Rosado; Dr. Hardin Coleman; Kenny Feng; Keondre McClay; Dr. Gil Noam; Alexandra Oliver-Dávila; Ron Walker; and Sherman Zemler Wu.

### **DOCUMENTS PRESENTED**

Agenda

OAG Task Force Meeting Minutes: May 10, 2016

Draft Preamble

Draft 2016 Revised Opportunity & Achievement Gaps Policy for Students of Color and Other Marginalized Groups

Proposed Timeline

*May 24, 2016*

## CALL TO ORDER

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

## MINUTES

The Task Force voted by unanimous consent to approve the minutes of the May 10, 2016 OAG Task Force meeting.

## SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION

Ms. Robinson reminded the Task Force that the policy needs to be written in such a way so as not to dictate its implementation.

Ms. Lee expressed optimism for the district's potential to close achievement gaps, noting the efforts of Assistant Superintendent of Opportunity and Achievement Gaps Dr. Colin Rose and the continuing role of the OAF Task Force as a monitoring body. She also emphasized the importance of including SMART goals in the policy.

Ms. Shakur suggested that the next Task Force meeting include a discussion about the next phase of the Task Force when it will monitor the district's implementation of the policy.

Ms. Shakur then provided an overview of the work undertaken by the co-chairs and Dr. Rose since the last Task Force meeting to edit the draft policy, which is now a more manageable length.

The group then conducted a page-by-page review of the document, with Dr. Rose highlighting areas that necessitate further discussion. The group engaged in a rich discussion and collectively made edits to the document.

Ms. Rousmaniere suggested that the Task Force may want to consider creating an executive summary document to accompany a more detailed document containing goals, objective and metrics.

The group engaged in a discussion about the "what" of the policy, which is the purview of the Task Force, vs. the "how," which is the purview of the Superintendent. Members discussed the need to find the right balance in terms of what level of detail is appropriate.

The members agreed to hold the next meetings on June 6, 2016 from 4-7 p.m. and June 13 from 4-7 p.m. They also agreed to hold June 14 from 4-7 p.m. should a third meeting be needed.

The co-chairs asked members to email their individual edits to the co-chairs, cc'ing Ms. Sullivan, so that they co-chairs may present a newly revised draft at the next meeting on June 6<sup>th</sup>.

**May 24, 2016**

The revised timeline calls for the Task Force to formally present its recommendations to the School Committee on June 22, 2016 and a School Committee vote on July 20, 2016.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

John Mudd, advocate, said that specific implementation recommendations are needed in the revised policy. He also encouraged the Task Force to address unified enrollment and student assignment. He closed by saying that some in-district charter schools may be underreporting English Language Learners.

**ADJOURN**

At approximately 7:10 p.m., the co-chairs adjourned the meeting.

Attest:



Elizabeth A. Sullivan  
Executive Secretary