

January 13, 2015

To: Fellow Boston School Committee members

From: Michael O'Neill

Re: Superintendent Search Committee Update

Fellow members,

At our meeting on January 14, 2015, Dean Coleman, in his capacity as co-chair of the Superintendent Search Committee, will give an update on the process-to-date and plans through early February, which should result in the Search Committee completing its charge to decide on three final candidates for our consideration.

Once that is done, the Search Committee work should be complete and our role will again become primary. A potential public process is being planned for discussion by the School Committee, however, due to a number of circumstances beyond our current control (weather through the quiet portion of the search committees work, planned travel by School Committee members, etc.), it is not yet reasonable to plan specific public portion timetables until the Search Committee's work is a bit further along. There will be more discussion on this matter at our meeting on January 28th.

However, planned throughout any potential public process is the need for transparency and opportunities for feedback. It is recommended that each candidates' application be posted on the SC website (redacted for certain private information, naturally), as well as an on-line and printed forms be developed for feedback from interested members of the public, to go directly to each of us.

Lastly, two members of the Search Committee are not able to continue. Dr William Henderson has some previously planned international travel that coincides with the planned Executive Sessions for initial interviews of candidates. Additionally, in light of the recent appointments of both Ms. Jeri Robinson and Ms. Regina Robinson to the Boston School Committee, our fellow member, Ms. Jeri Robinson, has stepped down from the Search Committee so as to not have four members of the Boston School Committee on the Search Committee. I thank both Dr. Henderson and Ms. Robinson for their work to date on this effort.

Thus, I would like to recommend that those two members be replaced with Ms. Ayele Shakur and Pastor Sam Acevedo. Both long-time community members know our District well and

would bring thoughtful, careful deliberation and input to the process. Brief bios for each are below.

In keeping with past practice on sub-committee replacements, and so as to allow Ms. Shakur and Pastor Acevedo to attend Search Committee meetings scheduled on Thursday January 16th, I also request that we vote on these replacement members tomorrow evening during the search update agenda item.

Ms. Ayele Shakur:

Ayele Shakur is the Regional Executive Director for BUILD – Greater Boston, an innovative nonprofit organization whose mission is to use entrepreneurship to excite and propel disengaged, low-income high school students to college and career success. Ayele brings over two decades of experience as an innovator in urban education. Prior to coming to BUILD, she served as the President and CEO of the Boston Learning Center for 15 years. Under her leadership, the Center expanded from serving 100 students annually in Boston to 700 students across the state of Massachusetts. A veteran classroom teacher, Ayele taught for eleven years in the Los Angeles area and in the Boston Public Schools, and co-authored the book *Boost School Performance – A Parent’s Guide to Better Grades Fast*. Ayele is the recipient of the 2012 Boston Celtics Heroes Among Us Award, and the 2007 Nan Bennett Kay Great Friend to Kids Award presented by the Boston Children’s Museum. In 2014, she was appointed as Chair of the Education Committee for the Boston NAACP. A native of Boston, she holds a Bachelor’s Degree in Business Management from Boston University and a Master’s Degree in Human Development and Psychology from Harvard’s Graduate School of Education.

Pastor Samuel Acevedo

Samuel Acevedo serves as the founding Executive Director of the Boston Higher Education Resource Center (HERC). Since its founding in 1999, the Boston HERC has enabled over 1,300 at-risk youth from throughout Greater Boston to achieve a higher education. Operating under the auspices of its parent organization (and fiscal conduit), the Congregación León de Judá (CLJ), the Boston HERC enables at-risk Latino, and other first-generation youth, to gain access to a higher education, break the cycle of poverty, and become leaders in the community. The Boston HERC’s core programs include a drop-in college advising service, one-on-one mentoring, an adult education program – and, since 2004, our intensive Passport to College Program

which, since 2004, has seen 87% of its students (the majority of whom are among the first in their families to go to college) graduate from college within five years of enrollment. Beginning in the Fall of 2012, with the support of key community partners, the Boston HERC launched an ambitious scale-up of the School-Based version of Passport, simultaneously, at the Jeremiah E. Burke High School, English High School, Charlestown High School, Fenway High School, New Mission High School, and Josiah Quincy Upper School (JQUS), eventually serving over 1,500 students in nine non-exam BPS high schools by the Fall of 2017.

Sam attended Stetson University in DeLand, Florida and graduated in 1985 with a Bachelor's Degree in English. Sam then attended law school in Boston, Massachusetts, graduating cum laude from Boston College Law School in 1993. After law school, Sam joined the New York City Law Department where he litigated juvenile delinquency cases in New York City's Family Court. Sam returned to Boston in November 1999 to join the staff of Congregación León de Judá, where the Boston HERC is based, where he oversees the Boston HERC and León de Judá's other Social Transformation ministries. In 2014, Pastor Sam was asked to serve on the Education Subcommittee of Boston Mayor Martin J. Walsh's My Brother's Keeper Advisory Committee. Pastor Sam also serves on the board of the Ten Point Coalition, Boston Trinity Academy, and the Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary's Center for Urban Ministry and Education (CUME). He and his wife, Marina, were married in July of 2001.