Minutes of the Meeting of the
Boston School Committee Nominating Panel
Tuesday, November 9, 2021, 3:05-6:45 p.m.
Meeting by remote participation via Zoom

Members Present:
　　　Laurie Ciardi, Chairperson, Mayoral appointee
　　　Tony Barros, City of Boston, Mayoral appointee
　　　Angelina Camacho, Boston Parent Organizing Network
　　　Betty Francisco, Mayoral appointee
　　　Joanne Freeman, Citywide Parent Council
　　　Jerry Howland, Mayoral appointee
　　　Charlie Kim, Special Education Parent Advisory Council
　　　Michael Maguire, Boston Teachers Union
　　　Susan Ou, Bilingual Parent Advisory Council
　　　John Riordan, Boston Municipal Research Bureau
　　　Valerie Roberson, Roxbury Community College
　　　Rhoda Schneider (for MA Commissioner of Elementary & Secondary Education)
　　　William Thomas, Boston High School Heads Association

1. Call Meeting to Order

Mr. Thomas stated that Laurie Ciardi, Chairperson of the Boston School Committee Nominating Panel, had notified him she would be delayed in arriving and asked the Panel to start the meeting. Mr. Thomas called the meeting to order at 3:05 p.m. He welcomed Charlie Kim, the new representative of the Special Education Parent Advisory Council.

2. Approval of Minutes

On a motion duly made and seconded, the Panel **voted** to approve the minutes of the meeting of October 6, 2021. Mr. Kim abstained.

3. Review List of Applicants to Interview

The Panel reviewed the list of seven applicants to be interviewed today for the two open School Committee seats currently held by Lorena Lopera and Rafaela Polanco Garcia (two-year terms expiring 1/1/2024).

4. Interview Applicants

The Panel interviewed the seven applicants. Ms. Ciardi joined the meeting and the interviews at 3:35 p.m.

5. Public Comment

Ms. Ciardi invited members of the public attending the meeting to submit comments. One observer noted that Panel members were able to hear simultaneous English translation of one interview and suggested the service should be available for members of the public also.

6. Discussion and Deliberation

Ms. Ciardi said she has been informed that a few applications for this round may have been submitted electronically by the 11:59 p.m. November 5, 2021 deadline but did not reach her because of a technical problem. She said she has been in touch with the IT Department about this. If the applications were submitted timely, she will reconvene the Panel to consider those applications. Any that came in after the deadline could be considered for the next round.

The Panel discussed the applicants it interviewed today and deliberated on names to send to the Mayor. On a motion duly made and seconded, the Panel **voted** to submit the following names to Mayor Wu for her to consider for appointment to the two open School Committee seats[i]:

Seat A
Stephen Alkins
Lorena Lopera
Rafaela Polanco Garcia

Seat B
Stephen Alkins
Lorena Lopera
Rafaela Polanco Garcia

Ms. Ciardi said she will advocate that the Mayor make appointments to these two seats soon, because the applicants indicated they would like to be considered both for this round and also for the next two open seats (four-year terms expiring 1/5/2026). Applications for the four-year terms are due on November 24. The Panel will meet on November 29 to review applications if more than ten have been received by the deadline, and will meet on November 30 (and if necessary, on December 1) to interview selected applicants and decide on a list of names for each seat to submit to the Mayor.

Mr. Kim suggested it would be helpful to review and clarify the process for members to vote on the names to submit, especially when deliberating on lists for more than one seat. Ms. Ciardi and other members agreed.

7. Adjournment

There being no further business, the Panel **voted** unanimously to adjourn its meeting at 6:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Rhoda E. Schneider

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[i] The City Law Department advised in November 2015 that when more than one seat is open, (1) the Panel must submit a list of 3-5 names for each seat, consistent with the statute, and (2) the Panel may include the same names (one, some, or all) on each list, if it so chooses.