



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

October 13, 2015

The Boston School Committee held a meeting at 4 p.m. on October 13, 2015 at the Bruce C. Bolling Municipal Building, 2300 Washington Street, School Committee Meeting Chamber, Roxbury, Massachusetts.

For more information about any of the items listed below, visit www.bostonpublicschools.org, email feedback@bostonpublicschools.org or call the Boston School Committee Office at (617) 635-9014.

ATTENDANCE

Task Force Members Present: Co-Chair Jeri Robinson; Co-Chair Ayele Shakur; Co-Chair Samuel Acevedo; Jennifer Aponte; Dr. Carroll Blake; Dr. Vanessa Calderon-Rosado; Kenny Feng; Kim Janey; Adrienne Level; Keondre McClay; Dr. Gil Noam; Alexandra Oliver-Davila; Carline Pignato; Marinell Rousmaniere; Filberto Santiago-Lizardi; Ron Walker; and Sherman Zemler Wu. Suzanne Lee, English Language Learners (ELL) Task Force liaison to the OAGTF, was also present.

Task Force Members Absent: Heshan Berents-Weeramuni; and Dr. Hardin Coleman.

DOCUMENTS PRESENTED

Agenda

Task Force Meeting Minutes: September 22, 2015

Bank of Inquiry (Questions from our Task Force Members)

Boston Public Schools Achievement Gap Policy (2006)

Process for Breakout Sessions

Proposed Draft of Meeting Timeline

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“Opportunity and Equity: Enrollment and Outcomes of Black and Latino Males in Boston Public Schools” (executive summary)

CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Robinson called the meeting to order

The Task Force approved by unanimous consent the minutes of the September 22, 2015 meeting.

Mayor Martin J. Walsh’s Chief of Education Rahn Dorsey offered welcoming remarks and thanked the Task Force members for their hard work and commitment.

Nicole Wagner Lam, executive director of the Office of Data and Accountability, introduced herself and said she looks forward to partnering with the Task Force.

Ms. Robinson introduced Keondre McClay and Kenny Feng, who are joining the Task Force as the Boston Student Advisory Council representative and alternate, respectively. Ms. Robinson clarified that only Mr. McClay will serve as a voting member.

Ms. Robinson added that Suzanne Lee will serve as the lead liaison from the English Language Learners Task Force, with support from Dr. Miren Uriarte. The Inclusion Task Force has not yet named its liaison to the OAG Task Force.

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION

Ms. Shakur led a review of topics and questions for later discussion and resolution from the September 22, 2015 meeting entitled “bank of inquiry.”

The Superintendent’s Chief of Staff Dr. Makeeba McCreary and Nicole Wagner Lam said that they will coordinate the District’s responses to questions and data requests from the Task Force.

Mr. Acevedo then described how the Task Force would separate into three groups, each led by a co-chair, to analyze the District’s 2006 Achievement Gap policy.

Dr. McCreary announced that Superintendent Chang is interviewing finalists for District’s achievement gap leadership position.

Later, the Task Force members regrouped and debriefed on their small group discussions.

Overall, the groups felt that all of the 12 goals laid out in the current (2006) policy are still relevant, but that more work is needed to ensure that policies are implemented system-wide and accountability measures put in place. Members felt that cultural proficiency should be the standard, and that social-emotional learning is crucial to closing the gaps, as are adequate and equitable funding, resources and facilities.

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Ms. Shakur said that at the next meeting, the Task Force would form subcommittees to conduct a deeper analysis of gaps, causes and possible solutions.

The members then reviewed and discussed potential meeting dates through December.

The co-chairs distributed copies of the executive summary of the report “Opportunity and Equity: Enrollment and Outcomes of Black and Latino Males in Boston Public Schools,” and asked members to read it before the next meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mitch Lyons, Social Emotional Learning Alliance, said that there are many programs and resources available to the Task Force, encouraging partnerships with Boston’s institutions of higher education.

John Mudd, education advocate, asked the Task Force examine past barriers to implementation of the current Achievement Gap policy. He also encouraged the Task Force to consider making recommendations on the structure of implementation for the forthcoming policy.

ADJOURN

At approximately 6:07 p.m., the co-chairs adjourned the meeting.

Attest:



Elizabeth A. Sullivan
Executive Secretary