



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

June 13, 2016

The Boston School Committee's Opportunity and Achievement Gaps Task Force held a meeting on June 13, 2016 at 4 p.m. at the Bruce C. Bolling Municipal Building, School Committee Chamber, 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 Sam Acevedo; Co-Chair Jeri Robinson; Co-Chair Ayele Shakur; Jennifer Aponte; Dr. Carroll Blake; Kim Janey; Dr. Gil Noam; Alexandra Oliver-Dávila; Marinelle Rousmaniere; Filiberto Santiago-Lizardi; and Sherman Zemler Wu.

Task Force Members Absent: Heshan Berents-Weeramuni; Dr. Vanessa Calderón-Rosado; Dr. Hardin Coleman; Kenny Feng; Adrienne Level; Keondre McClay; Liliana Mickle; Carline Pignato; and Ron Walker. Suzanne Lee, English Language Learners Task Force liaison to the OAG Task Force, was also absent.

DOCUMENTS PRESENTED

Agenda

Draft Preamble

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

Proposed Timeline

CALL TO ORDER

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

June 13, 2016

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION

Mr. Acevedo presented a revised preamble to the policy. Dr. Noam suggested placing more emphasis on opportunity gaps and trust building. The group discussed possibly changing “culturally and linguistically *sustaining* practices” to “culturally and linguistically *affirming* practices.” Ms. Janey emphasized the need for language about the importance of expanding dual-language opportunities.

Ms. Shakur presented draft 10 of the policy and provided feedback from Dr. Coleman, who was unable to attend the meeting due to his participation in a BPS graduation. Dr. Coleman cautioned against crafting a policy that is overly prescriptive and recommended less detail, reminding the Task Force that implementation is the purview of the Superintendent.

Ms. Oliver-Dávila said the Task Force needs to continue pushing the district and studying data. Dr. Blake said the Task Force should provide input in the district’s implementation plan. Ms. Janey advocated for the policy to have greater specificity, not less. Dr. Noam called for a policy that contains direct deliverables. Ms. Rousmaniere said that School Committee support of the proposed policy is crucial.

The members agreed to reconvene the following day to further discuss and vote upon the final policy.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

ADJOURN

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

Attest:



Elizabeth A. Sullivan
Executive Secretary