

## McKinley Schools Working Group

The Systemic Improvement Plan requires the formation of a McKinley Schools working group, as outlined below:

*From August 15, 2022 through June 30, 2023, engage a McKinley Schools Working Group that will include the head of the McKinley Schools; a student at the McKinley Schools; a Boston School Committee member, selected by the Chair; and one representative from each of the following: DESE, SpEdPAC, the Boston Teachers Union, and the School's Parent Council. The Chair of the Working Group will be jointly selected by the Superintendent and DESE. The Working Group will be charged with implementing the recommendations of the McKinley Schools Intervention team and guiding the Needs Assessment phase of the building renovations proposed in the city's FY 23-27 Capital Plan.*

### Scope of Work

- The charge of the working group is set out in the Systemic Improvement Plan:
  - “The Working Group will be charged with implementing the recommendations of the McKinley Schools Intervention team and guiding the Needs Assessment phase of the building renovations proposed in the city's FY 23-27 Capital Plan.”
- In addition to the charge laid out in the Systemic Improvement Plan, the following areas need to be focused on in order to accelerated dramatic improvements for the McKinley School:
  - Ensure a deep seated belief that all students are learners capable of mastering rigorous, standards-based content while addressing their social/emotional needs which will enable them to reach their full potential
  - Operate as a short-term therapeutic placement for students and ensure students are equipped with the social and emotional skills so they can return to integrated settings and thrive in less restrictive settings on a much faster timeline
  - Develop more aggressive systems and academic content, with an emphasis on access to grade level standards; universally designed and individualized instruction to support students to make effective progress toward IEP goals and success in their least restrictive environment
  - Integrate therapeutic support with rigorous academic content, including training and professional development for faculty and staff so that they have the knowledge and skill for seamlessly integrating therapeutic and academic instruction
  - Address underlying reading/math disabilities, including dyslexia and dyscalculia, and/or gaps in instruction, which prevent reading fluency in students, and ensure effective reading and math interventions are in place for all students who need them.

**Deliverables for the Working Group:**

The following is a planned list of deliverables for the working group, subject to revision by the Chair and appropriate BPS and DESE staff. All materials will be submitted to the Superintendent for review, consideration and approval.

- Norms and articulation of the working group charge
- Articulation of the Problem and Identification of Root Causes
- Identification of data points that should be monitored over time to show progress (i.e., progress toward goals, behavior incident reports, student/family/staff satisfaction surveys)
- Educational vision and plan for McKinley School, accompanied by a facilities plan aligned to the educational vision and plan
- Statement of what needs to immediately change at McKinley to drive the needs assessment phase of the building renovations
- Priority list of specific investments
- Plan for evaluation and ongoing monitoring for continuous improvement

**Work Group Structure:**

- The working group will utilize the district's Racial Equity Planning Tool (REPT).
- The working group will convene monthly for 90 minutes, at minimum. The first meeting will occur by September 1, for 11 total meetings. Meetings will take place shortly after the McKinley dismissal time (1:40 p.m.).
- Additional full or small group meetings may be added at the discretion of the chair.
  - Meetings will be conducted on Zoom, unless otherwise decided by the chair.
- Working group meetings will not be open to the public, but agendas and materials will be posted to the BPS website, as appropriate.
- BPS staff from the Office of Special Education and the Office of the Superintendent will provide support to the working group by attending meetings, providing materials requested and liaising with other central office departments as needed, but will not participate as members of the working group.
- Decisions will be made by consensus whenever possible. The chair will have discretion, in consultation with the appropriate BPS and DESE staff, to call for a vote if needed.
- If desired, BPS will cover the cost of an external facilitator using the funds committed to this work by DESE as part of Appendix B of the Systemic Improvement Plan.
- Agenda topics will be set by the chair in consultation with the appropriate BPS and DESE staff in order to fulfill this charge.
- The working group will make a mid-year presentation to the Boston School Committee in the spring of 2023.

**Working Group Membership:**

<b>Role</b>	<b>Name</b>
Chair of Working Group	<i>Will be confirmed by DESE and BPS</i>
Head of School	Cindie Neilson
BPS School Committee Member (selected by School Committee Chair)	Brandon Cardet-Hernandez
DESE	Edith Bazile
Special Education Parent Advisory Council	Roxann Harvey
Boston Teachers Union	Lea Serena
BPS Special Education	Kiersten Sullivan
Student	<i>The working group will include a student representative and a McKinley School Parent Council representative. Their names are not included to protect individual student privacy.</i>
McKinley Schools Parent Council	