



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

May 1, 2025

The Boston School Committee Opportunity and Achievement Gaps (OAG) Task Force held a meeting on 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 lpavex@bostonpublicschools.org, or call the Boston School Committee Office at (617) 635-9014.

ATTENDANCE

Task Force Members Present: Rev. Willie Bodrick; Dr. Lisa Gonsalves; Marinell Rousmaniere; Filiberto Santiago-Lizardi; Co-Chair Jeri Robinson; and Co-Chair Ayele Shakur.

Task Force Members Absent: Dr. Gil Noam

Boston Public Schools (BPS) Staff Present: OAG Policy Director Tamika Estwick Buckmire; Manager of Policy Stacy Guerrero; Senior Advisor for Strategy and Opportunity Gap Dr. Colin Rose.

Other attendees: Dr. Stephen Alkins, School Committee member.

DOCUMENTS PRESENTED

[Agenda](#)

OAG Task Force Meeting Minutes: May 1, 2025 and May 15, 2025

Draft of the Revised 2025 OAG Policy

CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Robinson called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone. A quorum was not present at the time but members joined within moments.

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION

Presentation by Dr. Colin Rose, Senior Advisor for Strategy and Opportunity Gaps on plans for the work ahead. Dr. Rose said that the work is being organized into three key focus areas:

Opportunity and Achievement Gaps Task Force Meeting
May 1, 2025

- Literacy: Improving student outcomes through targeted literacy initiatives;
- Student Support: Expanding multi-tiered systems of support, including mental health services and other resources to address diverse student needs;
- High-Quality Student Experience: Ensuring students are engaged through strong attendance, positive behavior, and enriching school experiences.

Dr. Rose emphasized community engagement is being intentionally woven into the planning and implementation process, aligning efforts across schools, central offices, and community partners to support key strategic drivers. He also mentioned positioning literacy as a citywide movement. Finally, the team is exploring new data tracking systems after previous tools failed and is drafting an implementation plan with clear goals and aligned actions for the spring.

Ms. Robinson asked about engaging partners in literacy goals; Dr. Rose agreed those conversations and goals need to be developed. Ms. Shakur noted partners were previously kept informed, and Dr. Rose said that needs to happen again and that key metrics like transportation, suspension, climate, attendance, and tardiness should be included.

Refresh of the 2016 OAG Policy. Ms. Shakur stressed honoring original goals and refining them to read like policy, noting extensive feedback from the executive team and the Boston Student Advisory Council (BSAC). She added that the draft, shaped by community input, will be reviewed goal by goal in an upcoming working session, urging members to approach it with fresh eyes.

The members reviewed the 2016 policy and 2025 draft, discussing the relationship between the policy, strategic plan, and goals. Ms. Robinson asked if the plan was informed by key documents and patterns. The members discussed if the strategic plan or the policy should be the “North Star” with each informing the other. They also debated the name of the policy, and Ms. Shakur suggested "excellence for all" instead of focusing solely on closing gaps.

The members discussed distinguishing policy from actions, emphasizing the need to address the unique challenges of Black students and other subgroups. Dr. Rose stressed the importance of segregated data to understand different literacy needs, while Ms. Shakur highlighted the lack of basic skills in 12-year-olds, especially those from disadvantaged backgrounds. Reverend Bodrick suggested a dual approach, and Ms. Rousmaniere sought clarity on the policy and goals while discussing goal one.

The members talked about making the policy "evergreen" and ensuring adequate staffing. Accountability and evaluations for the superintendent and executive team were discussed, with Dr. Rose emphasizing goal achievement and tough feedback. Dr. Alkins pointed out that the first goal was oversight, and the group explored how different oversight mechanisms work together to create an ecosystem of oversight.

Update on Nominations for New Members. Ms. Shakur said that the group is still meeting with candidates. She suggested capping the members at 10-12, which the group agreed on, and emphasized the importance of including a teacher's voice and two BSAC students.

Ms. Robinson said the next meeting will take place on June 5, 2025 with a working session on May 15 to review and refresh the OAG policy.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Approved - With a quorum present, the OAG Task Force approved, by unanimous consent, the minutes of the April 10, 2025 meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

ADJOURNMENT

Approved - The Task Force unanimously approved a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:02 p.m.

Attest:



Lena Parvex
Executive Secretary