



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

June 5, 2025

The Boston School Committee Opportunity and Achievement Gaps (OAG) Task Force held a virtual meeting on Zoom on June 5, 2025 at 4:00 p.m. For more information about any of the items listed below, visit www.bostonpublicschools.org/gaps, email lparvex@bostonpublicschools.org, or call the Boston School Committee Office at (617) 635 - 9014.

ATTENDANCE

Task Force Members Present: Dr. Lisa Gonsalves; Dr. Gil Noam, Carline Dr. Pignato; Marinell Rousmaniere; Co-Chair Jeri Robinson; and Co-Chair Ayele Shakur.

Task Force Members Absent: Rev. Willie Bodrick; Filiberto Santiago-Lizardi

OAG Policy Director Senior Advisor for Strategy and Opportunity Gap Dr. Colin Rose.

DOCUMENTS PRESENTED

[Agenda](#)

2016 Opportunity and Achievement Gaps Policy

OAG Policy Reorganized

CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Robinson called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone. Ms. Parvex called the roll. A quorum of the Task Force was present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Approved - On roll call, the Task Force unanimously approved the minutes of the May 1 and May 15, 2025 OAG Task Force meeting.

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION

Updates from Dr. Colin Rose, Senior Advisor for Strategy and Opportunity Gaps - Dr. Rose said he was focusing on the strategic plan and explained this plan is framing the OAG policy as the "North Star" and the high-quality experience as the way to get there. The plan centers on four objectives that are equitable literacy, asset-based approaches for multilingual students and students with disabilities, holistic student support, and high-quality programming and facilities; all working together. The novelty in this approach is the integration of the central office, schools, and the community. Rather than a list of objectives, the plan includes SMART goals that will be developed in collaboration and aligned.

Ms. Shakur noted it was interesting that the same person was overseeing the policy and strategic planning.

Dr. Pignato asked if the Task Force's work could be shared with the school leaders to infuse their work. Dr. Rose said he doesn't anticipate any misalignment and emphasized the importance of zero-based planning ahead of the budget season. He stressed the need to identify literacy resources, coordinate central offices, and engage the community before starting the budget process.

Dr. Noam asked about the connections with other school subjects like math to literacy goals. Dr. Rose explained that literacy is key in math for understanding language and problem context. Dr. Pignato suggested the Task Force define literacy.

Refresh of the 2016 OAG Policy: Ms. Shakur shared the updated policy with member feedback. The group spent the rest of the meeting reading, reviewing and editing the policy.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Peggy Wiesenbergs, a community advocate, reminded the Task Force that the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) and Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) are changing the graduation requirements and wondered how this will impact their work.

Brandy Brooks, Higher Ground Executive Director, thanked the Task Force for the invitation and noted that some policy terms and jargon might be unclear to the general public.

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Robinson thanked the members and said the next Task Force meeting will be scheduled soon.

Approved - The Task Force unanimously approved a motion by roll call to adjourn to the meeting at 6:05 p.m.

Attest:



Lena Parvex
Executive Secretary