



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

January 14, 2026

The Boston School Committee Opportunity and Achievement Gaps (OAG) Task Force held a virtual meeting on Zoom on January 14, 2026 at 4:30 p.m. 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: Co-Chair Dr. Stephen Alkins; Co-Chair Ayele Shakur; Rev. Willie Bodrick; Dr. Lisa Gonsalves; Pamela Leins; Dr. Ambrizeth Lima; Dr. Harold L. Miller Jr.; Devin Morris; Dr. Gil Noam; Dr. Carline Pignato; Jeri Robinson; Marinell Rousmaniere; Filiberto Santiago-Lizardi; and Student Representative Kevin Louis.

Task Force Members Absent: Student Representative Nayla Hicks; Lea Serena.

BPS Staff: OAG Policy Director Senior Advisor for Strategy and Opportunity Gap Dr. Colin Rose; Director of Policy Tamika Estwick Buckmire; and OAG Director of Finance and Operations Adetunji Onamade.

Dr. Brandy Brooks arrived after the meeting had started.

DOCUMENTS PRESENTED

Agenda

Draft 2025 Policy

CALL TO ORDER

Dr. Alkins called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone. A quorum was present.

Ms. Shakur acknowledged this was Chair Robinson's last meeting and thanked her for her years of dedicated service, thoughtful leadership, and unwavering commitment to advancing equity and closing opportunity and achievement gaps for Boston's students. She also said Dr. Alkins would be taking over as the new Co-Chair.

Ms. Robinson thanked all the members for their years of hard work in addressing the Opportunity and Achievement Gap. She specifically thanked those involved since the beginning and said she was excited for Dr. Alkins taking over, pledging her continued advocacy during her final year on the School Committee.

Task Force members thanked Ms. Robinson for leadership, dedication, and long-standing service on the School Committee and OEG task force. They highlighted her steady presence through challenges and progress, her wisdom during difficult moments, and her clear, values-driven focus on families, children, and especially early literacy.

TASK FORCE BUSINESS

Revision Process and Updates to the revised OAG Policy - Ms. Shakur said that the policy was reviewed by the Superintendent and her team, who recommended streamlining the language and allowing greater flexibility to recognize that some goals will require time to implement. Dr. Alkins added that the Superintendent's primary concern was maintaining flexibility while still offering clear guidance, without becoming overly prescriptive. Dr. Rose emphasized that the policy's success depends on effective implementation and alignment with the strategic plan, and stressed the importance of completing a thorough review rather than rushing to meet a deadline.

Members emphasized the need for clear, non-negotiable language while allowing flexibility and realistic timelines. Alignment with the superintendent's evaluation, the strategic plan, and the School Committee's priorities is critical. The task force discussed the Superintendent's feedback, including her request for softer language, but affirmed that policy decisions ultimately rest with the School Committee. They agreed to add a paragraph clarifying how the policy is operationalized through goals and timelines and recommended a meeting with the superintendent and School Committee members before presenting it in a School Committee meeting.

Members highlighted the need for clear, non-negotiable language while still allowing flexibility and realistic timelines. Some members questioned why it had taken so long to receive this feedback. Members also emphasized the importance of alignment with the Superintendent's evaluation, the strategic plan, and the School Committee's priorities. The task force discussed the Superintendent's feedback, including her request for softer language, but affirmed that policy decisions ultimately rest with the School Committee. Members agreed to add a paragraph clarifying how the policy would be operationalized through goals and timelines and recommended meeting with the Superintendent and School Committee members before presenting the policy at a School Committee meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Edith Bazile, Chair of the Special Education Parent Advisory Council (SpEdPAC) urged the task force to prioritize student outcomes and firm accountability in its policy language.

John Mudd, Cambridge resident and advocate, testified urging the task force to keep the prescriptive language in the achievement gap policy.

ADJOURNMENT

Opportunity and Achievement Gaps Task Force Meeting
January 14, 2026

Approved - At approximately 6.17 p.m. the Task Force unanimously approved a motion by roll call to adjourn to the meeting.

Attest:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lena Parvex", written in a cursive style.

Lena Parvex
Executive Secretary