



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

February 27, 2026

The Boston School Committee Opportunity and Achievement Gaps (OAG) Task Force held a virtual meeting on Zoom on February 27, 2026 at 3:30 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. Brandy Brooks; Dr. Lisa Gonsalves; Pamela Leins; Dr. Ambrizeth Lima; Dr. Harold L. Miller Jr.; Devin Morris; Dr. Gil Noam; Dr. Carline Pignato; Marinell Rousmaniere; Filiberto Santiago-Lizardi; Lea Serena; Student Representatives Kevin Louis.

Task Force Members Absent: Student Representatives Nayla Hicks.

BPS Staff: OAG Policy Director Senior Advisor for Strategy and Opportunity Gap Dr. Colin Rose; Director of Policy Tamika Estwick Buckmire; Manager of Policy Stacy Guerrero, Chief of Staff Yusufi Vali.

DOCUMENTS PRESENTED

Agenda

Meeting minutes: December 9, 2025

Meeting minutes: January 14, 2026

2026 BPS Opportunity & Achievement Gaps (OAG) Policy

CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Shakur called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone. A quorum was present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Approved - Task Force unanimously approved the minutes of the December 9, 2025 and January 14, 2026 Task Force meeting.

TASK FORCE BUSINESS

Review of the revised 2026 Policy To Advance Academic Excellence and Eliminate Opportunity and Achievement Gaps, including remarks by Superintendent Mary Skipper- Ms. Shakur welcomed Superintendent Skipper and thanked her for her thorough review of the policy and engagement with Task Force leadership. She also announced that the policy is scheduled to be presented on April 15.

Superintendent Skipper thanked the OAG Task Force for its important work and expressed strong support for the policy, emphasizing equity as the district's North Star. She affirmed her commitment to closing opportunity gaps and said that minor language adjustments were needed to align with state guidelines and clarify the distinction between policy goals and recommendations. She explained the importance of implementing the policy through the strategic plan with a phased, coordinated approach and expressed enthusiasm about moving forward collaboratively.

Mr. Morris raised concerns about the removal of school-level reporting on educator diversity and disaggregated incident data, emphasizing its importance for accountability. The Superintendent cited staffing and confidentiality concerns and suggested year-to-year demographic comparisons. Ms. Serena proposed regional reporting as an alternative.

Dr. Pignato expressed concern that the new language in the executive summary softened the policy's urgency and weakened accountability by labeling recommendations as "non-binding." The Superintendent clarified that goals are binding, while recommendations allow flexibility in implementation. Ms. Shakur suggested revisiting the language to strengthen urgency. Ms. Rousmaniere suggested removing the parentheses around "recommendations" to maintain a stronger tone and asked for clarification of the Task Force's role as the work shifts from policy development to implementation.

Members discussed revisions to the policy language, emphasizing the need for clearer accountability and stronger wording so that recommendations carry real weight. They urged clear, accountable language that still allows implementation flexibility. The discussion also addressed the importance of data collection, confidentiality, equity, and fairness, with members agreeing that the policy should convey urgency and support meaningful progress toward its goals. Members stressed the importance of speaking as a unified body, explicitly addressing equity issues and ensuring the language aligns with the superintendent's guidance and available data.

Ms. Shakur invited SpEdPAC Chair Edith Bazile, who praised improvements in addressing disparities for Black, Latino, and multilingual students with disabilities but stressed stronger accountability, urging the Task Force to include targets, timelines, safeguards, and support schools to reduce unnecessary separation.

Dr. Alkins emphasized clarifying the Task Force's role and ensuring recommendations carry weight, suggesting they be included in the policy with time-bound, measurable targets monitored by the Task Force to guide evaluation and inform budget planning.

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Ms. Shakur said she meets weekly with Dr. Rose and Dr. Alkins. They will review the feedback, update the document, share revisions with the Superintendent and the Task Force.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Barbara Fields, Mattapan resident and advocate, thanked the Task Force and urged stronger, more urgent language and clearer expectations to address existing gaps.

Edith Bazile, Chair of the Special Education Parent Advisory Council (SpEdPAC), urged the Task Force to operationalize and improve equitable access to high quality schools.

John Mudd, Cambridge resident and advocate, praised parts of the document but stressed the need for strong implementation, measurable goals, and accountability to ensure real progress.

ADJOURNMENT

Dr. Rose said he will share parts of the strategic implementation plan for Task Force members review and feedback before its April 15 School Committee presentation.

Approved - At approximately 5.11 p.m. the Task Force unanimously approved a motion by roll call to adjourn to the meeting.

Attest:



Lena Parvex
Executive Secretary