Minutes of the Meeting of the Boston School Committee Nominating Panel
Wednesday, October 07, 2026, 5:00 PM
Meeting by remote participation via Google Meet

Members present:
Will Thomas, Chair
Joanne Freeman-Fanfan
Midori Morikawa
Esau Bustamante
Jason Gallagher
Tiffany Benson
Mary Grant
Lauren Woo
Shameeka Moreno
Colleen Coffey

Staff assistance:
Branden Miles

1. **Welcome and Introductions**

Chair Thomas called the meeting to order at 5:07 PM.

2. **Approval of Minutes**

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the Panel **voted** unanimously to accept the meeting minutes with amendments for the November 18, 2025 meeting of the Boston School Committee Nominating Panel.

3. **Elect Chairperson**

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the Nominating Panel **voted** to elect Will Thomas as the Chair of the Boston School Committee Nominating Panel.

4. **Establish Application Deadline and Dates for Interviews**

Chair Thomas shared the Nominating Panel can anticipate that the nominating process this fall would work to find candidates to fill a total of two seats beginning in January of 2027. Chair Thomas invited Jeri Robinson, Chair of the Boston School Committee, to share insight for strengthening outreach to potential School Committee candidates. Chair Thomas confirmed with Chair Robinson that there would once again be a virtual informational session for potential candidates to gain a better understanding of the roles and responsibilities of serving on the School Committee.

Chair Thomas then shared a tentative timeline for the Nominating Panel process:

- October 7, 2026: BSC Nominating Panel convenes to decide on application window and finalize schedule; review and finalize application
- October 9-November 13: Applications are open
- November 16-18: Panel members review applications independently
- November 19: BSC Nominating Panel convenes to select candidates to interview
- November 26: Thanksgiving
- December 1, 2 and/or 3: Meeting(s) to conduct interviews, deliberate and vote
- December 7: Deadline to submit shortlist to the Mayor

Members discussed and agreed to the proposed timeline.

5. **Review Boston School Committee Application**

Members reviewed the application used during the previous nominating process. Ms. Moreno proposed amending the language on where applicants attended school to expand the potential pool of applicants. Chair Thomas suggested applicant experience would become more clear during the interviews and application review period, and that the roles and responsibilities of serving on the Boston School Committee would also be reiterated during the virtual informational session. Ms. Benson requested beginning interviews at 3pm instead of 4pm to accommodate working and evening hours, and other members agreed.

6. **Public Comment**

There were no speakers for public comment.

7. **Adjournment**

On a motion duly made and seconded, the Nominating Panel **voted** to adjourn at 6:00pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Branden Miles