



Renaming BCLA-McCormack Proposal: Ruth Batson Academy

Boston Public Schools

Delavern Stanislaus: Chief of Capital Planning
Ondrea Johnston: Head of School
Eugene Roundtree: Regional School Superintendent



Agenda:

- Status of Merger
- Summary of Process
- About Ruth Batson
- Next Steps

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Merger Expectations

1. Creation of a new 7-12 school at the Columbia Point location through the merger of the McCormack Middle School and Boston Community Leadership Academy (BCLA) 9-12 to open SY 2022-2023.
2. Renovation of the Columbia Point location (current McCormack building) in order to meet instructional vision and serve all students in all programs in the new 7-12 school to open SY 2022-2023.
3. Expansion of K-5 feeder schools to K-6 schools in 2020-2021.

Implementation Timeline

December 2020: Merger Approved by School Committee

April 2021: School Leader Announced

2021-2022: Site consolidation begins at McCormack site

2022-2023: Renovations completed for McCormack for Science Lab and Life Skills room

2023-2024: Launching work for full site renovation.

Updates on Merger

- Class of 2024 will be the final cohort of original BCLA students to graduate from the Hyde Park complex in June
- Rising Class of 2025 will remain at the Dorchester campus
- Final cohort of educators will move from the Hyde Park site to the McCormack campus at the end of SY23-24
- Investment for Class of 2024 social and emotional support has yielded 8 college tours to ensure every student has the opportunity to complete a college tour and provided funding to create wellness and community building experiences
- School continues to build upon partnerships with UMass Boston and Bunker Hill College to offer students access to college courses



Renaming Process



- School leadership launched process in September of 2022
- Staff, students and community stakeholders were deeply involved in the identifying of name options
- School conducted several internal meetings to develop and collect data and feedback through surveys
- Final vote was completed in May and June of 2023
- Unanimous vote was taken by the Governing Board on June 6, 2023 to adopt a new name that symbolizes the vision for their school

Ruth Batson: “Mother - Educator - Civil Worker”

The chosen name symbolizes the legacy of a dedicated education advocate for students of color and a BPS alumna (Girls' Latin School). Her name connotes the vision of leadership and advocacy that resonates with the students and staff of the school, providing a meaningful connection to their school community. The school has established an Early College partnership with UMass Boston, with an education career pathway aligned to Ms. Batson's legacy.



Next Steps

An internal planning committee launched to support the school in celebrating the name change.

Assuming a positive School Committee vote, the group will extend to include external partners, including Ruth Batson's grandson.

The Batson family has been a key partner in this process and the school community would like to integrate them in both the planning and future opportunities within the school.