



Mayor Michelle Wu

Literacy Task Force, City of Boston

Zoom

November 13, 2024, 9:00-10:00 am

Task Force Members

- Dr. Edith Bazile, Black Advocates for Educational Excellence
- Yorsalem Brhane, BINCA
- Manuel Coronado, Immigrants Lead Boston alum
- Lori D'Alleva, Charlestown Adult Education
- Xiomara Gomez, Gardner Pilot Academy Adult ESOL program
- Lee Haller, English for New Bostonians
- Stephen Hunter, Boston Chinatown Neighborhood Center
- Nicole Simeon, Bunker Hill Community College, First Literacy Scholar
- City Councilor Julia Mejia, *ex officio*
- Gayana Daniel, Office of Language and Communications Access, *ex officio*
- Papa Diop, Boston Centers for Youth and Families, *ex officio*
- David Leonard, Boston Public Libraries, *ex officio*
- Lesley Ryan Miller, Boston Public Schools, *ex officio*
- Monique Tú Nguyen, Mayor's Office for Immigrant Advancement, *ex officio*
- Trinh Nguyen, Worker Empowerment Cabinet, *ex officio*

Facilitator, Dr. Elizabeth Santiago, *The Untold Narratives*

City of Boston Staff for Task Force

- Brittany Barret, Executive Assistant, Office of Language and Communications Access
 - Jhoselyn Tovar Sandoval, Policy and Research Consultant, Equity and Inclusion Cabinet
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Meeting Goals

By the end of this meeting we will:

1. Continue to build community as literacy task force members,
1. Wrap up (sub)committee work with a discussion and identification of next steps
2. Review 2024 workplan and establish 2025 workplan, and
3. Make recommendations for 2025



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Agenda

- 9:00-9:05: Settle in, welcome, quick review of agenda and quick introductions
- 9:05-9:20: Wrap up (sub)committee work:
 - Adult Literacy final updates
 - Data and Storytelling final updates
 - Data and Equity final updates
- 9:20-9:35: Review of our 2024 workplan
 - Outcome: Review current workplan to see where we are against it. Use our discussion to build and react to draft workplan for 2025
- 9:35-9:50: Review of our 2025 workplan
 - Outcome: Identify questions, comments and concerns about the draft 2025 workplan. Highlight recommendations for 2025
- 9:50-10:00: Next steps, schedule next meeting, and wrap-up

Attendance

1. Lee Haller
2. Lesley Ryan Miller
3. Papa Diop
4. Dr. Liz Santiago
5. Gayana Daniel
6. Melissa Theroux
7. Brooke Machado
8. Manuel Coronado
9. Monique Tú Nguyen
10. Clare Orié
11. Dr. Edith Bazile
12. Jhoselyn Tovar Sandoval
13. Brittany Barret

Minutes

1. 9:00 Dr. Liz Santiago introduces the new City staff members, Brittany and Jhoselyn, for the Task Force
 - a. Ân H. Lê will be stepping away and Brittany will be transitioning into their role
 - i. Quick read-through of meeting agenda
 - ii. Review of 2024 work plan that was created by Task Force in February and discussion of 2025 proposals
2. 9:04 Dr. Liz Santiago shared committee notes



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- a. Last meeting discussed details of three subcommittees (Data and Storytelling, Data and Equity, Adult Literacy) that were created to get a literacy rate for the City.
3. 9:06 Dr. Liz Santiago shares 2024 Timeline and Workplan (linked in Drive folder) - review accomplishments and what still needs to get done
 - a. January through March - still need to share definition with residents for final approval
 - i. Dr. Liz Santiago suggested to share with campaign and survey
 - b. April through June - worked with Northeastern University team to review existing data. The Task Force had talked about hiring a researcher to look into building a literacy rate. Subcommittees were created to look at details and develop an approach for literacy rates.
 1. Data and Equity subcommittee focused on BPS K-12 and information that was already available
 - a. Main recommendation was to connect with BPS school committee goals to add language that would help build a goal for TF/inserting TF work into their goals/be unified. This is something that the TF would like to actively pursue in 2025. Report has further information on how TF would connect with BPS.
 2. Data and Storytelling subcommittee was created to map out plan for campaign and a plan to gather qualitative data due to concerns about communities not being considered or counted. Also discussed web development and specifications.
 - a. Recommendations for 2025
 - i. Campaign
 - ii. COB site building
 - iii. Finalizing survey - have a draft that connects with residents in a grassroots way and came up with ideas in report
 - c. July through September
 - i. Intended to launch campaign in 2024, but more time is needed
 - ii. Established the Adult Literacy subcommittee because identifying an adult literacy rate was more complicated than originally expected. Planned to update the data from 2003 that was being used, and we have recommendations for that as well
4. 9:10 Dr. Liz Santiago introduces proposed timeline for 2025
 - i. Needs to consider bandwidth of COB



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1. Some things may need to be done internally, including hiring for support
2. Foundation has been completed, which lays the groundwork to move forward
- ii. January through March - a lot of the foundation has been completed.
- iii. April through June - thinking when Task Force could potentially launch the campaign, but ES open to adjusting the timeline as needed
- iv. Dr. Liz Santiago will send a more final draft before EOY
- b. 9:12 Opportunity for feedback on timeline
 - i. Lesley: gratitude for Dr. Liz Santiago documenting work plan and request: Two weeks ago, someone from the City reached out about a literacy campaign, unsure of goal or terms. The meeting is scheduled for November 22nd. Wanted to know if it would be alright to share Task Force work so that literacy campaign could be inclusive of this group
 1. Dr. Liz Santiago: okay to share, briefly discussed BPS doing a campaign in the past. I would love to be involved or have someone from the TF be involved and ensure that we are aligned
 2. Brittany: should be okay, will get back to group and confirm
 3. Lesley will get information from this meeting and ask for feedback from Task Force electronically on how to proceed
 - ii. Manuel: would it be helpful if we had an actual timeline or concrete items that we can do next year, step by step/be even more specific for what we can do next year, given timelines
 1. Dr. Liz Santiago will work on incorporating specifics in finalized plan
 - iii. Edith: excited to see this document come alive and is appreciative of Dr. Liz Santiago's efforts in organizing thoughts in an impressive way. Curious about the researcher that would potentially combine this work and looking at every layer to ensure all intersecting identities are included. Important to have someone who holistically honors identities, heritages, languages, culture of all citizens to ensure this type of equity. Concern of literacy gap in BPS system widening, not just of specific groups, but overall. Charge for school committee to revisit priorities and curriculum. We should align, but also advocate. Challenge exacerbated by political climate. Higher sense of urgency moving forward. Who can we tap into as a resource to address oncoming challenges?



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1. Dr. Liz Santiago: definitely agree, making sure this work gets implemented is the next order of business. There are also implications from change in MCAS. Came up with great recommendations for BPS, would like to formally submit and revisit to see if we need to include any new information given MCAS and political implications
 - a. Edith: don't want students to be held accountable for an assessment with lack of high quality instruction, especially given needs of vulnerable groups (ex. those who speak a language other than English). Adds another layer of what this task force needs to accomplish.
 - i. Dr. Liz Santiago: will come when Task Force revisits recommendations + adding in nuance
 - ii. Lesley: Edith makes a great point. The district will still administer MCAS, it just won't be a graduation requirement. This group has the opportunity to recommend to BPS how that data is used and shared going forward to hold the district accountable for high quality instruction.
 1. Dr. Liz Santiago: It would be extremely helpful if Task Force could collaborate on the appropriate language to use/adding in nuance in recommendations when presenting back. She would then like to submit a draft to COB to start working on plan
5. 9:28 Dr. Liz Santiago: will add all points to notes and will share updated work plan with team when finalized
6. 9:30 Next steps
 - a. Dr. Liz Santiago will flesh out documents that were shared, do a more detailed timeline and add more nuance to reports so that Task Force doesn't forget work that was done in 2024. Will aim to get everything to all by end of month/early December and gather feedback/thoughts and then submit to COB