

**Minutes of the Meeting of the  
Boston School Committee Nominating Panel**  
Wednesday, October 2, 2024, 4:30–5:35 p.m.  
Meeting by remote participation via Zoom

Members Present:

William Thomas, Boston High School Heads Association, Panel Chair  
Angelina Camacho, Boston Parent Organizing Network  
Dr. Mary Grant (for Commissioner of Higher Education)  
Jerry Howland, Mayoral Appointee  
Charlie Kim, Special Education Parents Advisory Council  
Sammy Nabulsi, Mayoral Appointee  
Susan Ou, Bilingual Master PAC  
Natalie Rivkin McSwain, Mayoral Appointee  
Rhoda Schneider (for Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education)  
Rachel Skerritt, Mayoral Appointee  
Marty Walz, Interim President, Boston Municipal Research Bureau

Staff Assistance: Tali Robbins and Gaelle Nelfise, Office of Mayor Michelle Wu, City of Boston

1. Introductions

Will Thomas, Chair of the Boston School Committee Nominating Panel, called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m. and members introduced themselves. The Chair and members welcomed Sammy Nabulsi, a new mayoral appointee to the Panel who is an attorney at Rose Law Partners. Marty Walz introduced Celia Richa of the Greater Boston Chamber of Commerce, who may alternate as the business community representative on the Panel.

Chair Thomas thanked Tali Robbins, Deputy Chief of Policy in the Office of Mayor Wu, and Gaelle Nelfise, Policy Assistant in Mayor Wu's Office, for their help organizing and following up on Panel matters.

Chair Thomas said one seat on the School Committee, currently held by Michael O'Neill, has a term that expires as of January 6, 2025. The Panel must send 3-5 names to the Mayor by Monday, December 2, 2024.

2. Approval of Minutes

Members reviewed the minutes of the November 27-29, 2023 meeting. On a motion duly made and seconded, the Panel **voted** to approve the minutes. The vote, by roll call, was 10-0-1, with Member Nabulsi abstaining.

3. Elect Chairperson

In response to a question from Member Grant, Chair Thomas said he is interested and willing to continue serving as Panel Chair if nominated and elected. There were no other nominations. On a motion duly made and seconded, the Panel **voted** to appoint William Thomas as Chair. The vote, by roll call, was unanimous. Chair Thomas said he is honored to serve in this role and members thanked him for his leadership.

#### 4. Review Boston School Committee Application

The Panel reviewed and discussed the most recent application form and agreed to make some changes to simplify and clarify it. On a motion duly made and seconded, the Panel **voted** to accept the changes to the application form. The vote, by roll call, was unanimous.

#### 5. Establish Application Calendar

The Panel discussed the process and timeline relating to the seat on the School Committee whose term is expiring. On a motion duly made and seconded, the Panel **voted** as follows:

- Applications will be due by 11:59 p.m. on November 15, 2024
- The Panel will meet at 4:30 p.m. on Tuesday, November 19, 2024, via Zoom, to decide which applicants to interview.
- The Panel will meet at 4:30 p.m. on Thursday, November 21, 2024, via Zoom, to interview the selected applicants and then deliberate and decide on a list of 3-5 names to submit to the Mayor.
- Members will hold time at 4:30 p.m. on Friday, November 22, 2024, in case the Panel needs to continue the November 21 meeting.

The vote, by roll call, was unanimous.

Chair Thomas said the updated application would be posted on the School Committee web page and encouraged members to spread the word about the opportunity to apply.

#### 6. Public Comment

Chair Thomas invited comments from members of the public attending the meeting. Victoria Mitchell commented favorably on the meeting.

#### 7. Adjourn

There being no further business, the Panel **voted** unanimously to adjourn its meeting at 5:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Rhoda E. Schneider