



CITY OF BOSTON IN CITY COUNCIL

IN THE YEAR TWO THOUSAND TWENTY SIX

ORDER REQUESTING CERTAIN INFORMATION UNDER SECTION 17F RELATIVE TO BPS STUDENT-ATHLETE SCHOOL TRANSFER POLICIES

WHEREAS, Testimony at the hearing on Docket #0166 revealed that Boston Public Schools' student-athlete transfer and eligibility process, particularly the role and procedures of the Sports Administration Review Board (SARB), lacks clearly defined, publicly available policies, timelines, and due process protections for students and families, resulting in inconsistent decision-making and limited transparency; *and*

WHEREAS, The current framework governing transfer eligibility under MIAA Rule 57 and Form 200 places significant discretion on individual schools and administrators without a standardized investigatory or evidentiary process, raising concerns that students may be deemed ineligible based on unverified allegations without a meaningful opportunity to be heard or appeal; ***NOW, THEREFORE BE IT***

ORDERED: That under the provisions of section 17F of Chapter 452 of the Acts of 1948, as amended, and any other application provision of law, the City of Boston, be, and hereby is, requested to obtain and deliver to the City Council, within one week of the receipt hereof, the following information:

1. SARB Investigation Policies and Framework

- a. Provide information on the composition and governance of the Sports Administration Review Board (SARB), including the process by which members are appointed, the criteria for their selection, and the extent to which the Board operates as an independent and impartial decision-making body.
- b. Provide a detailed explanation of how SARB investigations are conducted, including any written policies or procedures governing the process and the individual(s) responsible for leading investigations. Describe the SARB review process, including:
 - i. Investigation timeline;
 - ii. Whether students are interviewed as part of eligibility determinations;

- iii. Describe the student interview process;
 - iv. Whether SARB produces written factual findings; and
 - v. Whether such findings are maintained as public records and made accessible to the City Council upon request.
- c. Clarify whether allegations of athletic recruitment are treated as a presumptive basis for disqualification, and describe the formal review process, if any, conducted prior to a determination of ineligibility.
 - i. If a student is deemed ineligible based on allegations of recruitment, how does SARB conduct its investigation? Who leads the investigation, and which parties are interviewed? Are students and parents formally notified of the investigation, and if so, how? Do students have a meaningful opportunity to respond to or contest the allegations before a final determination is made?
- d. Describe the appeals process following a determination of ineligibility, including applicable timelines and opportunities for students and families to be heard.
 - i. If a receiving school declines to appeal to the MIAA on behalf of a student, may a student independently initiate an appeal within BPS SARB?
- e. Provide annual data, for the past ten years, on the number of student-athlete transfers resulting in:
 - i. Eligibility;
 - ii. Ineligibility;
 - iii. For students deemed ineligible, reasons provided explaining the basis for that determination, and written factual findings produced to support the decision.
- f. Describe how BPS tracks and evaluates the reasons for student-athlete transfers, including those related to Individualized Education Plans (IEPs), and provide data from the past academic year.
 - i. Indicate if the BPS Chief of Specialized Services is involved in reviewing student-athlete transfer cases related to a student's IEP.
- g. Describe any accountability mechanisms in place to ensure timely and complete responses from sending schools to Form 200 requests.
- h. Outline the protocols in place to ensure language access and translation services for families participating in transfer or eligibility proceedings.
 - i. How are families notified of transfer or eligibility proceedings?

- i. Describe the evidentiary standard or burden of proof applied in determining student-athlete eligibility or ineligibility.
- j. Indicate how frequently BPS central leadership has intervened in transfer eligibility cases and under what circumstances.
- k. Describe any protocols addressing potential conflicts of interest, including whether staff are ever recused from cases under investigation.
- l. Indicate whether BPS has considered or implemented an independent review mechanism for student-athlete transfer determinations.

2. MIAA Form 200 Protocols

- a. Describe the step-by-step process for initiating and completing a Form 200, including any required timelines for receiving and sending schools.
- b. Provide annual data, for the past ten years:
 - i. The number of Form 200 submissions initiated;
 - ii. The number approved; and
 - iii. The number denied or not certified by a sending school.
- c. Clarify the process for submitting and reviewing allegations of recruitment under Form 200, including:
 - i. Who is responsible for submitting written proof;
 - ii. What documentation is considered sufficient;
 - iii. The process, timeline, and decision-making authority used to evaluate such evidence; and
 - iv. How does Boston Public Schools respond to allegations of retaliation against a student for requesting a school transfer? What safeguards are in place to ensure that Form 200 is not used or influenced as a means of retaliation by school staff?
- d. Describe any formal mechanisms through which BPS may provide feedback to the MIAA regarding transfer policies, and whether BPS has proposed changes to Rule 57 or related provisions.

3. Specific Cases

- a. Provide all publicly available documentation related to the Amir Mohamed student-athlete transfer case, with appropriate redactions as necessary.