

**OFFERED BY COUNCILOR WORRELL, MURPHY, DURKAN, FERNANDES
ANDERSON, FITZGERALD, FLYNN, PEPEN, SANTANA, COLETTA ZAPATA,
WEBER AND LOULJEUNE**



CITY OF BOSTON

IN THE YEAR TWO THOUSAND TWENTY FIVE

ORDER FOR A HEARING TO EXAMINE BOSTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS' CLOSURES FOR 2026-27 AND ITS LONG-TERM FACILITIES PLAN

WHEREAS, Because of the urgent need for immediate action in response to unforeseen circumstances impacting the health, safety, and welfare of the residents of Boston, an emergency declaration is hereby necessary to expedite the filing and consideration of this order; *and*

WHEREAS, Boston Public Schools announced two high school closures, one elementary school closure, a merger of two elementary schools, and a redesign of one high school for the 2026-27 school year; *and*

WHEREAS, Boston Public Schools previously announced a plan for the announcement of school closures, allowing school communities more than 1 year before the school closes, and providing supports for school families; *and*

WHEREAS, Boston Public Schools is aiming to control overall costs amid the loss of ESSER funding, declining state aid, and a decade-long decline in student enrollment; *and*

WHEREAS, Boston Public Schools estimates that the changes announced in January 2025 will save \$10-\$20 million annually; *and*

WHEREAS, Closures and mergers of schools are difficult for school communities but necessary to ensure all of our students can thrive in resource-rich, high-quality environments; *and*

WHEREAS, Boston Public Schools has been tasked with announcing a long-term facilities plan as part of its agreement with the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education; *and*

WHEREAS, Boston Public Schools previously introduced a long-term facility metric as well as multiple building audits on air quality and equipment; *and*

WHEREAS, Boston Public Schools is expected to roll out a long-term facilities plan at the Jan. 22 School Committee meeting; *and*

WHEREAS, Boston Public Schools spent the past decade realigning its schools to be Grades K1-6 and Grades 7-12, and a similar long-term goal for facilities per

neighborhood and district would be beneficial and improve trust within the community; *and*

WHEREAS, Boston Public Schools is set to roll out a long-term facilities plan on Jan. 22, and its 2026-27 school closure plan was announced fully on Jan. 7; ***NOW, THEREFORE BE IT***

ORDERED: That the appropriate committee of the Boston City Council hold a hearing on the financial future of Boston Public Schools, and the capital and operating needs that stem from the long-term facilities plan, as well as an examination of the communication and process for announcing school closures and mergers, and that representatives from Boston Public Schools and the Public Facilities Commission as well as teachers and students from the affected schools attend and the public be invited to testify.

Filed on: January 7, 2025