

OFFERED BY COUNCILOR MICHAEL F. FLAHERTY, MURPHY, BREADON, BAKER, ARROYO, BOK, MEJIA, WORRELL, LOUIJEUNE, EDWARDS, LARA and FERNANDES-ANDERSON offered the following:



CITY OF BOSTON IN CITY COUNCIL

ORDER FOR A HEARING TO DISCUSS DECLINING ENROLLMENT AT BOSTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

- WHEREAS,** In 2016 BuildBPS projected a K2-12 enrollment increase of 1.8% by 2021-2022 and instead enrollment has decreased by 14% since 2016; *and*
- WHEREAS,** Declines in student enrollment in BPS accelerated during the pandemic, in line with what has occurred in school districts for other large cities across the country, but did not stabilize this year and declined another 4% for school year '21-22; *and*
- WHEREAS,** Enrollment is down across all races/ethnicities, with Black student enrollment experiencing the most severe decline; *and*
- WHEREAS,** The trends in declining enrollment as well as the large gaps between the 2021-2022 BuildBPS projections and actual enrollment are troubling; *and*
- WHEREAS,** BPS has taken steps to support schools with declining enrollment by providing \$18.5M to schools on top of their existing "soft landings" and "Foundation for Quality" in FY22; *and*
- WHEREAS,** However, there has not been a clearly communicated long term plan around the impact on declining enrollment on BuildBPS plans; ***NOW, THEREFORE BE IT***
- ORDERED:** That the appropriate committee of the Boston City Council hold a hearing to discuss and analyze this downward trend in enrollment and its impact on BuildBPS plans, learn about any proactive measures being implemented by BPS to retain and grow student enrollment, and that representatives from the Boston Public Schools and other interested parties and members of the public shall be invited to attend.

Filed on: February 9, 2022