

OFFERED BY COUNCILORS TANIA FERNANDES ANDERSON, BREADON,
COLETTA, DURKAN, FITZGERALD, FLYNN, MEJIA, MURPHY, PEPÉN, SANTANA,
WEBER, WORRELL, AND LOUIJEUNE



CITY OF BOSTON IN CITY COUNCIL

HEARING ORDER TO DISCUSS THE FEASIBILITY OF BPS PROVIDING ESOL CLASSES FOR PARENTS

WHEREAS, According to the Boston Public School website 17,000 students, which is 32% of all BPS students, are described as English Learners, meaning they are native of a language other than English, and that they are not yet sufficiently proficient yet sufficiently proficient in English to perform in pedagogical settings in which English is the primary language; *and*

WHEREAS, With $\frac{1}{3}$ of the student population being English learners, one can surmise that the parents of said population is profound, and is likely even greater than the 32% figure sighted; *and*

WHEREAS, This problematic state of affairs leads totens of thousands of parents and guardians BPS being unable to fully engage in the nuances that constitute accessing and understanding what comprises the totality of their children’s educational experience; *and*

WHEREAS, In order to create the conditions of diversity, equity, and inclusion, it is vital that our ESOL parents have access to English classes where they can grow their English language skills to better engage in their children’s education; *and*

WHEREAS, Several nonprofits are currently engaged in this powerful work, including English for New Bostonians, where, in partnership with preschools, elementary schools, and one high school, their ESOL for parents program helps parents and guardians with their children’s education at home, while also assisting them with goals of career advancement for themselves; *and*

WHEREAS, Furthermore, the Boston Chinatown Neighborhood Center, (the BCNC) offers a free English class for parents and caregivers of K-12 children in BPS, with said class being funded by English for New Bostonians; *and*

WHEREAS, There is an opportunity to consolidate the work already being done by our robust nonprofits under the BPS umbrella, which would greatly broaden the scope of said offerings and make them more readily available to the thousands of parents and guardians that are in need of them: ***NOW, THEREFORE BE IT***

ORDERED: That the appropriate committee of the Boston City Council hold a hearing with the appropriate members of the administration, BPS, relevant nonprofits and community organizations, such as English for New Bostonians, ABCD, and others, as well as English language learner parents, guardians, and students to discuss the feasibility of BPS providing ESOL classes to parents.

Filed on February 14th, 2024