

Offered by City Councilors Julia Mejia, Erin Murphy, Breadon, Coletta Zapata, Durkan, FitzGerald, Flynn, Louijeune, Pepén, Santana, Weber, and Worrell



CITY OF BOSTON IN CITY COUNCIL

IN THE YEAR TWO THOUSAND TWENTY-FIVE

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF COMPREHENSIVE, TRANSPARENT, AND INCLUSIVE DECISION-MAKING IN BOSTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS CLOSURE AND RECONFIGURATION DECISIONS

WHEREAS, Boston Public Schools has proposed the closure of the Lee Academy Pilot School, Another Course to College (ACC), and the Community Academy of Science and Health (CASH), along with grade reconfigurations affecting several other schools, including the removal of grades 9–12 at the Henderson Inclusion School and grades 7–8 at the Tobin Elementary School; *and*

WHEREAS, Earlier in 2025, the Boston School Committee approved the closure of Community Academy, Excel High School, Mary Lyon Pilot High School, and the Paul A. Dever Elementary School, as well as the merger of the Winthrop and Clap Elementary Schools; *and*

WHEREAS, Boston Public Schools serves a student population in which nearly half of all students are either multilingual learners, students with disabilities, or both—populations that require consistent, high-quality programming—and public testimony has raised concerns about how proposed closures may affect access to specialized services, bilingual instruction, and inclusive education models, particularly at schools such as the Henderson and Mary Lyon, which have been nationally recognized for their inclusion practices; *and*

WHEREAS, The district is in the process of expanding its inclusion model, yet during the December 3rd School Committee meeting the public identified unresolved questions regarding the approval and implementation of school-based inclusion plans, the adequacy of staffing and funding models such as two-teacher classrooms, benchmarks and outcomes across grade levels, and the academic growth data used to evaluate whether current inclusion strategies are meeting student needs; *and*

WHEREAS, Families, educators, and community members have expressed concern about the lack of publicly available transition plans for students and staff in affected schools, the absence of transparent data and scoring criteria behind the Decision-Making Rubric used to recommend closures, and the need for a long-term Master Facilities Plan that outlines future school construction, renovations, enrollment projections, and potential closures—especially given that no new school buildings are projected to open until the 2030s and many schools require updated facilities to support inclusive and multilingual programming; ***NOW THEREFORE BE IT***

RESOLVED, That the Boston City Council urges Boston Public Schools to publicly release the data and criteria used to inform current school closure and reconfiguration recommendations, provide a districtwide update on inclusion implementation including benchmarks, outcomes, staffing models, and the approval status of school-based plans, publish clear transition plans for any proposed school closures or reconfigurations to ensure continuity of academic programming, special education services, multilingual instruction, and student supports, and release a publicly accessible long-term Master Facilities Plan with a defined, community-centered engagement process for any future school closures, mergers, or grade reconfigurations.

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