



CITY OF BOSTON IN CITY COUNCIL

ORDER FOR A HEARING ON EQUITY IN ATHLETIC FUNDING AND ACCESS ACROSS BOSTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

WHEREAS, recent events involving the Excel High School varsity baseball team, where student-athletes did not receive basic uniforms such as hats for their opening game, highlight a failure to provide essential resources to student-athletes; and

WHEREAS, student-athletes, coaches, school leaders, and parents have raised ongoing concerns that teams are relying on nonprofits, fundraising, and outside support to secure basic necessities; and

WHEREAS, Boston Public Schools athletic programs should not operate like youth sports programs that depend on volunteers and community patrons to provide uniforms, equipment, and access to participate, including practice fields, facilities, and transportation; and

WHEREAS, athletics are a critical part of student engagement, attendance, and school culture and must be treated as essential, not optional; and

WHEREAS, concerns remain that access to sports, quality of equipment, and level of support vary significantly across schools, raising serious equity issues within the district; and

WHEREAS, these concerns come at a time when Boston Public Schools operates with a budget of approximately \$1.7 billion, underscoring the expectation that all students have access to the basic resources needed to participate fully in school life;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDERED, that the appropriate committee of the Boston City Council hold a hearing to examine how athletic programs are funded and supported across Boston Public Schools, with a focus on equity, accountability, and direct input from those impacted, and to ensure that as the City enters budget season, sufficient resources are being allocated to meet the basic needs of all student-athletes; and

BE IT FURTHER ORDERED, that the hearing include testimony directly from coaches, school leaders, parents, and student-athletes regarding their experiences with funding, access, and support for athletic programs; and

BE IT FURTHER ORDERED, that the hearing review how each athletic team across Boston Public Schools is funded at the school and district level; whether all schools are provided equitable access to sports programs, facilities, and resources; the extent to which teams rely on nonprofits, fundraising, or outside support for uniforms, equipment, and transportation; whether any fees are required for participation or access to practice fields and how those fees impact equity; gaps that result in teams lacking basic necessities; and what standards are in place to ensure every team has uniforms, equipment, and transportation without reliance on outside support; and

BE IT FURTHER ORDERED, that BPS leadership be invited to provide a full accounting of how athletic resources are allocated and delivered across the district, including any disparities between schools.

Filed in Council: April 8, 2026