

**OFFERED BY COUNCILORS MINIARD CULPEPPER, BREADON, FITZGERALD,
FLYNN, LOUIJEUNE, MURPHY, PEPÉN, WEBER, AND WORRELL**



CITY OF BOSTON

IN THE YEAR TWO THOUSAND TWENTY SIX

ORDER FOR A HEARING REGARDING THE FUTURE OF THE JOHN D. O'BRYANT SCHOOL OF MATHEMATICS AND SCIENCE

WHEREAS, The John D. O'Bryant School of Mathematics and Science is one of Boston's three examination schools and serves a diverse student body from neighborhoods throughout the City, and its students, families, educators, and alumni deserve a clear, transparent, and long-term plan for a school facility that supports the academic opportunities, programming, and student experience expected of one of Boston's premier public schools; *and*

WHEREAS, In June 2023, the City announced a proposal to relocate the O'Bryant from its existing campus in Roxbury to the West Roxbury Education Complex, renovate that facility, and expand the O'Bryant by approximately 400 seats, while separately advancing plans to rebuild and significantly expand Madison Park Technical Vocational High School on the existing Madison Park-O'Bryant campus; *and*

WHEREAS, The proposed relocation generated significant concern and opposition from members of the O'Bryant community, including concerns regarding the removal of the school from Roxbury, transportation access, community engagement, and the process through which the proposal was developed and announced; *and*

WHEREAS, In a February 27, 2024 letter to the O'Bryant and Madison Park school communities, the Administration stated that, following community feedback, it had spent several months exploring alternative locations for the O'Bryant in Roxbury and other neighborhoods, but had been unable to identify another site capable of accommodating the expansion and student experience envisioned for the school, and therefore announced that plans to relocate the O'Bryant to the West Roxbury Education Complex would be halted indefinitely; *and*

WHEREAS, The February 2024 letter also stated that community input collected through the O'Bryant School programming study would be compiled into a report and shared in the coming months, and that the O'Bryant would thereafter be included in the City's broader long-term facilities planning process with the same consideration,

analysis, and engagement afforded to other BPS schools requiring significant facilities improvements or restructuring; *and*

WHEREAS, More than two years later, significant questions remain regarding the work conducted during that planning process, including which alternative sites were evaluated, the criteria used to evaluate those sites, the specific expansion and student experience envisioned for the O'Bryant, the findings of the programming study and community engagement process, and how that work is informing the City's current plans for the school; *and*

WHEREAS, The City is now moving forward with a major capital planning and Massachusetts School Building Authority process for Madison Park Technical Vocational High School, which shares a campus with the O'Bryant, making it increasingly important to understand how the redevelopment of Madison Park will affect the O'Bryant's existing facilities and operations and whether decisions made today could create opportunities or limitations for the O'Bryant's future renovation, expansion, or reconstruction; *and*

WHEREAS, Recent testimony before the Boston City Council indicated that the O'Bryant remains a priority for the Mayor and the Superintendent, creating an opportunity for the Council, the Administration, and the O'Bryant community to establish a clear understanding of what that priority means, what planning work has already been completed, and what concrete steps and timeline will guide the future of the school; *and*

WHEREAS, A transparent discussion of the O'Bryant's future should build upon, rather than disregard, the substantial planning, analysis, and community input undertaken since 2023, and should provide students, families, educators, alumni, and Roxbury residents with meaningful opportunities to participate in decisions concerning the future location, facilities, enrollment, programming, and long-term capital needs of the school; ***NOW, THEREFORE BE IT***

ORDERED: That the appropriate committee of the Boston City Council hold a hearing regarding the future of the John D. O'Bryant School of Mathematics and Science, including an examination of the planning and analysis conducted in connection with the City's 2023 proposal to relocate and expand the school; the alternative sites subsequently evaluated by the Administration; the criteria and facility requirements used to evaluate potential locations; the findings and current status of the O'Bryant School programming study and promised community engagement report; the condition and capital needs of the school's existing facilities; the O'Bryant's current priority and timeline within the BPS long-term facilities plan; the impact of the Madison Park Technical Vocational High School redevelopment on the O'Bryant and the shared campus; opportunities for renovating, expanding, or rebuilding the O'Bryant at its current location or elsewhere; and the Administration's current vision and next steps for providing the O'Bryant community with a modern, permanent, and adequately resourced school facility;

and that representatives from Boston Public Schools, the Public Facilities Department and other interested parties shall be invited to attend.

Filed on: July 22, 2026