

Offered by City Councilor Julia Mejia, LARA, ARROYO, BREADON, COLETTA, FERNANDES ANDERSON, LOUIJENE, WORRELL and FLYNN



CITY OF BOSTON IN CITY COUNCIL

ORDER FOR A HEARING ON “GREEN NEW DEAL FOR BPS” PLANS, SPECIFICALLY THE PLAN TO MERGE SIX SCHOOLS INTO THREE AND SPLIT EACH OF THEM ONTO TWO CAMPUSES

- WHEREAS,** One of the fundamental responsibilities of the Boston City Council is to ensure that there is accountability, transparency, and accessibility in all city business, including the appropriation of funds to Boston Public Schools; *and*
- WHEREAS,** The joint BPS-City of Boston “Green New Deal for BPS” team is moving quickly toward a School Committee vote in early November on a plan to merge six elementary schools into three larger schools that would each have two campuses, despite significant opposition from the school communities; *and*
- WHEREAS,** The merger plan is the first specific proposal for school reconfigurations under the new city administration and new school superintendent and may set a pattern for future facilities proposals; *and*
- WHEREAS,** The policy of the City and of the Boston Public Schools is to put equity at the center of decision-making but according to city and BPS staff, the required BPS Racial Equity Impact Analysis Tool was not used in developing the plan by analyzing data and assessing the impact of the proposed plan on Black, brown and other marginalized students; *and*
- WHEREAS,** School community members do not feel they are getting the full, transparent explanation for why these reconfigurations are being proposed; *and*
- WHEREAS,** The “Green New Deal for BPS” team believes the proposal will benefit the children of the six schools but many parents and educators disagree; *and*
- WHEREAS,** The students of Roxbury, Dorchester and Mattapan have been disproportionately impacted by school mergers/consolidations and closures and the merger of the Shaw School in Mattapan continues to perpetuate this pattern of disruption for school children in these densely populated Black communities; *and*
- WHEREAS,** Parents were told that the new K-6, 7-12 grade level reconfigurations would reduce the transitions required for all students, but the proposed new plan for the six schools affected

would create a new transition in the middle of elementary school, where students would have to move from one building to another some distance away; *and*

WHEREAS,

The Boston City Council has an obligation to ensure accountability, transparency, and oversight over Boston Public Schools and city spending, including in regards to potentially large amounts of capital funding for restructuring schools; ***NOW THEREFORE BE IT***

ORDERED:

That the appropriate committee of the Boston City Council hold a hearing regarding government transparency and the potential equity impact of the plan to merge the six elementary schools into three.

Representatives from the Boston Public Schools, the Boston School Committee, the office of Mayor Michelle Wu, the six school communities, in addition to advocates, individuals with lived experiences, and members of the public are encouraged to attend.

Filed in Council: 10.2.2022