

OFFERED BY COUNCILOR BENJAMIN J. WEBER



CITY OF BOSTON

IN THE YEAR TWO THOUSAND TWENTY SIX

ORDER FOR A HEARING TO DISCUSS BOSTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS FY28 BUDGET

WHEREAS, The Boston Public Schools operating budget makes up over 41 percent of the City's total operating budget; *and*

WHEREAS, The Boston Public Schools \$1.73 billion FY27 budget will support approximately 47,000 students in public schools at BPS as well as those enrolled in charter and public charter schools with nearly 90 percent of the budget going directly into schools and student services; *and*

WHEREAS, The Committee on Ways and Means held four public listening sessions and more than 30 hearings on the FY27 BPS, FY27-31 Capital Plan, and FY27 Departmental Operating budgets with three hearings, two working sessions, and a policy briefing specifically focused on the FY27 BPS budget. The BPS School Committee ultimately approved the FY27 BPS budget on March 25, 2026 prior to the Council's vote on June 3, 2026; *and*

WHEREAS, In FY26 BPS implemented a partial hiring freeze and experienced higher than expected cost increases for health insurance and utilities that required a supplemental appropriation in the amount of \$22.8 million; *and*

WHEREAS, BPS is currently facing declines in enrollment of approximately 1,751 students which is projected to increase to 3,000 students. This has resulted in difficult decisions that will impact staffing, resulting in the projected loss of approximately 150 paraprofessionals and 290 educators next school year; *and*

WHEREAS, Historically, the Committee on Ways and Means has filed hearing orders to begin discussions on the upcoming school department budget; *and*

WHEREAS, Serious concerns remain on how we can adequately improve student success and outcomes for all of our students enrolled in BPS through the budget. The City Council should begin working in collaboration with the school department and School Committee members in order to shape the priorities they would like to see reflected in the upcoming FY28 budget; **NOW, THEREFORE BE IT**

ORDERED: That the appropriate committee of the Boston City Council hold a hearing on the FY28 BPS operating budget, and that representatives of BPS and other interested parties be invited to attend.

Filed on: June 10, 2026