



BOSTON CITY COUNCIL

Committee on Ways and Means

Tania Fernandes Anderson, *Chair*

REPORT OF COMMITTEE CHAIR

June 14, 2023

Dear Councilors:

The Committee on Ways and Means was referred the following docket for consideration:

Docket #0761, Message and order for Annual Appropriation for the School Department for FY2024.

This matter was sponsored by Mayor Michelle Wu and referred to the committee on April 12, 2023.

From April to June, the Committee held 28 hearings overall on the FY24 departmental budgets and associated capital projects, as well as 7 working sessions. The Committee held 5 hearings overall on the FY24 BPS operating budget and associated capital projects. The Committee received written testimony from the Boston Public Schools (BPS), as well as written and oral testimony from the public.

Docket #0761 is one of several dockets that comprise the City's total operating budget, and is an appropriation order for BPS for FY24, in the amount of \$1.45 billion. This budget includes \$111 million increase in funding over FY23.

Investments in the FY24 BPS operating budget include:

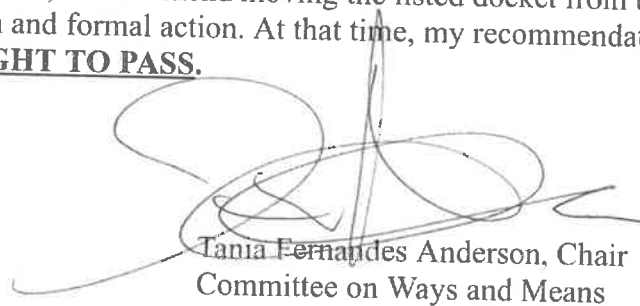
- \$9.6 million to partner with families in the individualized educational program (IEP) process and ensure that students with disabilities can access services in schools across the district and closer to home.
- \$6.3 million to increase investments for immediate action in dual language and bilingual programs, multilingual learners with disabilities, and bilingual teacher pipelines expanding native language access.
- \$3.5 million for Equitable Literacy to invest in High-Quality Tier 1 curriculum and professional learning and to strengthen a Multi-Tiered System of Support (MTSS) designed to identify and deliver timely interventions, through an equitable literacy strategy, all students actively engage in culturally and linguistically responsive, standards-aligned grade-level tasks and texts daily in all content area.
- \$1.2 million for expanding the use of an access to restorative practices at both the school and central levels such as bilingual social workers, family liaisons, safety protocols, bullying prevention, embedded counselors, and peer mediation, to ensure that all students receive the support they need.
- \$1.1 million for High School and Alternative Education, expanding Early College and Career Pathways programming for all secondary students and creating alternative pathways and programming for students who need additional support in grades 7-12.

- \$1.9 million to elevate Community Engagement by adding capacity to the family hotline, expanding translations and interpretation, increasing Family Engagement Facilitators, and investing in a Chief of Community Engagement and Chief of Family Advancement.

The FY24 Operating budget also includes a proposed \$15.9 million increase for charter schools for a total of \$280 million. This funding will support approximately 10,558 Boston students in charter schools. Public education spending remains over 20 percent of the City's budget, and per-pupil spending at BPS will reach \$28,900, an increase of \$1,800 over last year.

Committee Chair Recommended Action

As Chair of the Committee on Ways and Means, I recommend moving the listed docket from the Committee to the full Council for discussion and formal action. At that time, my recommendation to the full Council will be that this matter **OUGHT TO PASS.**



Tania Fernandes Anderson, Chair
Committee on Ways and Means