



# BOSTON CITY COUNCIL

Committee on Ways and Means  
Benjamin J. Weber, Chair

---

One City Hall Square 5<sup>th</sup> Floor, Boston, MA 02201 ♦ Phone: (617) 635-3040 ♦ [city.council@boston.gov](mailto:city.council@boston.gov)

## REPORT OF COMMITTEE CHAIR

April 15, 2026

Dear Councilors,

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

***Docket #0763, Message and order for your approval an order authorizing the City of Boston to submit to the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) a Statement of Interest for Melvin H. King South End Academy, located at 90 Warren Ave in the South End of Boston. The Statement of Interest describes and explains the deficiencies and the priority categories for which the City of Boston may be invited to apply to the MSBA in the future.***

This matter was sponsored by Mayor Michelle Wu and was referred to the Committee on April 8, 2026.

### ***Summary of Legislation***

***Docket #0763*** requests approval to submit Statements of Interest (SOI) for funding consideration from the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) Core Program to perform necessary work regarding the replacement, renovation, or modernization of school facility systems—such as roofs, windows, boilers, and heating and ventilation systems—to increase energy conservation and decrease energy related costs in the facility, and perform necessary work that may include replacement of or addition to obsolete buildings to provide a full range of programs consistent with state and local approved requirements at the Melvin H. King South End Academy.

The SOI is the first step in a process to engage in discussion with the MSBA (the State authority that oversees construction for public schools throughout the Commonwealth and is funded by a small portion of the State sales tax) for potential funding, which would reimburse the City for a percentage of the cost of certain repairs.

The SOI under Docket #0763 is for MSBA Core, which supports facility projects covering extensive repairs, renovations, addition/renovations, and new school construction.

### ***Information Received at Hearing***

The Committee held a hearing on Wednesday, April 15, 2026 to discuss Docket #0763. The following panelists testified on behalf of the Administration: Delavern Stanislaus, Chief of Capital Planning, Boston Public Schools (BPS), Brian McLaughlin, Senior Project Manager, Public Facilities Department, Eneida Tavares, Assistant Director for Project Controls and Compliance, Public Facilities Department, and Heather Trocki, Assistant Director, Office of Specialized Services.

Senior Project Manager McLaughlin provided an overview of the MSBA and provided an update on projects currently in the MSBA Core program and the MSBA Accelerated Repair Program (ARP).

Chief Stanislaus provided an overview of the Melvin H. King South End Academy, stating it is a school that serves students across Boston with diverse strengths and complex academic, socio-emotional, and



# BOSTON CITY COUNCIL

Committee on Ways and Means  
Benjamin J. Weber, Chair

---

One City Hall Square 5<sup>th</sup> Floor, Boston, MA 02201 ♦ Phone: (617) 635-3040 ♦ [city.council@boston.gov](mailto:city.council@boston.gov)

mental health needs in a therapeutic public day program. She stated enrollment has declined since 2020, from 319 students to 80, in part due to policy changes within BPS, including a decision to pause new enrollment at the school and the implementation of the inclusion model. The school was previously split across three sites: St. Mary's Street (Fenway) which was vacated this school year, Peterborough Street (Fenway) which will be vacated next school year, and Warren Ave (South End) which will be where the entire school is housed in the next school year.

The district plans to submit the academy to the MSBA due to its failing facilities, which according to the Facilities Condition Assessment (FCA) are 19 points lower than the district average. The district plans to create a state-of-the-art therapeutic school where all students will have access to the highest-quality clinical, academic, and therapeutic services and programming. This submission will help the district advance their goal to provide a thoughtful and supportive student experience and fulfill a commitment to the Melvin H. King South End Academy community.

***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 this time, my recommendation to the full Council will be that this matter **OUGHT TO PASS**.

Benjamin J. Weber, Chair  
Committee on Ways and Means