

OFFERED BY COUNCILORS ERIN MURPHY AND ED FLYNN



CITY OF BOSTON IN CITY COUNCIL

Communication on Docket #0401

March 25, 2024

Councilors Murphy and Flynn filed Docket #0401, an ORDER FOR A RESOLUTION CALLING FOR “SUNDAYS FOR ALL”, on February 28th. This Resolution was calling to expand the Mayor’s program that offers free museum passes for BPS students to include all children in Boston, regardless of where they attend school.

Councilor Durkan objected to a Suspension and Pass of this Resolution stating that she wanted more information on the program before we voted. It was placed in the Education Committee that Henry Santana is the Chair of.

Councilor Flynn requested at the February 28th Council meeting that the Chair schedule this important hearing as soon as possible. It was scheduled for March 18th, but was abruptly canceled by Santana’s office on Friday, March 8th at 5:27pm with no conversation with sponsors of the Resolution.

On March 18th, Councilors Murphy and Flynn reached out to Chair Santana requesting that he reschedule the hearing as soon as possible, but the Chair refused to reschedule citing he wants to wait until the pilot program is over.

There are more than 23,000 Boston children who do not attend Boston Public Schools, and many of these children are first generation immigrants, and a high percentage are English Language Learners. Over 80% are students of color, and over 70% come from low income households.

This is a wonderful opportunity for families who have children enrolled in Boston Public Schools, and we applaud the Mayor for rolling out this program, but we are concerned that tens of thousands of deserving students and families are being left out of this free program if it is not expanded to include ALL Boston families, regardless of what school their children attend.

Councilor Murphy and Flynn are requesting that the Education Committee hold a hearing as soon as possible so we can all learn more about this Pilot from the administration and be able to use that knowledge to help advocate for its expansion.

Filed on: March 27, 2024