

Tuesday, February 28, 2023

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Please see the following questions and answers regarding the Shaw-Taylor School Design Team.

**Why does Boston Public Schools consider merging school communities? What does merging schools do to help BPS, students, families, and members of the community?**

- Every BPS student deserves high-quality academics, enrichment opportunities, student and family supports, and facilities. The district is working to create PreK-6 and 7-12 pathways for our students, limiting the number of transitions for students from pre-K to graduation. This merger would pair a small, single-strand school with a larger, inclusive school with more multilingual programming, resulting in more resources that meet the needs of the diverse population that both school communities deserve.

**What is a School Design Team? What are its goals and who can be a member?**

- The Shaw-Taylor School Design Team is a collaborative body of families, school and BPS Central Office staff, and a City of Boston Liaison that will meet weekly to determine the design of the programming, climate and culture of the new merged school through a community-centered process.

**How is the Design Team composed? Who are the members of a School Design Team?**

- The Design Team will include the following members. The City of Boston representative may be from the Mayor's Office.
  - Three family members from each school community and one alternate
  - Three Staff members from each school community and one alternate
  - School leader from each school community
  - School Superintendent
  - Capital Planning Project Manager (PM)
  - Community Engagement Manager
  - Racial Equity Planning Tool (REPT) Liaison
  - City of Boston (COB) representative

**What are the goals, objectives, and responsibilities of the Design Team?**

- The goals of the Design Team are outlined below:
  - Create a robust proposal by analyzing quantitative and qualitative data of the

two combined school communities which will result in closing gaps and accelerate learning for all students, especially our most marginalized populations.

- Discuss the process and communicate regularly with the impacted school communities and the broader community and provide opportunities for feedback.
  - Develop a clear and consistent engagement process for the Design Team to share information and receive feedback from the broader community
- Design Team members also have some important responsibilities:
    - Act as a community representative to ensure the thinking and aspirations of all members of the community are expressed.
    - Work in partnership with various BPS Central Office teams to determine how the academic programming (special education, multilingual, SLIFE, General Education, MassCore, dual enrollment) will live, look, and feel; and develop and implement a transition plan for students

#### **How will the Design Team's work be organized?**

- The Design Team will operate in two stages. In the first stage, the team will work collaboratively to create a merger proposal guided by Racial Equity Planning Tool (REPT), to be introduced to the Boston School Committee in late April, with a vote in mid-May.
- If the Boston School Committee approves the proposal, the second stage of the process will begin, in which the Design Team will create a strategic framework for merger implementation, draft communications and an engagement plan for the school communities and monitor the transition to a merged school community.