

Minutes of the Meeting of the  
Boston School Committee Nominating Panel  
Monday, November 20, 2023, 5:05-5:37 p.m.  
Meeting by remote participation via Zoom

Members Present:

William Thomas, Boston High School Heads Association, Panel Chair  
Joanne Freeman, Citywide Parents Council  
Dr. Mary Grant (for Commissioner of Higher Education)  
Jerry Howland, Mayoral Appointee  
Charlie Kim, Special Education Parents Advisory Council  
Rhoda Schneider (for Commissioner of Elementary & Secondary Education)  
Rachel Skerritt, Mayoral Appointee  
Marty Walz, Interim President, Boston Municipal Research Bureau  
Staff Assistance: Sky Flores, Policy Assistant, Office of Mayor Michelle Wu, City of Boston

1. Call Meeting to Order

Will Thomas, Chair of the Boston School Committee Nominating Panel, called the meeting to order

at 5:05 p.m. Chair Thomas welcomed Marty Walz to the Panel. Members introduced themselves.

2. Approval of Minutes

Members reviewed the minutes of the October 26, 2023 meeting. Dr. Grant said she would abstain from the vote because she did not attend the October 26 meeting. On a motion duly made and seconded, the Panel voted to approve the minutes. The vote, by roll call, was 6-0-1, with Dr. Grant abstaining. Ms. Skerritt joined the meeting after the vote was taken.

3. Discussion of Applicants and Interview Selection

Chair Thomas confirmed that four applications were submitted by the November 17 deadline for the two posted School Committee seats. Members reviewed the applications and discussed the interview process, including options for simultaneous translation, which Ms. Flores said she would arrange. Members agreed all four applicants are qualified to move forward to the Panel interview, and any questions about potential conflicts can be resolved later. Members noted that historically the applicant pool tends to be small when incumbents are applying for reappointment. On a motion duly made and seconded, the Panel voted to interview the four applicants. The vote, by roll call, was unanimous. The Panel will interview the applicants in a meeting to be held via Zoom on Monday, November 27, 2023. Chair Thomas asked Ms. Flores to schedule the interviews. After the interviews, the Panel will deliberate on names to submit to the Mayor. The November 27 meeting will start at 4:15 p.m. and should conclude by 7:00 p.m. Chair Thomas said he would cancel the November 29 meeting date.

4. Public Comment

Chair Thomas invited members of the public attending the meeting to submit comments. No comments were submitted.

5. Adjournment

There being no further business, the Panel voted unanimously to adjourn its meeting at 5:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Rhoda E. Schneider