

**Minutes of the Meeting of the
Boston School Committee Nominating Panel**

Wednesday, August 2nd, 2023, 5:00- 6:30 p.m.

Meeting by remote participation via Zoom

Members Present:

William Thomas, Boston High School Heads Association, Panel Chairperson

Joanne Freeman-Fanfan, Citywide Parent Council

Neema Avashia, Boston Teachers Union

Jerry Howland, Mayoral Appointee

Charlie Kim, Special Education Parent Advisory Council

Rachel Skerritt, Mayoral Appointee

Rhoda Schneider, Designee of Commissioner of Elementary & Secondary Education

1. Interview Discussion

The Chair stated that this is the first time in a while where the Panel has convened to discuss which candidates to interview, since the Panel received a total of 13 candidates. He stated that once we move into the Executive Session, we will deliberate individual candidates and decide which candidates to interview.

Ms. Flores suggested discussing how many candidates they would like to interview and how long the interviews should be. Mr. Thomas answered that there is no limit on how many candidates to interview, but rather it was a question of how many candidates were qualified, and suggested extending the interview panel beyond 90 minutes on August 7.

Chair Thomas asked Ms. Flores if she knows if other Panel members would be available on August 8. Ms. Flores said they did not take a tally of availability on August 8 at the previous meeting, but that several members said they would not be available on August 8. Mr. Thomas suggested that normal meeting times extend 3-4 hours. Ms. Skerritt asked what time they had planned for on August 7. Ms. Skerritt suggested that while two days are hard, there is a limit to

how much information Panel members could take in during one long meeting, and that the Panel should consider scheduling another day for deliberations. Ms. Flores said that the interview time the Panel planned for on August 7 was 4:30-6:00pm.

Mr. Kim said that the first time he participated in this, interviews and deliberations extended over multiple days.

Ms. Skerritt suggested extending the interview time on August 7 and schedule an additional day for deliberations. Ms. Avashia asked if it was possible to record interviews, and Ms. Flores suggested that she would check.

Mr. Thomas asked what the deadline is to present a list of recommendations to the Mayor. Ms. Flores answered that the deadline is August 10. Mr. Thomas asked whether Panel members are available on August 8, and several members responded yes. Ms. Skerritt said she is free after 5pm on August 8, and Ms. Avashia said she is free after 1pm. Mr. Thomas suggested holding time on both August 7 and 8, depending on how many candidates they choose to interview. Mr. Thomas suggested holding 4:30 - 7:00pm on Monday, August 7 and 4:30 - 6:00pm on Tuesday, August 8, and members agreed.

Mr. Howland made a motion to schedule August 7 at 4:30pm and 4:30-6:00pm on August 8, with built in time for deliberation. Ms. Avashia seconded. Chair Thomas called a vote. The panel voted unanimously to schedule the interviews accordingly.

2. Public comment

Alison Pultinas from The Fenway News asked if Panel members would be returning to the public meeting after executive session, and Chair Thomas responded no. Ms. Pultinas asked if the names of the 15 applicants would be public. Chair Thomas responded that applicant names are not usually public, but interviews would be public. Ms. Flores suggested that she would confirm that applicant names would not be public. Mr. Howland asked if the names of candidates who would be interviewed would be public on the public meeting notice, and Ms. Flores confirmed that in the past, names were not public on the public meeting notice. Chair Thomas asked Ms. Pultinas for her contact information and said the Panel would get back to her with the answer. Ms. Pultinas said she would put her email in the chat:

dpultinasboston@aol.com

Chair Thomas closed public comment. Ms. Avashia made a motion to go into executive session, and Mr. Howland seconded. Chair Thomas took a roll call vote. The panel voted unanimously to go into executive session.

3. Deliberation (Executive Session)

4. Approval of minutes

Ms. Schneider pointed out that the minutes indicated that she was at the last meeting, but she was not, and Ms. Flores said she would make that correction before posting the minutes.

Chair Thomas made a motion to approve the minutes for the July 11, 2023 meeting, and Ms. Skerritt seconded. Chair Thomas called a vote: 6 members voted yes and 1 member abstained.

Chair Thomas asked Ms. Flores to confirm whether these names would be public on the agenda. Ms. Flores confirmed she would schedule 4 candidates on August 7, starting at 4:50pm, and 2 candidates on August 8, starting at 4:40pm.

5. Adjourn

Ms. Schneider made a motion to adjourn, and Ms. Avashia seconded. The meeting adjourned at 6:25pm.