

Offered by City Councilors Julia Mejia, Miniard Culpepper, Breadon, FitzGerald, Flynn, Louijeune, Murphy, Pepén, Santana, Weber, and Worrell



## CITY OF BOSTON IN CITY COUNCIL

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IN THE YEAR TWO THOUSAND TWENTY-SIX

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### ORDER FOR A HEARING TO IDENTIFY COMMUNITY PRIORITIES, NEEDS, AND HOPES IN BOSTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

- WHEREAS,** Serving students and their families, as well as supporting educators and staff, is at the center of Boston Public Schools' (BPS') duties and responsibilities; *and*
- WHEREAS,** We are able to best serve our BPS community when we hear directly from them because they are on the ground; this valuable lived experience shapes their perspective, which allows community members to provide insightful feedback that the district may not have access to otherwise; *and*
- WHEREAS,** Despite the informative observations from community that BPS could greatly benefit from, constituents have consistently reached out expressing that they feel as though things are being done to them without their input and that they are not heard by the district; *and*
- WHEREAS,** With major decisions recently made (such as school closures, staffing cuts, and more) and additional major decisions coming down the pipeline, now is a time to involve the community as much as possible; *and*
- WHEREAS,** Community engagement in BPS should employ co-governance and participatory democracy models and principles, as an enhanced community role in decision-making leads to improved outcomes for all with community voice being valued and the district gaining helpful insights; *and*
- WHEREAS,** As part of implementing more robust community engagement in BPS, it is critical to identify community priorities, needs, and hopes in order to best serve and educate our students; ***NOW THEREFORE BE IT***
- ORDERED:** That the appropriate committee of the Boston City Council hold a hearing to identify community priorities, needs, and hopes for BPS as a part of creating a more robust community engagement model in the district. Representatives from Boston Public Schools, parents, students, educators, community organizations, and members of the public shall be invited and encouraged to attend.