OFFERED BY COUNCILORS GABRIELA COLETTA ZAPATA, JULIA M. MEJIA, CULPEPPER, FITZGERALD, FLYNN, LOUIJEUNE, MURPHY, PEPÉN, SANTANA, WORRELL, BREADON, AND WEBER

CITY OF BOSTON
IN CITY COUNCIL

ORDER FOR A HEARING TO EXAMINE THE PROPOSED CLOSURE OF CHARLESTOWN HIGH SCHOOL AND THE FUTURE OF SECONDARY EDUCATION IN CHARLESTOWN

WHEREAS, Boston Public Schools (BPS) has announced its recommendation to close Charlestown High School effective June 30, 2028, as part of its Long-Term Facilities Plan, with the Boston School Committee expected to consider the recommendation on December 2, 2026**;** *and*

WHEREAS, Charlestown High School has served generations of Boston students and families and remains an important educational institution within the Charlestown community, providing academic programming, specialized services, and critical support for a diverse student population**;** *and*

WHEREAS, According to BPS, enrollment at Charlestown High School has declined approximately 32 percent over the past three years, from 820 to 559 students, raising broader questions about districtwide enrollment trends, student assignment policies, school funding, academic programming, and the long-term sustainability of neighborhood secondary schools**;** *and*

WHEREAS, Declining enrollment alone should not determine the future of a school without a comprehensive evaluation of the factors contributing to enrollment changes, the educational opportunities available to students, and the potential consequences of closure for the surrounding community**;** *and*

WHEREAS, The proposed closure warrants further examination of the data, criteria, enrollment projections, educational assessments, and alternatives considered by BPS, including whether additional investments, academic partnerships, or changes to student assignment policies could strengthen enrollment and improve student outcomes**;** *and*

WHEREAS, Charlestown High School serves a significant population of multilingual learners, students with disabilities, and students requiring specialized academic and social-emotional support, making it essential to evaluate how any proposed closure would affect educational continuity, equitable access to services, graduation pathways, and student outcomes; *and*

WHEREAS, The proposed closure raises serious questions about the availability of high-quality secondary education within Charlestown, including whether students and families will continue to have access to rigorous academic programming, inclusive learning environments, extracurricular opportunities, and predictable educational pathways close to home**;** *and*

WHEREAS, BPS has indicated that, if the recommendation is approved, eligible students in grades 11 and 12 will be permitted to graduate through June 2028, while other students will receive priority in the school registration process for the 2028–2029 school year, necessitating further examination of student reassignment procedures, school capacity, transportation requirements, sibling placement, staffing implications, and safeguards to minimize disruption to students and families**;** *and*

WHEREAS, The proposed closure also warrants a comprehensive assessment of the fiscal implications, including projected operational savings, transition costs, potential capital investments, and the condition and future use of the existing school building, particularly as the district continues implementing its Long-Term Facilities Plan**;** *and*

WHEREAS, The future of Charlestown High School must be considered alongside the broader need to maintain high-quality secondary education opportunities within Charlestown, including the potential for new school models, academic partnerships, and educational investments that meet the evolving needs of students and families *and*

WHEREAS, Decisions of this magnitude require transparency, meaningful community engagement, and a clear understanding of the alternatives considered, particularly when they affect the educational opportunities available to current students and future generations**;** *and*

WHEREAS, Students, families, educators, school staff, and Charlestown residents deserve a meaningful role in determining the future of the school, including the long-term educational use of the existing facility and any potential replacement or reconfiguration of secondary education programming**;** *and*

WHEREAS, The Boston City Council has a responsibility to exercise oversight of BPS facilities planning, educational equity, fiscal implications, community engagement, and the long-term impacts of school closures on Boston's neighborhoods, particularly before decisions with lasting consequences for students and families are finalized; ***NOW, THEREFORE BE IT***

ORDERED: That the appropriate committee of the Boston City Council hold a hearing to examine the proposed closure of Charlestown High School, the decision-making process and alternatives considered by Boston Public Schools, the implications for students, families, and educators, and the district's long-term plans for providing high-quality secondary education in Charlestown. Representatives from

Boston Public Schools, educators, students, families, and community stakeholders shall be invited to testify.

Filed on: November 2, 2026