



MATTAHUNT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PROPOSAL

Mary Driscoll, Instructional Superintendent
Monica Roberts, Assistant Superintendent for Engagement

Presentation to Boston School Committee
11/16/2016

The Mattahunt is in its 4th year of Level 4 status

- In 2015 and 2016, Mattahunt was in the 1st percentile of elementary schools across the state. Ninety nine percent of the elementary schools in the state are higher achieving.
- On September 26, 2016, Commissioner Chester designated the school “Level 4-Under Review.” The Commissioner asked us to “take the necessary steps to maximize the rapid academic achievement of students.”

Boston Public Schools must create “a decisive plan for significant and dramatic change”

Our Considerations

In formulating this proposal, we:

- Examined trends in data over time
- Reviewed communications and feedback from the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education
- Analyzed requirements from Commissioner Chester and the likelihood the district could prevent state receivership
- Considered the resource investment and capacity required to turn the school around
- Considered input from 6 meetings with Mattahunt families, community and staff members.
- Reviewed family requests for transfers

Proposal part I:

Boston Public Schools proposes to close the Mattahunt Elementary school on June 30, 2017.

- All current students will enter the school choice transfer process with priority.
- BPS guarantees that all students will have a seat in a higher performing school of their choice.

Proposal part II: Open a New School on July 1, 2017

- Create a **full-service center for excellence in early childhood education** with an emphasis on trauma-sensitive practices
- Integrate the principles of the **Opportunity and Achievement Gap Policy**
- Ensure **culturally and linguistically proficient** programming and curriculum
- Provide an **extended school day and school year**
- Establish an **on-site multi-service center** that serves as a regional hub for city services for students and families
- Deeply engage **families as partners** in student learning
- Partner with a university to provide talent recruitment and **professional and career development** for school staff and neighborhood childcare providers

Implications of this decision

Vote: Yes

The Mattahunt Elementary School will close on June 30, 2017.

BPS will open a new school serving grades K0-1 on July 1, 2017.

Vote: No

The Mattahunt Elementary School would remain as a Level 4 Under Review school and is eligible to be designated as a Level 5 school at any time after mid-November 2016, which would trigger the loss of a BPS school to the State.

If Yes: Supports for Current Mattahunt Families:

1. Every student/family will have 1:1 support to select their new school.
1. Students will be guaranteed a level 1, 2, or 3 school.
1. Social/Emotional supports will be provided for children as they transition to the new school.

If Yes: Supports for Current Mattahunt Families:

- Students will receive **priority** at their selected school choices on their home-based list.
- Students entering grades 2 - 5 in September 2017 will be **guaranteed seats in level 1, 2 or 3 schools**.
- Students in multilingual SEI programs will have a **priority in core language specific programs and multilingual programs** on their home-based list.
- Students with disabilities will be **supported individually through the Office of Special Education**.
- Where possible, students will attend schools closer to home.

Transition Support Plan for Students

- School-Based Information Sessions: November 30th from 8:30 - 9:30 am and 5:30-7:30 pm (translation provided in Spanish and Haitian Creole)
- Transportation to 3 schools for the BPS Showcase on December 3rd
- Special Registration process for all current K0-4th grade students
 - Individual counseling for each family
 - SWD and SEI students will receive individual support from Office of Special Education and OELs respectively
- 1 on 1 support at the Welcome Center for families who do not attend an onsite transfer session
- All students transfers processed in Round 1 with notification by 3/15/17
- Students entering grade 6 in 2017-2018 will be assigned along with the rest of the grade 6 students.

District Commitment to Transition Process

1. Two school information sessions (on site) offered with interpreters
2. Four Community-Based (City-wide) information sessions offered with interpreters
3. Transportation provided to schools in Showcase (December 3rd, 9am-1pm)
4. Special Registration process for Mattahunt students (onsite transfer process for all current K1-4 students week of December 12th), including:
 - a. Individual counseling for each family
 - b. SWD and SEI students will receive individual support from Office of Special Education and OELL respectively

District Commitment to Transition Process cont'd

5. Outreach to families who do not respond to offerings
6. 1:1 Support at Welcome Centers for families who do not attend an online transfer session
7. All student transfers processed as part of Round 1 with notification by 3/15/17

Current School Year Academic Enrichment and Social Emotional Support

- Hired a new a Family Engagement Liaison to provide intensive 1:1 support to families during the school selection process. The FEL will conduct home visits to parents who are unable to come to the school for support.
- Pupil Adjustment Counselor from the Office of SEL will work with the school to provide resources for all students
- All Mattahunt students will be offered a seat in the BPS summer enrichment program.

Rationale for Excellence in Early Childhood Learning & Expansion Plans

- Presently, families living in the southern region of the city only have one Early Childhood school option.
- Early childhood seats will meet the demand in Mattapan, Roxbury and Dorchester.
- Our goal is to receive national accreditation through the National Association for the Education of Young Children.
- Once we receive accreditation, we will begin plans to expand the grade configuration of the school.

Proposed Funding Model

Instructional Budget

- FY 18 WSF allocation = \$3.4 million
- FY 18 Supplemental allocation = \$600,000
- Enrollment projection for new school = 300

(Additional operational cost for transportation, building maintenance, etc are not included)

Timeline: Mattahunt School Closure

	Nov. 2016	Dec. 2016- Jan. 2017	March 2017	June 2017
Students and Families	Launch community engagement meetings	Office of Engagement supports families in school choice process	School Selection Round 1 results.	Mattahunt school closes
BPS Central teams will provide intensive support for students, families and staff.				
Staff	Staff notified of proposal and potential impact on their school assignment for 2017-2018	BPS and BTU implement staff support plan for staff transitions	Staff participate in district hiring process	Goal: 100% of all staff hired by July 1.

Timeline: New School Design

Nov. - Dec. 2016	Nov. 2016- Jan. 2017	February - March 2017	March 2017	July 1– Aug. 2017
<p>Select New School Design Steering Committee members to launch design work.</p> <p>Engage families and community in the design process.</p>	<p>School design team develop proposal with stakeholder feedback including vision, staffing and budget.</p> <p>Prospective students for the new school apply during Round 1.</p>	<p>Implement staffing plan and prepare for hiring season.</p> <p>Personnel subcommittee members engage in hiring.</p>	<p>Student assignments to new school.</p>	<p>New School opens on July 1, 2017.</p> <p>Onboard and train new staff.</p> <p>Conduct outreach to families.</p>

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Next Steps: Yes Vote

- **New School Design Team** will launch weekly meetings on November 22nd at 6:00pm.

Joelle Gamere	Lead Project Manager
Walter Henderson	Principal
Jennifer Gamerman	Parent
Dalida Rocha	Parent
Marie Wade	Parent / Teacher
Erika Bowen	Special Education Teacher
Kristen Swenson	ESL Teacher
Matthew Connor	K2 Teacher
Julie Walsh	Grade 1 Teacher
Patricia Francois	K2 Bilingual Teacher / Haitian creole
Alicia Carrol	Early Education science teacher
Bridget Macke	School Based Clinician, Home for Little Wanderers
Jeremy Walters	BPS Teacher of Applied Linguistics, ESL Teacher,
Pat McQuillan, PhD	Boston College Professor

New School Design Steering Committee will meet on December 14th at the Bruce Bolling Building from 4:30 - 6:00pm.

Member	Affiliation	Member	Affiliation
Linda Dorcena Forry	State Senator	Dr. Amalio Nieves	Socio-emotional Learning, BPS
Marie St. Fleur	Former State Rep	Dr. Frances Esparza	OELL, BPS
Gloria Smith	Community / Former BPS	Cindie Neilson	Student Support Services, BPS
Ms. Bridgemohon	3rd Grade Parent	Marie Wade	K2 Parent
Lincoln Lormand	Mattapan United	Sharon Callendar	Mattapan Health Center
Colorado Street Association TBD	Community Organization	Michael Locanto	School Committee
Barbara Fields	Community / Former BPS	Geri Robinson	School Committee
Jason Sachs	Early Education, BPS	Jennifer Gamerman	K1 Parent
Doannie Tran	Assistant Supt of Professional Learning / Curriculum Design	Dalida Rocha	Parent

Questions: