

Resolution calling for a comprehensive reopening plan from Boston Public Schools Superintendent Brenda Cassellius that preserves equal standards for safety, instruction, and staffing across all schools slated for reopening as established for the first four schools to reopen for HIPP students

On this day, Wednesday, December 9, 2020:

Whereas, the educators of the Boston Teachers Union, along with parents and community allies, have long advocated that the Boston Public Schools superintendent provide a truly comprehensive, sensible, and safe plan from the district level for the purposes of schools reopening in the event of a protracted pandemic and in the event that rates remain above crisis rates...

Whereas, the educators of the Boston Teachers Union have long anticipated and advocated that such a plan would be necessary to have in place and agreed upon by BPS and the BTU in light of the failure by the federal government to effectively combat the pandemic due to the current White House administration's reckless disregard for science and public health; and of failures by Massachusetts Governor Baker to provide effective supports or interventions for public schools and the lack of either state or federal government financial support for families, and for the Commonwealth at-large in order to combat or mitigate the pandemic across our state...

Whereas, in lieu of receiving a truly comprehensive, sensible, and safe plan from the district itself, the Boston Teachers Union has submitted its own versions of plans on multiple dates throughout the spring, summer and fall that would help to keep students, educators and our communities safe as well as bring our highest needs students back in person as quickly as possible that were ignored...

Whereas, the Boston Teachers Union and the Boston Public Schools were able to agree on a reasonable MOA pertaining to the four currently open schools that should be applied to all other schools slated for reopening...

Whereas, the COVID-19 rates in Boston remain at crisis levels of community spread as defined by the CDC and other public health authorities...

Whereas, 28 additional schools are slated to return on Monday, December 14, 2020 and whereas the district has not yet furnished publicly or agreed in writing to a plan that adheres to the safety, instructional and staffing standards memorialized in the MOA regarding the four schools that are currently open...

Whereas, we made a good faith effort to collaborate with the supt. on ways in which the four-school MOA must be adjusted to reflect the additional or different needs within other buildings and consistently made good faith efforts since March to collaborate and problem solve together...

Whereas, educators, parents, and students at the twenty-eight additional schools slated for reopening are equally deserving of prior communication that allows for adequate time to prepare, quality standards for safety, instruction, and staffing as those educators, parents, and students at the four currently open schools...

Therefore be it resolved that the Boston Teachers Union calls upon the superintendent of the Boston Public Schools, Brenda Cassellius to respect, acknowledge and honor the work of our BTU educators by providing in the form of a written and signed agreement, the same safety, instructional and staffing provisions for the additional schools slated for reopening on Monday and thereafter, as have been extended to the four currently open schools -- both now and at all times during which the COVID-19 rates as defined in prior agreements remain above 5%.