



LOCAL 66 • AMERICAN FEDERATION OF TEACHERS, AFL-CIO

180 Mount Vernon Street, Boston, Massachusetts 02125
Phone 617-288-2000 • Fax 617-288-0024 • www.btu.org

June 28, 2021

BY ELECTRONIC MAIL

Dr. Brenda Cassellius
Superintendent
Boston Public Schools
2300 Washington Street
Roxbury MA 02119

Open Letter: Restore Justice at the Baldwin Early Learning Pilot Academy
from the Boston Teachers Union

Dear Superintendent Cassellius,

A travesty of justice has occurred at the Baldwin Early Learning Pilot Academy and we are calling on you to right the wrong.

Six veteran educators have been informed that they no longer have their positions at the school. 5 out of 11 classroom teachers, plus one paraprofessional, have lost their jobs, destabilizing the Baldwin learning community and making it impossible for Baldwin students to re-establish relationships with long-time staff after this pandemic year of interrupted learning and extensive loss. More than 100 Baldwin parents signed a petition calling for the reinstatement of these educators, and on June 19, the Boston Public Schools/Boston Teachers Union Steering Committee met and voted 7-3 to reinstate the excessed educators.

Four of the teachers were told in early January that they were not being rehired. At that time the principal claimed there were not enough positions. Two weeks later, two more educators, both of whom serve on the school’s Governing Board, were also informed they were losing their jobs. These two staff members had been outspoken about their views on the “excessing” of the first group of teachers who were let go.

The impacted educators have up to 24 years of service at the school and several were founding members of the Baldwin Pilot Academy. The principal has stated publicly that all of these educators are “excellent” and their evaluations reflect this.

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As of this time, we understand that there are more than enough positions available at the Baldwin to restore all the educators. In fact, these positions have been posted for more than 100 days. The principal knows of top notch educators she can hire, and yet she refuses to do so, even at this late date. It is hard to imagine a reason why the principal would not reinstate these longtime educators, except for retaliation.

The Baldwin was founded with a mission of collaborative decision-making that prioritized the voices of educators and families, alongside administrators. A gross violation of this mission has occurred AND there is an opportunity to repair the harm done. Dr. Cassellius, you have the power to restore these educators and send off the Baldwin children with the confidence that when they return to school in September, they will be coming back to a community that knows them deeply and cares about their learning and their lives. Let's restore stability and good will to a school community that has sustained a reputation over many years as a great place to learn and to teach.

Please let us know your decision on this important matter.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Erik R. Berg". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name and title.

Erik Berg
Executive Vice President