

Offered by Councillor JOHN R. CONNOLLY



CITY OF BOSTON IN CITY COUNCIL

ORDER FOR A HEARING TO SOLICIT PARENT, STUDENT, AND COMMUNITY INPUT REGARDING PRIORITIES FOR THE NEXT CONTRACT BETWEEN THE BOSTON PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM AND THE BOSTON TEACHERS UNION

- WHEREAS*, More than 4,600 educators serve approximately 56,000 students in Boston Public Schools ("BPS"); and,
- WHEREAS*, The Boston Public Schools' contract with the Boston Teachers Union ("BTU") is set to expire on August 31, 2010 and BPS and the BTU have entered into negotiations regarding a new contract; and,
- WHEREAS*, Boston Public Schools and its principals, teachers, and students have been recognized for many accomplishments including the 2006 Broad Prize, the U.S. Department of Education Teaching Ambassador Fellowship, the Presidential Award for Mathematics and Science Teaching, the Milken Family Foundation National Educator Award, the Massachusetts Teacher of the Year, the National Title I Distinguished School of the Year, and the Intel International Science & Engineering Fair Young Scientist Award; and,
- WHEREAS*, Boston Public Schools and the parents, principals, and teachers of Boston's young people face many challenges in providing a quality education to Boston's young people including overcoming the equity and achievement gap, decreasing the dropout rate, increasing the graduation rate, appropriately and comprehensively educating students with special needs, appropriately and comprehensively educating English Language Learners, turning around schools that are underperforming, providing more Advanced Placement courses to high school students, and creating a student assignment system where every student receives one of their top three choices; and,
- WHEREAS*, The terms of the next contract between BPS and the BTU will be of the utmost importance in empowering parents, principals, teachers, students, and the entire Boston community to meet and surpass the many challenges facing Boston Public Schools and Boston's young people today; and,

WHEREAS, Parents, students, and the broader community will be more impacted in many ways by the contract than the two parties to the contract; and,

WHEREAS, The 2002 Boston Indicators Report found that "parent involvement in a child's education is a major factor in improving school effectiveness, the quality of education, and a child's academic success"; and,

WHEREAS, It is of the utmost importance that parents, students, and the broader Boston community set the contract priorities so that the two parties will negotiate a contract that will empower parents, principals, teachers, students, and community to work together to create a school system that transforms the lives of all children through exemplary teaching in world-class schools and to develop within every learner the knowledge, skill, and character to excel in college, career, and life.

THEREFORE, BE IT ORDERED,

That the appropriate committee of the Boston City Council hold a hearing to solicit parent, student, and broader community input regarding the priorities for the upcoming contract between Boston Public Schools and the Boston Teachers Union.

Filed on: August 18, 2010