

Offered by Councilor Andrea Campbell



CITY OF BOSTON IN CITY COUNCIL

ORDER FOR A HEARING REGARDING SUMMER LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES AND SUMMER PLANNING FOR THE 2021-2022 SCHOOL YEAR FOR BOSTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

- WHEREAS:** Students in Boston Public Schools (BPS) have been learning remotely for the better part of a year, having first transitioned to remote instruction on March 17, 2020 due to the COVID -19 pandemic; *and*
- WHEREAS:** Studies show that students have suffered during remote learning including academically, mentally, and emotionally with an even more pronounced effect on students with special needs and English Learners; *and*
- WHEREAS:** The BPS Dashboard shows that almost 20% of students in certain grades have been absent during remote learning; *and*
- WHEREAS:** Summer learning, also known as 5th quarter, already serves students who need supplemental instruction and support, the 2021 summer provides a unique opportunity to expand such programming to address the drastic rates of learning loss caused by the pandemic including providing academic instruction and tutoring, meals, safe and structured physical activities and opportunities to engage with their peers; *and*
- WHEREAS:** The summer months also offer an opportunity for school leaders, teachers and staff to effectively prepare for broad educational recovery including developing assessment tools and preparing for curricular adjustments during the 2021-2022 school year; *and*
- WHEREAS:** Teachers, staff and families have expressed disappointment that the summer in 2020 was underutilized or not used at all for future planning; *and*
- WHEREAS:** The proposed FY22 BPS budget calls for a \$4.5 million investment in tutoring, vacation, and summer programming, the specifics of those investments remain unclear along with details regarding partnership cultivation and implementation; *and*
- WHEREAS:** Many families have long been advocating for the option to have their children return for in-person instruction, this summer period should be used to further plan

and adequately prepare for an expansion of safe, in-person instruction for the 2021-2022 School Year; *NOW THEREFORE BE IT*

ORDERED: That the appropriate committee of the Boston City Council hold a hearing to discuss how summer learning for 2021 can be expanded to address learning loss caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and how the summer months can be used to prepare and plan for the 2021-2022 school year. Representatives from Boston Public Schools, the Boston Student Advisory Council, the Citywide Parent Council, the Boston Teachers Union, NAACP, Black Educators Alliance of Massachusetts, Educators for Excellence, Friends of the Children, community-based organizations and education advocacy groups, families, students and the public shall be invited to testify.

Filed on: February 16, 2021