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## **Boston City Council Committee on Ways and Means**

*Dockets #0524-0531 FY21 Budget  
Boston Public Schools: Commitments 5 & 6  
Working Session: Friday, May 14 2021, 10:00 a.m.  
Hearing: Tuesday, May 25, 2021, 10:00 a.m.*

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The following is a collection of questions that were asked by the Committee regarding the FY22 budget for Boston Public Schools at the Working Session on Friday, May 14, 2021 at 10:00 a.m.

Recording here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CNkRo2Yo8kc>

The Administration is requested to respond to all questions in one of three ways:

1. Verbally at the hearing on Tuesday, May 25<sup>th</sup>, at 10AM.
2. For factual questions, through written responses supplied prior by May 25<sup>th</sup>, including budget book page numbers or other references where appropriate.
3. By deferring to a specific scheduled departmental budget hearing.

Please annotate and return this information request by May 25<sup>th</sup> if possible, indicating how each question will be answered.

### **BPS Commitments 5-6 Budget Questions**

#### **Councilor Kenzie Bok, Chair asked:**

- You've mentioned that you'll be utilizing federal funding for athletics and arts investments. Can you please share a more detailed plan for this funding?
- We keep renewing the TransDev contract for single-year terms; when are we going to be in a position to issue a new RFP to adjust how we dictate the service that we want, pursue competitive pricing, and build in more flexibility? What are we doing to ensure an RFP that will allow for more optionality and allow us to be more efficient fiscally?
- What is the overall long-term transportation plan and vision, including for cutting costs significantly?
- Where is the transportation budget likely to land this year -- is it still \$1 million under budget, as reported in February?
- What can be done to increase the number of electric vehicles in the BPS fleet?
- What is the plan to get more reliable bus monitors? There are often cases where parents must drive to school because their child requires a bus monitor, there is no bus monitor available, and the bus driver is unable to drive without one.
  - How often are bus monitors absent such that a student is left without reliable transportation?



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- o Why is the reliability of bus monitors low, or perceived to be low?
- How do you expect your transportation budget needs to be different in FY22 from prior years?
- Do we expect the non-BPS student transportation budget to grow given the disenrollment from BPS that we've seen over this year?
- Is there a plan for reducing the presence of police in schools?
- The City is looking at an alternative 911 response model. Could we have an alternative form of safety or crisis response team in schools?
- Please describe the role of Security Aide.
- What is the total number of school police officers? What is the total proposed funds for general and external funds? There seems to be discrepancy between the budget book and the RFI response.
- What is the total number of library staff? Is there sufficient library staff? There seems to be discrepancy between the RFI response and budget book.
- Please detail the contracts for food and nutrition services.
  - o What is the quality of the food? Where is it sourced from?
  - o How can we diversify these contracts and possibly contract with local, minority and women owned businesses?
- Do any schools have weekend food programs for students that may be food insecure?

### **Councilor Ed Flynn asked:**

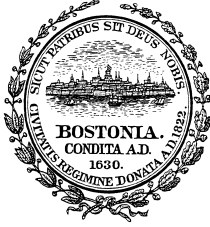
- What is BPS doing to help children and families that are immigrants?
- How can BPS ensure a robust curriculum that highlights the accomplishments and stories of immigrants and the AAPI community?
- What is BPS doing to help children and families that live in public housing?

### **Councilor Matt O'Malley asked:**

- Can BPS provide a list of everyone that works in BPS Central Office including title and salary?

### **Councilor Liz Breadon asked:**

- How much money does BPS receive from the federal government?
- How much of this money remains unspent, and is there a plan for these funds?



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### **Councilor Julia Mejia asked:**

- We're seeing a reduction in staffing and in budgeting for athletics this year. What is the reasoning for this cut?
- Food service and lunch monitor funding is also being cut; can the Administration talk about the reasons behind these cuts?
- Can BPS invest in more local and culturally competent foods?
- How much money is the City of Boston spending on lawsuits related to special education?
- Can you discuss community engagement efforts regarding the McKinley School?
- What investments are being made at Madison Park?