

OFFERED BY COUNCILOR TANIA FERNANDES ANDERSON



## CITY OF BOSTON IN CITY COUNCIL

### ORDER FOR A HEARING TO DISCUSS DEVELOPING AN APP TO SUPPORT PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT & SUPPORT

**WHEREAS,** There's a conclusive link between child academic performance, behavior, mental health, and physical health with levels of parental involvement. Parents and providers desire stronger collaboration and access between their homes, school, health care facilities, and community services; *and*

**WHEREAS,** Many parents are prohibited from such positive interactions due to lack of financial resources, educational resources, and or flexible work schedules, causing parents to experience time poverty, which creates obstacles toward dedicating appropriate time to their child's educational concerns, in contrast to what's made available to privileged families of higher socioeconomic status. Single parent households are additionally burdened by lack of available flexibility to address their children out of school time; *and*

**WHEREAS,** Often minority parents experience negative interactions with school personnel, relate being treated as second class citizens, and feel alienated from the educational process which ultimately erects additional barriers to more parental involvement; *and*

**WHEREAS,** Parents and caregivers with strong mental health support are more likely to provide a positive quality of life and perform more consistently at home, in school, and community. Children's and parents' mental health are inextricably linked. Fathers, mothers, and caregivers who are given the proper support can contribute positively to their children's mental health treatment goals and/or challenges; *and*

**WHEREAS,** Children that are educated in financial literacy are better equipped to avoid financial debt, manage future investments, and are better prepared to navigate future events. This creates stable conditions for further education and career advancements; *and*

**WHEREAS,** Strong civic engagement empowers our citizens to be part of the democratic process and contribute to public policies that shape their immediate environment. Civic education is a prerequisite to active citizenship and community interest.

When children have access to their full rights and knowledge about our democracy, they're able to take ownership of their community and it's future; *and*

**WHEREAS,** Children need positive behavioral patterns to model good health and general nutritional habits. These are usually formed in their early years of life. It is important to empower parents with resources to promote healthy eating habits, active lifestyle choices, and daily wellness practices to reduce the risk of depression, disease, and other health disorders that disproportionately impact minority populations; *and*

**WHEREAS,** Teenagers who work less than 15 hours per week garner better grades than those who don't work at all. Having a job and responsibilities creates conditions for young people to develop independence and greater self worth. It also contributes to their financial literacy and understanding of personal finances. This establishes a strong sense of self and promotes confidence in other areas of their lives; *and*

**WHEREAS,** Research demonstrates parents with more knowledge are more likely to engage in positive parenting practices, and when given access to tools and strategies to constantly set boundaries and expectations, children are able to establish solid foundations for success; *and*

**WHEREAS,** The City of Boston is responsible for the well-being of its residents, including parents and children; ***NOW, THEREFORE BE IT***

**ORDERED:** That the appropriate committee of the Boston City Council hold a hearing to discuss ways to support parents in monitoring and structuring their children's out of school time to support their wellbeing specifically through the development of a digital platform that would allow parents to aide their child's behavior modification, structure out of school time, teach parents ways to advocate for their child's behavioral health needs while implementing therapeutic intervention, assist with academic assignments, provide parents with the tool to monitor their child's schedule, manage child's health needs or appointments, encourage home-school involvement and parent-child engagement, incentivise children to work on their holistic goals, and that Boston Public Schools, Department of Innovation and Technology, the Mayor's Office of New Urban Mechanics, Behavioral Health Providers, Union Capital Boston, and other interested parties be invited to attend.

Filed on: March 18, 2022