

OFFERED BY COUNCILORS BRIAN WORRELL, JULIA MEJIA, AND BENJAMIN J. WEBER



CITY OF BOSTON IN CITY COUNCIL

ORDER FOR A HEARING TO DISCUSS BOSTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS' FY26 BUDGET

WHEREAS, Boston Public Schools' Fiscal Year 2025 budget totals more than \$1.5 billion; *and*

WHEREAS, Boston Public Schools' Fiscal Year 2026 budget will be the first budget in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic to not include any ESSER funding; *and*

WHEREAS, Boston Public Schools Superintendent Mary Skipper will present the FY26 budget to the School Committee on the first Wednesday of February; *and*

WHEREAS, For Fiscal Year 2025, the City Council worked collaboratively with Boston Public Schools starting in January to allow more advocacy from the Council before the School Committee approved the budget in March; *and*

WHEREAS, The Boston School Committee remains an unelected body, despite a 2021 non-binding resolution that was supported by 79 percent of Boston voters, thus leaving the City Council as the only direct district-level line from constituents to the Boston Public Schools budget; *and*

WHEREAS, Boston Public Schools is committed to creating a physical budget book for Fiscal Year 2026, which will be similar to BPS budget books from last decade and will allow for more public transparency earlier in the budget process; *and*

WHEREAS, Boston Public Schools will be actively working on the Fiscal Year 2026 budget starting in the fall of 2024, thus meaning the City Council should engage with Boston Public Schools earlier in the process to better advocate for priorities of the students; ***NOW, THEREFORE BE IT***

ORDERED: That the Ways & Means Committee of the Boston City Council hold a series of working sessions and hearings, and that representatives of Boston Public Schools and other interested parties be invited to attend.

Filed on: September 13, 2024