



**TIMELINES, ARCHIVES, AND CURRICULA SUBCOMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES**

Boston City Hall Boston, MA, 02201
Held virtually via Zoom

JANUARY 16, 2025

Commissioners Present: Joe Bagley, Giordana Mecagni, Kanisorn Wongsrichanalai, Kristen Lafferty, Dory Klein, Joan Ilacqua, Angela Hedley-Mitchell, Bob Allison

Commissioners Absent: Liza Stearns, Collin Knight, Kimberly Barzola, David Leonard, Tatiana Cruz, Cedric Woods, Carolyn Goldstein

Staff Present: Kayla Skillin, Archivist for Collections Management; Lauryn Sharp, Project Archaeologist

Public: Kaitlin Torossian, Boston Public Schools; John Gould, Boston Public Schools

A full recording of the meeting is available on boston.gov/commemoration-commission

SESSION BEGINS - 2:00 PM

I. WELCOME

- a. Chair Joe Bagley welcomed attendees.

II. ORDER OF BUSINESS

- a. Meeting minutes were approved.

III. MEET BPS TEAM

- a. Commissioner Angela Hedley-Mitchell, who is the Executive Director of Humanities for Boston Public Schools, introduced her colleagues, Dr. John Gould, Program Director for History & Social Science for High Schools, and Kaitlin Torossian, Program Director for Middle School, who were invited to discuss their work and how the Commission might be able to support them.
 - i. The BPS Team identified that they want to focus on grade level based learning, K-12 opportunities, place-based opportunities, partnerships with parents and organizations.
 - ii. Chair Joe Bagley asked what the most important identified need is and who develops curriculum for a classroom.
 1. Commissioner Hedley-Mitchell explained that curriculum development used to be very autonomous, but there are now



protocols in place for a central review process to standardize what is being taught. She added that there is no central curriculum writing team, so there is still some autonomy there and they provide supplemental tools. She stated that there is a need for professional and content development.

- iii. Commissioner Giordana Mecagni asked for clarification on what kind of resources are being provided.
 1. Kaitlin Torossian stated that teachers do have access to professional development, that they have a CEO and author of the Document Based Questions (DBQ) curriculum visiting teachers to do deep dives on how to maximize the impact of the tool.
 2. John Gould explained how 4 pilot schools are partnering with SAVVAS to provide professional development.
 3. Commissioner Angela Hedley-Mitchell explained how K2-3 teachers get graduate credits within the BPS system.
- iv. Kayla Skillin commented that everyone on the call could contribute to DBQ creations. She added that the City has an outreach archivist who, in the past, would go to schools.
- v. Genesis Pimentel read the ordinance to clarify that the goal of this subcommittee seems to be that BPS expands how it interacts with archives and how it might incorporate more commemorative activities.
- vi. Kaitlin Torossian explained that there is an access issue because teachers are so busy that they do not have the time to do research on who to reach out to, so this team tries to provide that information for them.
 1. Commissioner Mecagni asked if this BPS team had a list of the clearinghouses they interact with. Torossian stated that they have a living document under development.
- vii. Commissioner Hedley-Mitchell discussed how, because of the pandemic, they would like to make the exploration of topics such as marginalization and justice through more accessible formats such as inviting institutions to the classroom.
- viii. Chair Joe Bagley discussed that there could be a curriculum component of the Archives Clearinghouse, separated by grade.
 1. Commissioner Hedley-Mitchell stated there could be a “Meet the Archivist” event for teachers in the commissioners’ respective spaces.



2. Kaitlin Torossian added that this program could start small, with one neighborhood or one school as a pilot program, and develop touch points.
- ix. Chair Bagley asked for more context around the transportation issues to understand the full scope.
 1. Commissioner Hedley-Mitchell explained that there are grants to get yellow buses and sometimes partner organizations will help write grants for that funding, but that it is tough to get BPS buses. The MBTA can be useful for older students. She added the context that while there used to be funding allocated for buses, it has gone to online resources.
 2. Chair Bagley stated that this group should focus on resources around schools, digital access, and institutions visiting schools. He asked if demand would exist for in-house DBQs or digitizing.
 - a. Torossian stated whatever is able to be done is helpful.
 - b. Commissioner Hedley-Mitchell stated that digitized catalogues and DBQs will be key, and that BPS can make it accessible.
 - c. Kayla Skillin suggested the creation of resource packets.
 - d. Commissioner Dory Klein discussed that Boston Public Library is working on a database with a list of repositories and historical assets in Boston, which can include filters, subject tags, and field trip partners. This could be mapped.
 - e. Torossian stated that this could be tagged by grade, so there are digestible frameworks.

IV. 6 MONTH REPORT DISCUSSION & BIG PICTURE PLANNING

- a. Genesis Pimentel discussed that she was working on the 6 month report, and reviewed how she is expanding the goals section to include collaborators and needs.
- b. The commissioners discussed what would be helpful to include, and how this related back to the conversation being had with the BPS Team.

V. PUBLIC COMMENT

- a. There was no public comment.

VI. ADJOURNMENT - 3:20 PM

- a. The meeting was adjourned.