

I ANTICIPATE THIS HEARING MAY GET A LITTLE LONG, SO I WILL BE CALLING A COUPLE PEOPLE BETWEEN PANELS TO GIVE TESTIMONY.

I'D LIKE TO THANK YOU-ALL FOR BEING HERE TODAY AND WANT TO THANK ALL MY PANELISTS FOR THEIR PARTICIPATION.

I KNOW THIS CAN BE A CONTENTIOUS TOPIC, BUT MOST CONVERSATIONS THAT ARE IMPORTANT ARE.

THE FOCUS OF THIS HEARING IS EXPLORE ALL POSSIBLE GOVERNANCE STRUCTURES AND TO HIGHLIGHT HOW FAMILIES CAN BEST ENGAGE AND WORK TOGETHER WITH THOSE WHO MAKE EDUCATION POLICY DECISIONS FOR THEIR CHILDREN.

THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE PLAYS A BIG ROLE IN OUR STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT AND THE SUCCESS OF OUR SCHOOLS. THE RESPONSIBILITIES RANGE FROM MONITORING THE ANNUAL OPERATING BUDGET TO MANAGING THE SUPERINTENDENT AND REVIEWING DISTRICT POLICIES.

IT IS CRUCIAL THAT WE ARE ABLE TO HAVE PUBLIC CONVERSATIONS ABOUT THIS BODY.

THIS IS AN OPPORTUNITY TO HAVE A PRODUCTIVE CONVERSATION ON WHAT IS BEST FOR OUR CHILDREN.

I DO WANT TO SHARE PUBLICLY THAT WHILE I HAVE NOT TAKEN A POSITION ON THIS MATTER, I WOULD STRONGLY LIKE TO MAKE THE PROCESS MORE TRANSPARENT AND PUBLIC.

I LOOK FORWARD TO LISTENING TO THE VARIOUS POINTS OF VIEW AND OPINIONS ON THIS TOPIC.

I'LL INTRODUCE MY COLLEAGUES IN ORDER OF ARRIVAL TO GIVE ANY OPENING COMMENTS.

COUNCILOR McCARTHY?

>> THANK YOU, MADAME CHAIR. YOU MENTIONED THE WORD CONTENTIOUS.

I WANT TO SAY IF YOU'RE IN THIS HEARING TODAY, IF YOU'VE TAKEN THE TIME TO COME DOWNTOWN, CLEARLY YOU CARE ABOUT BPS AND YOU CLEARLY CARE ABOUT THE

STUDENTS AND THE FAMILIES THAT
BPS WORKS FOR, REALLY.
I HAVE MY OWN OPINION ON THIS.
I WORKED ON THAT CAMPAIGN IN
1994, '95, BUT I'M HERE TO
LISTEN AND TO CONTINUE TO LEARN.
I CERTAINLY UNDERSTAND THAT
PEOPLE HAVE DIFFERENT OPINIONS,
SO AS WE MOVE AHEAD, I JUST WANT
TO REMIND EVERYBODY IN THE
HEARING AND ANYBODY WHO IS
WATCHING IS THAT WE'RE ALL
TRYING TO MOVE THIS PROCESS
FORWARD.
I THINK WE ALL WANT WHAT'S BEST
FOR OUR 57,000 STUDENTS WHO
PARTICIPATE IN THE FAMILIES WHO
PARTICIPATE IN BPS.

>> THANK YOU, COUNCILOR
McCARTHY.
COUNCILOR O'MALLEY.

>> THANK YOU, MADAME CHAIR.
THANK YOU FOR YOUR LEADERSHIP ON
THIS AND SO MANY SCHOOL ISSUES
ALONG WITH MY DEAR FRIEND, THE
DISTRICT COUNCILOR FROM
REEDVILLE.
I'LL BE BRIEF IN MY OPENING
REMARKS.
I KNOW WE'LL HAVE A NUMBER OF
FOLKS AND STAKEHOLDERS.
I THINK THOUGH THIS IS VERY
INTERESTING TO ME, WHEN I
CHAired THE GOVERNMENT
OPERATIONS COMMITTEE BACK IN
2011, 2012, THERE WAS A SIMILAR
INITIATIVE THAT WOULD ESTABLISH
A HYBRID MODEL.
THAT MEANS HAVING CERTAIN
MEMBERS THAT WERE APPOINTED,
OTHER MEMBERS THAT WERE ELECTED.
IT'S SOMETHING THAT OTHER CITIES
HAVE DONE.
I THINK THERE'S A LOT OF MERIT
TO THAT MODEL AND SOMETHING WE
OUGHT TO BE EXPLORING HERE IN
BOSTON, BUT CLEARLY THERE ARE A
NUMBER OF THINGS WE CAN DO TO
MAKE SURE PARENTS FEEL AS THOUGH
THEIR SCHOOL COMMITTEE IS TRULY
LISTENING TO THEM AND REFLECTING
A LOT OF THE CONCERNS WE HAVE

HEARD.
OBVIOUSLY, WE PLAY AN IMPORTANT
ROLE AS THE DIRECTLY ELECTED
REPRESENTATIVES BE IT THE
DISTRICT AND THEN LARGE MEMBER OF
THIS BODY, AND OUR OVERSIGHT ON
THESE EDUCATION MATTERS THAT
YOU, MADAME CHAIR, HAVE TAKEN A
LEADERSHIP ROLE ON.

THAT IS A ROLE THAT WE REALLY
EMBRACE AND IS ALSO IMPORTANT,
BUT IT IS IMPORTANT TO THINK OF
OTHER WAYS WE CAN ENGAGE MORE
PEOPLE AND PERHAPS LOOK AT
CHANGES TO BE MADE DOWN THE
ROAD, SO I LOOK FORWARD TO A
GREAT HEARING.
THANK YOU.

>> THANK YOU VERY MUCH,
COUNCILOR O'MALLEY.
WE HAVE REGRETS SENT TO US BY
COUNCILOR JANEY AND COUNCILOR
PRESSLEY.
WE'VE BEEN JOINED BY COUNCILOR
FRANK BAKER.
COUNCILOR, WE JUST DID OPENING
STATEMENTS.

>> HI.
HI, LARRY.
I LOOK FORWARD TO THE
CONVERSATION, SEE WHERE WE GO.

>> THANK YOU.

>> THANK YOU, COUNCILOR BAKER.
PRIOR TO THE START OF OUR PANEL,
WE DO HAVE A FEW MEMBERS OF THE
PUBLIC WHO I'D LIKE TO INVITE UP
JUST FOR SOME QUICK TESTIMONY.
IT'S BEEN A THING THAT WE'VE
TRIED THIS YEAR TO GET SOME
PUBLIC TESTIMONY IN PRIOR TO THE
FIRST PANEL, SO I WOULD LIKE TO
INVITE UP -- WE'VE BEEN JOINED
BY THE PRESIDENT AND CEO OF
ABCE, MR. JOHN DREW, WHO HAS
COMMENTS HE'D LIKE TO SHARE.
WHILE MR. DREW IS MAKING HIS WAY
UP, LATE LAST YEAR, ABCD DID
HOLD A FORUM ON THE BOSTON
SCHOOL COMMITTEE.
I WANTED TO INVITE HIM TO SHARE

SOME REMARKS WITH US TODAY.

>> THANK YOU.

>> WELCOME.

SHARE WITH US YOUR REMARKS, MR.

DREW.

THANK YOU FOR BEING HERE.

>> THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR BEING INVITED TO THE HEARING.

I'M PRESIDENT AND CEO OF ABCDE.

I HAVE BEEN DOING THIS FOR 50

YEARS.

I'M A HEAD START PARENT IN 1956,

57, 58.

WE'RE THERE TO TRY TO GIVE

PEOPLE OPPORTUNITY.

UNFORTUNATELY, FOR A LOT OF

YEARS, IT'S BEEN UNEVEN.

LET'S PUT IT THAT WAY.

I'VE COME TONIGHT TO SAY I FULLY

SUPPORT AND A YEAR AGO HAVING

THE PUBLIC HEARING A FORUM OF

REPRESENTATION THROUGH AN

ELECTED PROCESS OF MEMBERS OF

THE PUBLIC TO A BOSTON SCHOOL

COMMITTEE, WHICH WAS DISMANTLED

27 YEARS AGO, OR AS THE GOVERNOR

SAID AT THE TIME DISENFRANCHISED

THE PEOPLE IN BOSTON.

THERE ARE 450 CITIES AND TOWNS

LAST COUNT IN MASSACHUSETTS.

THEY ALL HAVE ELECTED SCHOOL

COMMITTEES.

AND I HAVE TO WONDER QUITE

FRANKLY WHY FOLKS BELIEVE THAT

BOSTONIANS ARE NOT WORTHY OF

HAVING THEIR OWN ELECTED SCHOOL

COMMITTEE.

IT BAFFLES ME.

I BELIEVE IT MAKES US ALL

STRONGER IF WE HAVE A PUBLIC

SCHOOL SYSTEM WITH ALL HANDS ON

DECK.

WE HAVE TOO MANY OF OUR

YOUNGSTERS WHO HAVE BEEN NOT

BEEN ABLE TO GET THROUGH TO

WHERE THEIR LIFE CAN BE BETTER.

I DON'T WANT TO GO THROUGH ALL

THAT.

I'VE WATCHED IT OVER THE YEARS.

AT TWO HIGH SCHOOLS WITH THE

PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM.

ONE IS A RECOVERY HIGH SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS WHO ARE TOTALLY LOST.

THE OTHER IS A HIGH SCHOOL WHERE YOUNGSTERS ARE OVERAGE BUT WE RECOVER THEM BACK.

THE SCHOOL DEPARTMENT TO ME, THE BPS TO ME, SHOULD BE AWARE OF TAKING OUR YOUNGSTERS TO THE NEXT GENERATION WHERE THEY WILL HAVE OPPORTUNITIES.

THEREFORE, IF YOU HAVE AN APPOINTED SCHOOL COMMITTEE, I THINK THAT YOU GET THE LESSER OF.

YOU KNOW, DAY IN AND DAY OUT AT ABCD I HAVE 880 STAFF ALONE TAKING CARE OF OUR CHILDREN IN HEAD START.

I'M THE PRESIDENT AND CEO.

I CANNOT HIRE ONE OF THAT STAFF AT HEAD START WITHOUT PARENT

APPROVAL.

I HAVE OVER HERE OUR HEAD START POLICY COUNCIL CHAIR, A GRANDMOTHER.

EVERYTHING WE DO REQUIRES PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT BECAUSE THAT IS A MODEL THAT REALLY DOES WORK.

I BELIEVE COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT ALSO WORKS TREMENDOUSLY AND HAS FOR DECADES AS WE BROUGHT PEOPLE THROUGH.

WE'VE CREATED INSTITUTIONS THAT WEREN'T THERE BEFORE.

WE HAD THE FIRST PLANNING GRANT. CAME FROM ABCD TO THE BOSTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS IN THE 60s, SO WE HAVE A GREAT, GREAT INVESTMENT IN SCHOOLS OF BOSTON.

I'M ONLY HERE TO SAY A FEW WORDS ABOUT THE FACT THAT MAYBE, HAVING LIVED THROUGH ALL THIS MYSELF, IT WAS MESSY AT TIMES.

MAYBE IT WASN'T MESSY AT TIMES.

BY THE WAY, THE CITY COUNCIL WAS MESSY AT TIMES TOO.

WE DIDN'T THROW YOU OUT.

I WORKED FOR A MAYOR WHO WAS IN JAIL, GREAT GUY, IN THE 50s.

DIDN'T THROW THE MAYOR OUT, SO WE'VE HAD SOME MESSY TIMES.

WE'VE HAD OTHER TIMES, BUT THE SOLUTION IN 1992 TO THROW OUT THE ELECTED SCHOOL BOARD I BELIEVE WAS TOTALLY WRONG. I BELIEVE THE REMEDY IS TO GO BACK AND REALLY LOOK AT IT SERIOUSLY.

THE YOUNGSTERS THAT THEY WILL HAVE SO WE CAN HAVE THE COUNCIL AND A SCHOOL DEPARTMENT THAT REPRESENTS THE COMMUNITY, THE ADMINISTRATION, THE SUPERINTENDENT.

I BELIEVE STRONGLY THAT WE'D BE MUCH BETTER OFF AS A COMMUNITY IF WE DO JUST THAT.

HOWEVER YOU DO IT.

HOWEVER THIS COMES OUT.

I'M GLAD THAT AFTER A YEAR OF TALKING ABOUT IT WE'RE HAVING THIS COUNCIL HEARING.

I HAD THE GREAT HONOR OF HAVING MY NAME IN AN EDITORIAL OF "THE HERALD."

THEY WEREN'T HAPPY WITH ME, BUT YOU KNOW WHAT.

MY JOB IS NOT TO MAKE THEM HAPPY.

IT IS TRY TO SPEAK OUT ON ISSUES THAT EFFECT PEOPLE'S LIVES, AND THIS IS AN EXTREMELY IMPORTANT ISSUE THAT AFFECTS PEOPLE'S LIVES.

ANYTHING WE CAN DO, ANYTHING WE CAN DO, TO MAKE OUR EDUCATION SYSTEM IN THIS CITY BETTER, MORE TRANSPARENT, MORE INVOLVEMENT BY PARENTS, MORE KNOWLEDGE ON BEHALF OF THE PARENTS AND THE COMMUNITY ON WHAT'S GOING ON, WE'LL BE BETTER OFF.

THE ONLY WAY I CAN SEE THAT HAPPEN IS TO HAVE PEOPLE SELECT REPRESENTATIVES TO SIT ON A SCHOOL BOARD.

WE ALWAYS TALK ABOUT HOW IT WOULD WORK.

I KNOW PEOPLE ARE GOING TO TALK ABOUT HOW THEY MISMANAGE MONEY.

THEY DIDN'T MISMANAGE MONEY.

THEY DIDN'T HAVE ANY MONEY.

WHAT THEY DID WAS WORK ON A BUDGET.

YES, GOING BACK 30, 40 YEARS, WE

HAD A BUNCH OF PEOPLE WHO WERE
LACK OF A BETTER WORD THIEVES,
STOLE SOME MONEY.
THEY ALSO WERE NOT GREAT PEOPLE.
THAT'S HISTORY.
THAT'S GONE.
NOW WE'RE IN THE ERA WHERE I
THINK WE HAVE MUCH MORE
OPPORTUNITY TO REALLY LOOK HARD
AT WHAT'S THE BEST WAY TO
ORGANIZE THE EDUCATION SYSTEM OF
BOSTON.
AND I MEAN INCLUDING CHARTER
SCHOOLS.
DURING THIS HIATUS OF AN ELECTED
SCHOOL COMMITTEE, THIS 27 YEARS,
WE BROKE UP A LARGE NUMBER OF
CHARTER SCHOOLS.
WONDERFUL ORGANIZATIONS.

PRIVATE SCHOOLS, PUBLIC MONEY.
THIS ALL HAS TO COME TOGETHER AT
SOME POINT IN MY OPINION, BUT A
GOOD PLACE TO START.
THANK YOU FOR INVITING ME.
WE HAVE SUBMITTED WRITTEN

TESTIMONY.
THANK YOU.

>> JOHN, THANK YOU VERY MUCH.
THANK YOU FOR THE WORK THAT YOU
CONTINUE TO DO AT ABCD WITH A
REALLY GREAT TEAM.

>> THANK YOU.

>> THANK YOU.
THANK YOU.
YOU CAN HEAD BACK AND HANG OUT
WITH JOSH AS LONG AS YOU CAN
STAY WITH US THIS EVENING.
WE ALSO HAVE FOR TESTIMONY
ANOTHER SPEAKER.
IF YOU CAN COME TO THE STAFF
MICROPHONE WITH THE LAPTOP, THAT
WOULD BE GREAT.

>> SURE.
THANK YOU FOR HAVING THIS
HEARING.
IT IS REALLY HARD TO FOLLOW
SOMEONE WHO TALKS ABOUT THE
DISINFECTING OF TRANSPARENCY.

THAT WAS BEAUTIFUL.
I LIVE IN CHARLESTOWN.
I HAVE A NINTH GRADER.
I HAVE A SIXTH GRADER.
I WANT TO START BY SAYING THAT I
AM VERY IMPRESSED WITH THE
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEMBERS AND THE
GIVING OF THEIR TIME AND TALENT,
BUT AT A MEETING LAST MONTH, I
INDICATED TO THEM THAT PERHAPS
PART OF THE PROBLEM IS THAT THEY
SERVE AT THE BEHEST OF THE
MAYOR, WHICH WAS A TERM THAT MY
FAMILY LAUGHED AT BECAUSE IT'S A
BIG WORD, BUT IT IS A TRUE WORD.
THEY'RE APPOINTED AND THAT'S
THEIR JOB.

I THINK THERE'S TWO PROBLEMS
WITH THAT.

ONE, I THINK THAT THE ABILITY TO
ADVOCATE AS A SCHOOL COMMITTEE
MEMBER MIGHT BE COMPROMISED
BECAUSE THEY KNOW THAT THEY'RE
APPOINTED BY THE MAYOR.

AS SUCH, FOR EXAMPLE, WHAT
PARENTS AND TAXPAYERS FEEL MONEY
SHOULD BE GOING TO CERTAIN
PROJECTS AND FEEL.

PERHAPS THEY FEEL IF THE MAYOR'S
AGENDA IS GOING TO BE DIFFERENT,
THEY'RE NOT GOING TO BE HEARD BY
THIS SCHOOL COMMITTEE.

ANOTHER ISSUE IS WHEN THERE'S A
DISCONNECT WITH THE CENTRAL
OFFICE OR SOMEBODY ELSE, IT
MIGHT APPEAR TO A PARENT WHO IS
THERE TO ADVOCATE THAT ALSO IF
THESE PEOPLE ARE HIRED BY THE
MAYOR OR UNDER HIS CONTROL, THEY
MAY NOT GET THE SAME INTEREST OR
CHANGE THAT THEY WOULD IF THE
SCHOOL COMMITTEE WAS NOT SO TIED
TO THE MAYOR.

I STAND HERE BEFORE YOU ASKING
THAT I THINK SOMETHING HAS TO
CHANGE.

I GUESS BEING A BPS AMBASSADOR,
WHICH I WAS ANOINTED I '09, AND
AS A PARENT WHO SITS AND GOES TO
THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE BUT DOESN'T
FEEL THEY GET CHANGE WHEN THERE
ARE VERY FEW OTHER PARENTS ON
THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE, MY
SUGGESTION WOULD BE THAT IT IS

DONE BY NEIGHBORHOOD, AN APPOINTMENT EACH.
IF YOU DON'T LIKE THAT, THEN CERTAINLY WHY CAN'T WE FOLLOW THE CITY COUNCIL MODEL?
WHY CAN'T WE HAVE, FOR EXAMPLE, A NUMBER ONE FOR BOSTON'S NEIGHBORHOODS OF CHARLESTOWN, NORTH END, AND EAST BOSTON.
I THINK IT WOULD BE BETTER PER NEIGHBORHOOD BECAUSE MAYBE I DON'T UNDERSTAND EXACTLY WHAT EAST BOSTON'S NEEDS ARE, BUT I THINK THERE HAS TO BE SOME SUBSET OF THE TAX PAYING COMMUNITY.
CERTAINLY, I THINK YOU'LL GET MORE INTEREST FROM PARENTS, BUT THERE'S ALSO GOING TO BE A ROLE, OF COURSE, FOR AN EDUCATOR.
I'M NOT ONE.
I'M JUST A WORKING MOM PARENT THAT RUNS A SHUTTLE BUS TO BLA FROM CHARLESTOWN.
SORRY.
THAT'S MY PLUG.
I DON'T UNDERSTAND SOMETIMES WHEN I GO THERE OR I DON'T FEEL THAT I'M GETTING THE SAME INTEREST LEVEL FROM THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEMBERS THAT THEY MIGHT IF THEY WERE A PARENT WITH A KID IN CHARLESTOWN WHO HAS TO GET ON THE BUS.
HAVING A SUBSET OF THAT COMMUNITY THERE TO TALK AND UNDERSTAND, THAT'S WHAT I THINK THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE SHOULD BE.
I DIDN'T KNOW THAT 450 COMMUNITIES OUTSIDE OF US DO IT THIS WAY.
I CERTAINLY KNOW IT TO BE NORMAL, AND I DON'T UNDERSTAND WHY IT'S ANY OTHER WAY.
CERTAINLY, I GUESS THE QUESTION WOULD BE, WHY IS IT THAT THE MAYOR APPOINTS ANYONE?
WHAT IS THE BENEFIT TO THE SCHOOL COMMUNITY, PARENTS, AND TAXPAYERS?
I APPRECIATE THE DIALOGUE.
I CERTAINLY THINK SOMETHING HAS TO BE DONE.
IF YOU DON'T LIKE MY

NEIGHBORHOOD SUGGESTION, I'M WILLING TO LISTEN.
I CERTAINLY WON'T BE CONTENTIOUS, BUT I THINK WHEN THE TAX PAYING PARENTS ARE THE ONES THAT DON'T SEE ANYTHING GETTING DONE, EVEN IF THAT IS JUST A MISPERCEPTION, IT CERTAINLY WOULD HELP YOUR CONSTITUENTS, SO THANK YOU.

>> THANK YOU, JEN.
NEXT WE HAVE MIKE KINCAID AND THEN BRANDY OAKLEY.

>> GOOD EVENING.
MY NAME IS MICHAEL KINCAID.
MY SON IS A STUDENT AT URBAN SCIENCE ACADEMY IN WEST ROXBURY.
MY TESTIMONY HERE TONIGHT IS NOT ABOUT THE SCHOOL BECAUSE THAT'S NOT WHAT WE'RE HERE TO TALK ABOUT.
COUNCIL, YOU MENTIONED YOU WORKED ON THE '94 REFERENDUM CAMPAIGN.
I'M A GRADUATE OF THE HIGH SCHOOL OF 1976.
YOU'RE OLD ENOUGH TO REMEMBER THE OLD BOSTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE LOVE THE IRONY THAT THE MAYOR ABOLISHED IT.
HE MADE HIS CAREER OUT OF THE SITUATION THAT I WAS A VICTIM OF IN THE 70s.
I UNDERSTAND WHY IT WAS NECESSARY TO HAVE A SELECTED SCHOOL COMMITTEE BECAUSE THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE BACK IN THE DAY BASICALLY CATERED TO THOSE PEOPLE WHO SHOWED UP TO VOTE, PERIOD.
AND IF YOU LIVED IN ROXBURY WHERE I LIVED AND GREW UP, WELL, YOU GOT WHAT YOU GOT.
I'M NOT BLAMING MY MOM AND MY DAD AND MY NEIGHBORS FOR NOT SHOWING UP FOR VOTING.
THAT'S KIND OF WHY WE GOT WHAT WE GOT.
THOSE DAYS ARE GONE.
MAYOR RAY FLYNN IS NO LONGER MAYOR.
FOLKS IN ROXBURY SHOW UP TO

VOTE.

FOLKS IN HYDE PARK SHOW UP TO
VOTE, DORCHESTER, AND SO FORTH,
SHOW UP TO VOTE.

WE DESERVE AN OPPORTUNITY.
AND I'M A HOMEOWNER IN THE CITY
OF BOSTON.

WE DESERVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO
HAVE OUR VOTES COUNTED.

WE DESERVE THE OPPORTUNITY THAT
IF WE'RE NOT HAPPY WITH A
PARTICULAR EMPLOYEE, WE CAN FIRE
THEM.

THAT'S WHAT ELECTIONS ARE ABOUT.
I UNDERSTAND THE MAYOR IS
RESPONSIBLE FOR THE TOTAL
OUTCOME OF THE BOSTON SCHOOL
DEPARTMENT, BUT ON THE OTHER
HAND, AM I THE ONLY ONE THAT'S
EVER NOTICED THAT WHEN THINGS GO
AMAZING WELL -- LIKE AT URBAN
SCIENCE ACADEMY, WE HAVE A
WONDERFUL SPECIAL NEEDS PROGRAM.
WHEN THINGS GO WELL, THE MAYOR
HAS NO PROBLEM STANDING IF FRONT

-- IN FRONT OF CAMERAS TALKING
ABOUT THE SCHOOL SYSTEM.
WHEN THINGS GO BAD, CERTAINLY
OUR SUPERINTENDENTS NEED TO
SPEND MORE TIME WITH THEIR
FAMILIES AND TAKE THE BULLET FOR
WHAT'S WRONG.

THIS IS A REALLY BAD ANALOGY,
BUT THE MANAGER OF A McDONALD'S
ONLY WANTS TO MAKE SURE THAT HIS
CASHIERS GET AS MANY FOOD AS
POSSIBLE AND DOESN'T CARE ABOUT
HOW HOT THE FRIES ARE.

AM I GOING TO KEEP GOING TO THAT
McDONALD'S?

NO.

WHEN URBAN SCIENCE ACADEMY
CLOSES IN JUNE, THAT WILL BE HIS
TENTH SCHOOL IN 16 YEARS.
THE CRAZY THING ABOUT IT, HIS
MOTHER AND I, WE CONSIDER
OURSSELVES LUCKY BECAUSE IN 16
YEARS WE'VE HAD AMAZING TEACHERS
AND WE'VE BEEN IN AMAZING
SCHOOLS.

MY SON HAS GOT AMAZING SERVICE,
BUT PART OF THAT IS BECAUSE WE
SHOW UP.

THAT'S WHY I'M HERE ON A COLD
TUESDAY NIGHT, BECAUSE WE SHOW
UP.

ALL I'M SIMPLY ASKING OF YOU IS
TO GIVE US WHAT IS OUR DUE.
GIVE US THE OPPORTUNITY TO FAIL.
GIVE US THE OPPORTUNITY NOT TO
SHOW UP AND VOTE FOR OUR ELECTED
SCHOOL COMMITTEE AND LET THE
NEIGHBORHOODS WHO DO SHOW UP --
IF IT HAPPENS, IT HAPPENS.
WE HAVE NOBODY TO BLAME BUT
OURSELVES, BUT AT LEAST GIVE US
THE OPPORTUNITY.

THE IDEA OF A HYBRID, COME ON
NOW.

THAT'S NOT EVEN FAIR.

THANK YOU FOR LETTING ME HAVE MY
TESTIMONY.

COUNCILWOMAN, YOU AT LAST WEEK'S
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING, THE
ONLY REASON WHY I'M HERE TONIGHT
IS YOU INVITED ME.

I DIDN'T KNOW THIS WAS GOING TO
HAPPEN.

THANK YOU GUYS FOR AT LEAST
PUTTING THIS ON SOMEONE'S
AGENDA.

THANK YOU.

>> THANK YOU, MR. KINCAID.
LAST FOR THIS EARLY TESTIMONY
WILL BE BRANDY.
COME ON DOWN.

>> GOOD EVENING, PRESIDENT
CAMPBELL AND MADAME CHAIR
ESSAIBI-GEORGE.
PLEASE FORGIVE MY ILLNESS.
I USE HAND SANITIZER, SO
HOPEFULLY YOU DON'T CATCH MY
COLD.

AS YOU KNOW, MY NAME IS BRANDY.
I HAVE TESTIFIED BEFORE YOU
TWICE IN AN EIGHT-DAY PERIOD.
I'M THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF
EDUCATORS FOR EXCELLENCE, A
TEACHER NONPROFIT THAT WORKS TO
ELEVATE TEACHER VOICE IN THE
POLICY MAKING PROCESS.

THANK YOU FOR ALLOWING ME TO
SPEAK ON THIS IMPORTANT ISSUE
THIS EVENING.

AFTER HEARING FROM OUR MEMBERS

THIS FALL, IT IS CLEAR THAT THIS ISSUE IS NOT ABOUT HOW THE COMMITTEE IS STRUCTURED BUT MORE ABOUT ACCOUNTABILITY AND COMMUNITY INPUT INTO THE PROCESS.

BEFORE SHARING THEIR VIEWPOINTS, I WOULD LIKE TO REMIND US ALL THE REASON WE MOVED FROM ELECTED TO APPOINTED IS POST DESEGREGATION AND BUSING.

AS A GRADUATE OF BOSTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS, I AM ACUTELY AWARE AND HAVE HEARD THE STORIES OF WHAT THOSE TIMES WERE LIKE.

AT THAT TIME, BOSTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS WAS LARGELY BLACK AND WHITE.

DRAMATIC MEASURES WERE TAKEN. THE ERADICATION OF AN ELECTED SCHOOL COMMITTEE.

HOWEVER, OUR CITY DEMOGRAPHICS HAVE CHANGED AND WE'RE FINALLY SEEING BOSTON STARTING TO GRAPPLE IN EARNEST.

WE MUST ASK OURSELVES IS THE STATUS QUO DECISION POST BUSING IS STILL NECESSARY TODAY.

SINCE AUGUST, WE HAVE SURVEYED MORE THAN 500 EDUCATORS ON THE TOPICS OF CURRENT POLICY IN BOSTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

IN THE PAST TWO MONTHS ALONE, 200 EDUCATORS WEIGHED IN ON THE ISSUE OF SCHOOL GOVERNANCE.

WHAT WE'RE HEARING FROM OUR MEMBERS IS THAT THE REAL GOVERNANCE PROBLEMS IS NOT HOW THE MEMBERS ARE SELECTED.

THE REAL ISSUE IS WHETHER OR NOT THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE IS TRULY ACCOUNTABLE TO THE NEEDS OF BOSTON FAMILIES, STUDENTS, AND EDUCATORS.

DARE I EVEN SAY A METHOD FOR AUTHENTIC COMMUNITY INPUT AND ENGAGEMENT TO CREATE AND IDEATE ON POLICIES.

THE REAL QUESTION IS ALL ABOUT ACCOUNTABILITY.

ONLY 3% OF OUR MEMBERS IDENTIFIED A PLACEMENT AS THEIR PREFERRED METHOD OF SELECTING MEMBERS FOR THE BOSTON SCHOOL

COMMITTEE.

THE REMAINING 97% SURVEYED SAID THEY WERE DISSATISFIED WITH THE STATUS QUO AND EXPECTED EITHER AN ELECTED OR HYBRID METHOD.

42% CHOOSING A HYBRID.

SPECIFICALLY, MICHELLE, A TEACHER AT THE HOME INNOVATION SCHOOL SHARED, THE BOSTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE SHOULD HAVE ELECTED POSITIONS AS OPPOSED TO APPOINTMENTS BY THE MAYOR TO OFFER COMMUNITY INPUT IN THE DECISION-MAKING PROSPER TAKEN

-- SCHOOL COMMITTEE ELECTIONS CAN FOSTER COMMUNITY INVESTMENT IN THE DISTRICT BY ALLOWING FOR INCREASED COMMUNITY VOICE.

WHILE TEACHERS ARE SPLIT ON WHAT THE STRUCTURE SHOULD BE, THERE IS AGREEMENT THAT CHANGE IS NECESSARY AND THAT STEMS FROM A NEED FOR ACCOUNTABILITY.

THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE IS TASKED WITH HOLDING BOSTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS ACCOUNTABLE, BUT WHO HOLDS THEM ACCOUNTABLE?

SOME WOULD SAY THE MAYOR.

HOWEVER, WE RECOGNIZE THAT BOSTON IS A CITY HERALDED FOR A DE FACTO TRADITION OF ELECTS GENERATIONAL MAYORS THAT REMAIN IN OFFICE FOR YEARS, DECADES EVEN.

IF THE ONLY OPTION IS VOTING IN A NEW MAYOR, THE COMMUNITY WOULD HAVE NO MEASURE AT ALL IN ENSURING ACCOUNTABILITY.

EVERY VOICE HAS TO MATTER, AND THERE MUST BE MULTIPLE AVENUES FOR ENGAGEMENT.

WHAT IS CLEAR IS THIS.

EVEN IF THE STRUCTURE STAYED THE SAME, THE DISTRICT NEEDS TO CONTINUE TO FIND BETTER WAYS TO THOUGHT PARTNER AND COLLABORATE WITH TEACHERS, FAMILY MEMBERS, BUSINESSES, CLERGY, BPS ALUMNI, AND OTHER CITIZENS AND STAKEHOLDERS THROUGHOUT ALL OF BOSTON TO ENSURE STUDENTS GET THE BEST EDUCATION POSSIBLE.

WHAT CANNOT CONTINUE ARE CLOSED

DOOR PROCESSES AND BACK DOOR DEALS.
OUR MEMBERS WANT LEADERS WHETHER ELECTED OR APPOINTED WHO GET AT ROOT CAUSES AND HELP GROW SOLUTIONS.
THANK YOU FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY TO SPEAK AND SHARE INSIGHTS WITH OUR CONVERSATIONS WITH EDUCATORS.

>> THANK YOU, BRANDY.
BRANDY, WOULD YOU SHARE THE RESULTS OF THAT SURVEY?

>> YES.

>> THANK YOU VERY MUCH, BRANDY.
THANK YOU FOR YOUR REGULAR TESTIMONY, BOTH YOURS AND THE TEACHERS THAT YOU WORK WITH.
THANK YOU.
WE'RE GOING TO SHIFT GEARS TO OUR FIRST PANEL.
I DO HAVE A FEW SLIDES.
WE MIGHT REFERENCE SOME THINGS THAT THE SLIDE WILL PERTAIN TO.
SAM AND COUNCILOR DECAR, THANK YOU FOLKS FOR BEING HERE.
I'LL LET YOU INTRODUCE YOURSELF.
I'LL LET THE FORMER COUNCILOR GO FIRST.
WE'LL GET TO IT.
THANK YOU.

>> FOR THE RECORD, LAWRENCE TECARA, WARD 9, PRECINCT 3, AS COUNCILOR O'MALLEY KNOWS.
AS ONE WHO SERVED ON THE CITY COUNCIL FOR TEN YEARS WHEN THIS CHAMBER WAS IN ITS FIRST ITERATION, I'M HONORED TO SPEAK BEFORE YOU THIS EVENING.
I'VE SUBMITTED EXCERPTS TO COUNCILOR ESSAIBI-GEORGE OF SOME ACADEMIC RESEARCH I DID ALMOST 50 YEARS CONCERNING THE HISTORY OF THE BOSTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE.
AND IT SHOWS MANY THINGS, INCLUDING THAT THE TOPIC OF THE COMMITTEE HAS BEEN ONE OF INTENSE PUBLIC DISCUSSION OFF AND ON FOR APPROXIMATELY 150 YEARS.

THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE HAS HAD MANY DIFFERENT STRUCTURES OVER A PERIOD OF TIME.

WHAT I WILL FOCUS ON IN MY TESTIMONY IS WHAT HAPPENS IN THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE AFTER I DID THAT RESEARCH IN 1970 AND '71. I ALSO DO SO AS A GRADUATE OF THE BOSTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS, K-12. MAYBE JUST AS IMPORTANTLY, MY MOTHER WAS A BOSTON SCHOOLTEACHER FOR 34 YEARS, SO I LEARNED PLENTY AROUND THE KITCHEN TABLE.

THE 70s WERE NOT A GOOD DECADE FOR THE BOSTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE. I SERVED ON THE COUNCIL FOR MOST OF THAT DECADE.

TWO MEMBERS OF THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE WENT TO JAIL. OTHERS WERE INDICTED BUT NOT CONVICTED.

THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE POSITIONED THEMSELVES SO AS TO BRING ABOUT A COURT ORDER, WHICH BROUGHT ABOUT THE DESEGREGATION OF OUR SCHOOLS.

THEY VIOLATED THE LAW, PLAIN AND SIMPLE.

DIDN'T HAVE TO BE A CONSTITUTIONAL SCHOLAR. JUST HAD TO BE ABLE TO READ.

THE ENACTMENT OF THE DESEGREGATION PLAN, WHICH ARGUABLY HAS LEFT THE FOREST OF OUR CHILDREN NOT MUCH BETTER OFF THAN THEY WERE 50 YEARS AGO.

THAT'S A DEBATE FOR ANOTHER DAY.

I SPENT MUCH OF MY TIME SITTING OVER ON THAT SIDE BECAUSE WE DO IT ALPHABETICALLY, SO THE Bs AND THE Cs AND THE Ds ALWAYS SIT OVER THERE, ARGUING THAT THE COUNCIL AND THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE, AS THEY THEN EXISTED, ALL ELECTED AT LARGE WERE NOT REPRESENTATIVE BODIES EITHER WITH RESPECT TO RACE OR GENDER OR GEOGRAPHY.

THAT REASON I CHAMPIONED THE MIXED AT-LARGE DISTRICT SYSTEM, WHICH I WOULD ARGUE, EVEN IF I WEREN'T HERE, HAS DONE QUITE WELL HERE AT THE CITY COUNCIL

BUT WHICH WAS AN ABYSMAL
DISASTER WHEN APPLIED TO THE
SCHOOL COMMITTEE.

AND I ADMIT I WAS ONE OF THE
LEADERS OF THE REFERENDUM, WHICH
PASSED IN '81, WHICH BROUGHT
ABOUT THAT SYSTEM TO SWITCH FROM
THE FIVE AT-LARGE TO NINE AND
FOUR.

DEEP IN MY HEART, I BELIEVED, AS
DID MANY OTHERS, INCLUDING SOME
OF OUR BUSINESS LEADERS, THAT A
SCHOOL COMMITTEE SYSTEM WHERE
THE MAJORITY OF THE MEMBERS WERE
ELECTED BY DISTRICTS WOULD
ENCOURAGE PARENTS AND OTHERS WHO
WERE LEGITIMATELY CONCERNED
ABOUT EDUCATION RATHER THAN
OBSESSED ABOUT POLITICS TO RUN
FOR THOSE SEATS.

THERE WERE SOME DECENT PEOPLE
WHO SERVED ON THOSE COMMITTEES.
MANY OF WHOM ARE FRIENDS TO THIS
DAY, BUT THERE WERE MANY WHO RAN
ONLY BECAUSE THERE WAS AN
AVAILABLE OFFICE.

IT WAS INTERESTING EDUCATION DI
MINUTE MUS.

MOST IMPORTANTLY, THE
INTERFERENCE OF THE SCHOOL
COMMITTEE IN THE DAY-TO-DAY
BUSINESS OF GOVERNING A VERY
COMPLEX URBAN SCHOOL SYSTEM IS A
PRIMARY VARIABLE WHICH BROUGHT
ABOUT THE TURNOVER IN SCHOOL
SUPERINTENDENTS IN THE DECADES
OF THE 80s AND EARLY 90s.

I HAD THE HONOR OF REPRESENTING
A SUPERINTENDENT WHEN HE BOUGHT
HIS HOUSE NOT TOO FAR FROM WHERE
WE GREW UP.

THEN THE HONOR OF REPRESENTING
HIM WHEN HE SOLD IT ABOUT THREE
YEARS LATER.

THERE'S NO DOUBT IN MY MIND THAT
HE WOULD HAVE BEEN A LONG-TERM
SUPERINTENDENT AS WAS THE
SUPERINTENDENT IN THE 90s BUT
FOR THE PESTERING BY THE MEMBERS
OF THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE BY
PATRONAGE AND OTHER MATTERS.
HE WENT ON TO RUN ONE OF THE
LARGEST SCHOOL SYSTEMS IN THE
COUNTRY IN FAIRFAX, VIRGINIA.

IT WAS A VERY EXPENSIVE PROPOSITION.

ONE MEMBER EVEN SUGGESTED TO ME SHE HAD A GENTLEMAN ON HER STAFF WHOSE JOB IT WAS TO TASTE HER FOOD.

THEREFORE, I WAS ONE OF MANY PEOPLE WHO CARE ABOUT THE CITY AND WORKED VERY HARD TO BRING ABOUT THE APPOINTED COMMITTEE IN THE EARLY 90s AND THEN WORKED HARD TO BE SURE IT WAS SPOTHSUPPORTED BY THE VOTERS ON TWO OCCASIONS.

I THINK IT WAS ABOUT 70-30.

I THINK IT PREVAILED IN 16, 17, OR 18 OF THE 22 WARDS.

>> 20.

>> OH, IT'S 20 OF THE 22?

OKAY, YOU GOT ME ON A POLITICAL FACT.

I HOPE THAT'S STRICKEN FROM THE RECORD, OKAY?

>> I'LL TALK TO YOU LATER.

>> THE WONDERFUL THING ABOUT THE APPOINTED COMMITTEE IS THAT THEY DO NOT INTERFERE IN THE DAY-TO-DAY OPERATION OF THE SCHOOL SYSTEM.

THEY DO NOT VIEW THEIR JOB AS BEING ONE OF PROVIDING EMPLOYMENT OF WHICH WE CURRENTLY HAVE 9500 EMPLOYEES MORE OR LESS FOR A SCHOOL SYSTEM OF APPROXIMATELY 57,000 STUDENTS.

I BELIEVE, AS DO MANY OTHERS, FOR US TO RETURN TO PLACING NAMES ON THE BALLOT FOR ELECTION TO THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE WOULD RESULT IN EXTRAORDINARY DIVISIVENESS AND WOULD MAKE IT LESS LIKELY THAT SUPERINTENDENTS WOULD STAY IN BOSTON.

THANK YOU.

HAPPY TO RESPOND.

>> THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

I THINK WE'LL TAKE TESTIMONY FROM SAM AND THEN WE'LL OPEN IT UP.

>> SAM HAS ABOUT AS MUCH MILEAGE ON HIS TIRES AS I DO EXCEPT HE GOES TO MORE SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETINGS.
HE SPEAKS FROM EXPERTISE.

>> YOU CAN NOW WATCH THEM ONLINE AND STREAM THEM LIVE.

>> I GOT SPOILED IN TERMS OF OUR OFFICE BEING A BLOCK AWAY FROM 26 COURT STREET.

IT'S A WHOLE OTHER MATTER NOW. MADAME CHAIR AND MEMBERS, FOR THE RECORD, MY NAME IS SAM TYLER.

I'M THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOSTON RESEARCH BUREAU.

I GUESS INFLUENCED BY JOHN DREW, I'M GOING TO TELL YOU THAT I HAVE BEEN OBSERVING AND WRITING ABOUT THE BOSTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE SINCE 1972, SO I'VE SEEN FIRSHTHAND THE BOSTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS WHO WERE THE WORST AND SOME BETTERED BY THE SCHOOL COMMITTEES.

THE DYSFUNCTION OF THE 13 ELECTED SCHOOL COMMITTEE. SINCE 1992, THE SEVEN-MEMBER APPOINTED COMMITTEE.

FROM THESE YEARS OF EXPERIENCE, I CAN UNEQUIVOCALLY STATE THAT THE APPOINTED SCHOOL COMMITTEE STRUCTURE AFFORDS BOSTON THE BEST CHANCE TO IMPROVE SCHOOL PERFORMANCE IN ALL AREAS -- ACADEMIC, OPERATIONAL, FISCAL, AND MANAGERIAL.

NOW, I THINK WE ALL AGREE THAT NO BOARD STRUCTURE BY ITSELF IS GOING TO BE A SOLUTION TO THE CHALLENGES FACING THE BOSTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

HOWEVER, GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE CAN FACILITATE THE SUPPORT FOR EFFECTIVE IMPLEMENTATION OF POLICIES TO IMPROVE TEACHING, STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT, AND OPERATIONS.

ALSO, WANT TO SAY AT THE BEGINNING THAT WHILE SCHOOL GOVERNANCE HAS BEEN AN ISSUE

THAT COMES AND GOES, THERE ARE MORE IMPORTANT ISSUES THAT WE SHOULD BE DEVOTING OUR ATTENTION TO AND OUR ENERGY TO THAT WOULD HAVE FAR MORE BENEFIT TO THE PARENTS AND STUDENTS OF THE BOSTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS THAN SCHOOL GOVERNANCE.

TURN AROUND OF UNDERPERFORMING SCHOOLS, STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT GAP PARTICULARLY BY RACE, BILL BPS, PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND EVALUATION TO IMPROVE EFFECTIVE TEACHING.

THESE ARE JUST A FEW OF THE ISSUES THAT REALLY OUGHT TO BE ADDRESSED.

GOING BACK TO THE APPOINTED STRUCTURE, WE HAVE SUPPORTED -- WE WERE INVOLVED WITH THE CREATION OF THE APPOINTED BOARD. THE MAIN REASON BECAUSE IT HOLDS THE MAYOR FULLY ACCOUNTABLE FOR PUBLIC EDUCATION AND ALSO THAT THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE CAN BE MORE DIVERSE.

WE HAVE A MIX OF EXPERIENCES AND SKILLS TO BE A COHESIVE EDUCATIONAL BODY.

FOR THE PAST 25 YEARS OR 26 YEARS, THE APPOINTED COMMITTEE HAS PROVEN TO BE MORE EDUCATIONALLY FOCUSED, FISCALLY RESPONSIBLE, AND BETTER ABLE TO TACKLE IMPORTANT BUT POLITICAL DIFFICULT ISSUES THAN THE RECORD DEMONSTRATED BY EITHER OF THE FIVE-MEMBER ELECTED MEMBER OR THE 13-MEMBER ELECTED COMMITTEE. ON THE ELECTED COMMITTEE, SCHOOL MEMBERS WERE MORE CONCERNED WITH DAY-TO-DAY OPERATIONS THAN THEY WERE WITH BROAD EDUCATIONAL POLICY.

THEIR ISSUES OF CONCERN WERE MORE FRANKLY CONSTITUENT ISSUES NOT RELATED TO EDUCATIONAL POLICY.

THE CONSTITUENTS WERE NOT THE STUDENTS BUT THE ADULTS. BOSTON'S MOVED TO THE APPOINTED SCHOOL COMMITTEE STRUCTURE. IT EVOLVED OVER A DECADE OF ATTEMPTS TO MAKE THE ELECTED

PROCESS WORK.

IT CAME ABOUT ONLY A SERIES OF EFFORTS TO IMPROVE GOVERNANCE OF SCHOOLS WITHIN THE EXISTING ELECTED STRUCTURE ON FOUR SEPARATE OCCASIONS.

LEGISLATION WAS ENACTED WHICH FOCUSED ON STRENGTHENING THE ROLE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT AND LIMITING THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE'S ROLE TO MORE OF A POLICY BODY, WHICH EVENTUALLY FELT THAT WASN'T ENOUGH.

THE PRIMARY BENEFIT OF THE APPOINTED COMMITTEE IS THAT IT HOLDS ONE PERSON ACCOUNTABLE FOR BOSTON SCHOOL PERFORMANCE, THE MAYOR.

THE FUNDAMENTAL FLAW OF THE ELECTED COMMITTEE WAS THAT IT DID NOT ENSURE DIRECT ACCOUNTABILITY IN ANY ONE PERSON OR BOARD.

THE MAYOR WAS REQUIRED TO RAISE THE FUNDS TO SUPPORT THE SYSTEM, BUT THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE DECIDED HOW THE MONEY WOULD BE SPENT.

THE DIVISION OF DUTIES CONTRIBUTED TO A CULTURE OF MISTRUST AND FINGER POINTING RATHER THAN IMPROVED COLLABORATION THAT EXISTS TODAY. THIS DIRECT ACCOUNTABILITY MUST BE MAINTAINED.

IT WOULD BE WEAKENED, I BELIEVE, THROUGH AN ELECTED OR HYBRID STRUCTURE.

THE APPOINTED COMMITTEE HAS BEEN FAR MORE SUCCESSFUL IN CREATING REAL STABILITY IN THE SUPERINTENDENT'S POSITION AND CONTINUITY OF EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS IN STARK CONTRAST TO THE CONTINUAL OF TURNOVER OF TEN SUPERINTENDENTS.

TOM SERVED 11 YEARS.

SUPERINTENDENT JOHNSON SERVED 6 YEARS.

THAT STABILITY DURING TOM'S TIME MADE A BIG DIFFERENCE WHICH ACADEMIC STUDIES HAVE SHOWN IN TERMS OF STUDENT PERFORMANCE.

THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE HAS THE DUTY TO EXERCISE ITS IDUCIARY

RESPONSIBILITIES.

THE ELECTED STRUCTURE INCLUDED NO INCENTIVE FOR THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE TO CONTROL SPENDING OR ANY PENALTY IF IT DID NOT. EVERY YEAR SINCE 1992 UNDER THE APPOINTED SCHOOL COMMITTEE THE SCHOOL DEPARTMENT HAS ENDED WITH A SURPLUS.

THERE'S ALSO FINANCIAL BENEFITS FOR HAVING THE MAYOR'S DIRECT ACCOUNTABILITY FOR THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

THE FACT THAT OVER THE LAST TEN YEARS DURING DIFFICULT FISCAL TIMES AND ESCALATING STATE ASSESSMENTS, HEALTH INSURANCE COSTS, PENSION COSTS, THE SCHOOL DEPARTMENT'S SHARE OF THE TOTAL DEPARTMENTAL BUDGET IN THE CITY REMAINED STEADY AT 35%.

ALL OTHER DEPARTMENTS OTHER THAN POLICE AND FIRE IN AGGREGATE REPRESENTED A SMALLER SHARE OF THE TOTAL DEPARTMENTAL BUDGET OVER THE TEN YEARS.

DURING THIS TIME, STATE CHARTERED SCHOOL ASSESSMENT INCREASED BY \$118 OR 21%.

THE BPS WAS HELD HARMLESS AS THE CITY OF BOSTON ABSORBED THOSE EXPENSES.

NOT THE SCHOOL DEPARTMENT.

THAT'S NOT THE CASE IN OTHER SCHOOL DISTRICTS IN THIS STATE THAT HAVE CHARTER SCHOOLS.

AS YOU KNOW, THE CHARTER SCHOOL TUITION REPRESENTS THE CHAPTER 70 EDUCATION AID THAT FOLLOWS THE STUDENT THAT LIVE IN BOSTON BUT GO TO CHARTER SCHOOLS.

ALSO, IN THE CURRENT FISCAL FIVE-YEAR CAPITAL BOND PLAN, TOTAL BOND FUNDING FOR SCHOOLS REPRESENTS 28% OF THE TOTAL. 22nd IS PUBLIC WORKS, WHICH REPRESENT 18%.

NOT ONLY IN THE OPERATING BUDGET OR THE CAPITAL BUDGET.

THE FACT THAT THE MAYOR HAS DIRECT RESPONSIBILITY FOR SCHOOL PERFORMANCE DOES MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN THE FINANCIAL BENEFIT OF THE SCHOOL

DEPARTMENT.

ALSO, BY MAKING THE MAYOR FULLY ACCOUNTABLE FOR EDUCATION PERFORMANCE, A LARGER NUMBER OF VOTERS ARE ABLE TO INFLUENCE SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT THAN A SMALLER NUMBER OF VOTERS WHO WOULD DIVIDE THEIR MANDATE AMONG ELECTED COMMITTEE MEMBERS.

MORE VOTERS IN BOSTON GOING TO THE POLLS TO VOTE FOR MAYOR THAN ANY OTHER ELECTED POSITION. FAR MORE VOTERS HOLD THE BPS ACCOUNTABLE BY VOTING FOR THE MAYOR THAN THOSE WHO WOULD VOTE FOR THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE RACES. PRIOR TO 1992, SCHOOL COMMITTEE RACES LACKED COMPETITION AS WELL AS VOTES.

IN 1989, THE LAST ELECTED RACE -- I'M SORRY, THE LAST ELECTED SCHOOL COMMITTEE RACE ENCOMPASSED FOUR OUT OF NINE DISTRICTS.

THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE RACES RAN UNOPPOSED.

NO COMMITTEE CANDIDATE IN A COMPETITIVE RACE RECEIVED MORE THAN 16% OF THE VOTE.

THAT'S NOT REALLY PARENT REPRESENTATION.

PARENTS HAVE A ROLE NOT ONLY AS VOTERS BUT ALSO THEY CAN SERVE ON THE SCHOOL COUNCILS AND HAVE MORE SAY IN TERMS OF THE OPERATION OF THEIR CHILDREN'S SCHOOL AS WELL AS SELECTING THE TEACHERS TO WORK IN THOSE SCHOOLS.

THAT'S HOW REALLY PARENTS CAN BE INVOLVED IN TERMS OF WHAT'S IMPORTANT TO THEM.

AS YOU KNOW, THE LEGISLATION IN CREATING THE APPOINTED BOARD REQUIRED FIVE YEARS AFTERWARDS IN 1996 FOR A BONDING QUESTION TO ASK WHETHER VOTERS WANTED TO SAY WITH THE CURRENT 13-MEMBER STRUCTURE OR GO BACK -- I'M SORRY.

STAY WITH THE CURRENT BOARD OR GO BACK TO THE 13-MEMBER STRUCTURE.

IT WAS A 70-30 MARGIN TO RETAIN

THE CURRENT SEVEN-MINUTE APPOINTED STRUCTURE RATHER THAN RETURN.

IN FACT, THAT VOTE WAS A PLURALITY OF ABOUT 59,000 VOTES.

THE STABILITY AND STEADY PROGRESS IN BOSTON UNDER THE APPOINTED BOARD HAS GIVEN NATIONAL AND LOCAL FOUNDATIONS AND BUSINESSES CONFIDENCE IN FINANCIALLY SUPPORTING A VARIETY OF EDUCATION INITIATIVES.

IN 2006, THE BOSTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS DEPARTMENT WAS AWARDED A PRIZE FOR BEING THE NATION'S MOST IMPROVED URBAN SCHOOL SYSTEM, AND THE SCHOOL DEPARTMENT WAS A FINALIST FOR THIS AWARD FOR THE THREE PREVIOUS YEARS.

THE HYBRID STRUCTURE HAS BEEN INTRODUCED, AS WAS NOTED RECENTLY BY COUNCILOR BAKER. IT WAS ALSO PART OF A COMMISSION

RECOMMENDATION, I GUESS, IN 1989, WHICH WAS -- THERE WERE TWO COMMISSION STUDIES BACK THEN.

ONE WAS CHAIRED BY JONES. THAT COMMISSION MADE A RECOMMENDATION OF MOVING FROM THE ELECTED TO APPOINTED STRUCTURE.

A SECOND ONE WAS SUGGESTED BY THE CITY COUNCIL, APPOINTED BY THE MAYOR, THAT THE COMMISSION CAME BACK AND SUGGESTED ALL APPOINTED OR A HYBRID SYSTEM OF PARTLY ELECTED, PARTLY APPOINTED.

IN 1989, THE HYBRID STRUCTURE WAS QUICKLY DISMISSED AS BEING DIVISIVE AND INCOMPATIBLE WITH REAL ACCOUNTABILITY WITHOUT ANY CLEAR LINE OF AUTHORITY.

THE REPORT ON THE HYBRID STRUCTURE OPPOSED IT FEELING THAT IT WOULD INHIBIT THE COMMUNITY'S ABILITY TO FUNCTION OR THE COMMITTEE'S ABILITY TO FUNCTION AS A POLICY BODY.

NO BOARD STRUCTURE BY ITSELF IS THE SOLUTION TO THE CHALLENGES

FACING THE BOSTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

HOWEVER, EXISTING APPOINTED BOARD STRUCTURE IS THE BEST CHANCE TO ENSURE THAT THE MAYOR REMAINS FULLY ACCOUNTABLE FOR PUBLIC EDUCATION, THAT SCHOOL MEMBERS HAVE THE MIX OF EXPERIENCES AND SKILLS TO BE COHESIVE EDUCATIONAL BODY, AND THAT THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE RESPONSIBLY EXERCISES ITS FIDUCIARY RESPONSIBILITY.

I THINK BOTH LARRY AND I HAVE SEEN THE SITUATION WHERE THE MAYOR USES THE MONEY BUT DOESN'T HAVE ANY KIND OF A ROLE IN THE OPERATION, EVEN FROM A DISTANCE. I THINK THERE'S BEEN A MARKET IN TERMS OF THE COLLABORATION BETWEEN CITY HALL AND NOW 23 RUSSIAN STREET THAN THERE HAS BEEN EVER WITH THE ELECTED COMMITTEE.

I JUST WANT TO RAISE ONE LAST ISSUE, MAYBE TWO. IN TERMS OF THE NOMINATING PROCESS, THE MAYOR DOESN'T HAVE

CARTE BLANCHE. NOMINATING PROCESS WAS CREATED WITH THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE APPOINTED BOARD AND WAS INTENDED TO CREATE A LEVEL OF INDEPENDENCE.

THERE ARE 13 MEMBERS ON THE PANEL.

THE MAYOR ONLY APPOINTS FOUR. THE PANEL MAKES RECOMMENDATIONS FOR EACH OPEN POSITION OF NO LESS THAN THREE NOMINEES, NO MORE THAN FIVE.

AND THE MAYOR MUST APPOINT ONE OF THOSE INDIVIDUALS, SO IT IS AN INDEPENDENT PROCESS, AND IT'S A PROCESS THAT'S AN OPEN PROCESS.

THE MEETINGS OF THE PANEL ARE PUBLIC, EVEN THE INTERVIEWS ARE PUBLIC.

IT'S ONLY WHEN THERE'S DISCUSSION IN TERMS OF WHICH OF THE NOMINEES TO SELECT THAT THEY GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION.

FOLKS WILL NOTE THAT, YES,
BOSTON IS THE ONLY CITY IN THE
STATE THAT HAS AN APPOINTED
BOARD BUT FOR GOOD REASON.
BUT THAT STARTED A PROCESS THAT
NOW THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY,
MAJOR CITIES -- THERE ARE OVER
20 CITIES WHERE THERE'S AN
APPOINTED BOARD BY THE MAYOR.
I THINK IT'S BECAUSE THE MAYORS
REALIZE THAT PUBLIC EDUCATION IS
CRITICAL TO THE VITALITY OF THE
CITY AND THEY NEED TO PLAY A
ROLE AND ENSURE THAT IT'S
PROTECTED, THAT IT'S WELL
SUPPORTED, AND IT SERVES THE
INTEREST OF THE STUDENTS AND THE
PARENTS.
THAT'S THE POINT OF THE
APPOINTED BOARD HERE.

>> THANK YOU, SAM.
ON THE OVERHEAD, FOR THOSE OF
YOU THAT ARE HERE IN THE
CHAMBER, I PULLED UP CURRENT
CITIZENS NOMINATING PANEL, THE
MEMBERSHIP, AND THE LIST OF
MEMBERS OF THAT BOARD.
AT THIS TIME, I WOULD LIKE TO
OPEN UP FOR QUESTIONS FROM MY
COLLEAGUES.

>> I LISTENED TO BOTH TESTIMONY,
AND I CERTAINLY APPRECIATE YOUR
LONG-TERM SERVICE TO THE CITY OF
BOSTON, BOTH OF YOU, SO I'M MORE
EAGER TO LISTEN TO TESTIMONY.

>> THANK YOU.
COUNCILOR O'MALLEY?

>> THANK YOU, MADAME CHAIR.
DITTO.
APPRECIATE LARRY AND SAM, BOTH
OF YOUR LONG AND LOYAL SERVICE
TO OUR GREAT CITY.
I JUST WANTED TO PUSH BACK ON
SOMETHING YOU SAID.
YOU SAID THERE ARE MORE
IMPORTANT ISSUES WE SHOULD BE
FOCUSED ON, WE BEING THE CITY
COUNCIL.

>> I ACTUALLY MEANT CITY.

>> FAIR POINT.

WHATEVER.

I THINK THAT THAT SORT OF DOES A DISSERVICE TO WHAT WE'RE TRYING TO DO HERE BECAUSE WE ARE, A, CAPABLE OF FOCUSING ON MORE THAN ONE ISSUE AT A TIME AS IT RELATES TO BUILD BPS OR EQUITY OR STUDENT ASSIGNMENT, BUT THESE ARE ISSUES THAT WE'RE WORKING ON IN TANDEM WITH THAT.

>> WHICH ALSO INCLUDES THE ACHIEVEMENT GAP.

>> WE'RE WORKING ON ALL THESE ISSUES.

I THINK THE FACT THAT DESPITE THAT MANY PEOPLE IN THIS ROOM, MANY PARENTS, MANY TEACHERS, MANY ACTIVISTS ARE AT THIS MEETING TONIGHT OR AT ANOTHER MEETING TWO NIGHTS IF NOW SHOWS A REAL DESIRE FOR INVOLVEMENT IN HAVING TEACHER VOICES, HAVING PARENTS' VOICES, HAVING STUDENTS' VOICES MOST IMPORTANTLY IN ESTIMATION. I THINK THAT'S A LAZY ARGUMENT TO MAKE THAT WE SHOULDN'T DO THAT BECAUSE THERE'S OTHER THINGS WE SHOULD BE FOCUSING ON. THERE'S PLENTY OF BANDWIDTH AND BRAINPOWER IN THIS ROOM TO ECHO A WHOLE HOST OF ISSUES.

SIMILARLY, LARRY, I THINK YOU MADE SOME COMPELLING POINTS. THIS IS SOMETHING THAT I'VE OFTEN SORT OF GRAPPLED WITH AS IT RELATES TO THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE.

I BEGAN MY PROCESS THINKING WE SHOULD GO BACK TO THE ALL ELECTED SCHOOL BOARD BECAUSE OF SOME OF THE HISTORICAL CONTEXT YOU PROVIDED AND IN MY OWN RESEARCH.

I THINK THE HYBRID MODEL IS SOMETHING WE OUGHT TO EMBRACE BECAUSE IT WOULD ALLOW FOR SOME FOLKS WHO WOULD BE APPOINTED AND SORT OF HAVE THAT FREEDOM OF NOT HAVING TO STAND FOR ELECTION

WHILE AT THE SAME TIME ALLOWING
AN INDIVIDUAL TO BE MORE
ACCOUNTABLE TO THE VOTERS AND
THE PARENTS AND THE STAKEHOLDERS
OF BPS.

I KNOW THERE ARE PLENTY OF GOOD
PEOPLE WHO CAN DISAGREE ON HOW
WE GET THERE, BUT I DO THINK
THAT THERE'S ENORMOUS BENEFIT TO
HAVING THIS HEARING AND
CONTINUING THIS CONVERSATION,
EXPLORING WHAT SOME OTHER
OPTIONS ARE.

I GUESS MY QUESTION IS, IF WE
NOW ARE 20-PLUS YEARS -- I GUESS
CLOSER TO 30 YEARS OF HAVING
THIS CURRENT MODEL.

WHY HAVEN'T ANY OTHER CITIES OR
TOWNS IN MASSACHUSETTS FOLLOWED
SUIT?

PARTICULARLY WORCESTER,
SPRINGFIELD, LARGER CITIES.

WHY HAVEN'T OTHERS FOLLOWED
SUIT?

>> I EXPECT BECAUSE THEIR
SYSTEMS ARE NOT AS COMPLEX AS
OURS.

THAT'S JUST A GUESS.

I'M BEING HONEST WITH YOU.

I RAN STATEWIDE 40 YEARS AGO.

I DON'T SPEND A LOT OF TIME
OUTSIDE OF BOSTON, SO I'M NOT AS
ATTUNED AS I MAY HAVE BEEN BACK
THEN.

THE COMMONWEALTH HAS A HISTORY
GOING BACK TO THE FOUNDING OF
BOSTON SCHOOLS IN 1635 OF HAVING
SCHOOL COMMITTEES.

THEY HAD ALL SORTS OF SHAPES AND
SIZES, AND THEY'VE HAD VARYING
ATTEMPTS.

IF ONE GOES BACK FAR ENOUGH, IT
BASICALLY WAS THE INTENT OF THE
PROTESTANT MAJORITY TO
AMERICANIZE CATHOLICS BY
INSISTING UPON THE READING OF
THE KING JAMES VERSION OF THE
BIBLE AND THINGS LIKE THAT.

THAT'S REALLY THE LEGACY OF
HORACE MANN.

THE RESEARCH THAT I DID FOR
COUNCILOR ESSAIBI-GEORGE,
THERE'S A VERY INTERESTING

DECADE OR SO WHEN WOMEN COULD
VOTE FOR SCHOOL COMMITTEE BUT
COULD NOT VOTE FOR ANYTHING
ELSE.

I THINK IT WAS THE 1880s.

I DON'T HAVE TOTAL RECALL AND
NEITHER OF US WAS THERE,
ALTHOUGH IT'S CLOSE.

THEN THE CATHOLIC CHURCH DECIDED
THAT A WOMAN'S PLACE WAS IN THE
KITCHEN AND NOT VOTING, SO A
WHOLE BUNCH OF PROTESTANTS WERE
ELECTED TO SCHOOL COMMITTEE.

ALMOST BY DIVINE INTERVENTION,
SOMEBODY DECIDED THAT MAYBE
WOMEN COULD VOTE AND THERE WAS
CATHOLIC WOMEN PART OF THE VOTE.
THEN YOU HAD A BALANCE OF PEOPLE
ON THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE IN THE
1890s, WHENEVER IT WAS, SO THESE
ISSUES HAVE BEEN BACK AND FORTH
FOR A LONG, LONG TIME.

WHY OTHER CITIES IN THE
COMMONWEALTH HAVE NOT -- I DON'T
KNOW.

I DO KNOW THIS.

CHICAGO HAS HAD AN APPOINTED
SCHOOL BOARD FOR A LONG, LONG
TIME.

MY FRIEND CHAIRED THAT BOARD FOR
THE MAYOR, THE FIRST OF MANY
MAYOR DALEYS IN CHICAGO IN THE
1950s.

ROBERT WAGNER, AS I RECALL, CAME
TO MY HOUSE ONCE FOR A COCKTAIL
PARTY.

HE WAS CHAIRMAN OF THAT SCHOOL
BOARD LIKE A GENERATION AFTER
HIS FATHER WAS MAYOR, SO THE BIG
CITIES HAVE HAD APPOINTED
BOARDS, MANY OF THEM, FOR A
LONG, LONG TIME.

>> IF I MAY ANSWER THAT QUESTION
AS WELL, I THINK IT WAS BECAUSE
OF HOW DYSFUNCTIONAL THE
13-MEMBER COMMITTEE WAS.
IT WAS UNTENABLE.

IT COULDN'T CONTINUE.

I REPRESENT THERE WERE FOUR
DIFFERENT ATTEMPTS -- WELL, NOT
ATTEMPTS.

THERE WERE FOUR PIECES OF
LEGISLATION PASSED TRYING TO

MAKE THE ELECTED STRUCTURE WORK TO A POINT WHERE THE SUPERINTENDENT IN BOSTON IS PROBABLY THE MOST POWERFUL SUPERINTENDENT IN THE COUNTRY AS THESE EFFORTS WERE TRYING TO FIND THE SUPERINTENDENT'S AUTHORITY VIS-A-VIS THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE AND JUST FOCUSING ON EDUCATIONAL POLICY, BUT EVEN WITH THAT, IT WASN'T ENOUGH, WHICH IS WHAT LED MAYOR FLYNN TO TAKE A LOOK AT THAT.

>> I GET THAT, BUT MY QUESTION IS WHY HAVEN'T -- IF THE BOSTON MODEL WOULD PROFFER BETTER EDUCATIONAL OUTCOMES, WHY HAVEN'T THE 350 CITIES AND TOWNS IN THE COMMONWEALTH ADOPTED THIS?

LARRY'S POINT IS WE ARE -- I WILL HAPPILY CONCEDE THE FACT WE ARE A LOT MORE COMPLICATED, LARGER BY FAR THAN ANY OTHER DISTRICT.

YET THERE ARE CERTAINLY SOME LARGE DISTRICTS THERE.

THERE ARE CERTAINLY SOME CHALLENGES THERE, PARTICULARLY IN THE GATEWAY CITIES.

YET THE TRADEOFF SEEMS TO BE IN MANY OF THESE CITIES OR TOWNS HAVING THAT SORT OF DIRECT REPRESENTATIVE OUTWEIGHS THE FACT THERE STILL MAY BE SOME ISSUES AND IT'S NOT PERFECT.

I GUESS THIS IS REALLY MORE OF SORT OF AN INFORMATION GATHERING PROCESS.

IF WHAT INDEED HAS BEEN ON THE BOOKS IN BOSTON FOR THE LAST 30 YEARS MAKES SO MUCH MORE SENSE, WHY ISN'T IT DONE ELSEWHERE? I WOULD ARGUE THAT MAYBE WE OUGHT TO BE LOOKING AT DOING THINGS A LITTLE BIT DIFFERENTLY.

>> IT IS DONE ELSEWHERE. AS I SAID, THERE ARE OVER 20 --

>> I'M SPEAKING SPECIFICALLY ABOUT MASSACHUSETTS.

>> OKAY.

IT MAKES SENSE FOR A LARGE MUCH MORE COMPLEX DISTRICT.

>> FAIR POINT.

I WOULD BE INTERESTED TO SEE SORT OF THE MID 600, 700, EVEN TO 800,000 POPULATION CITIES AND WHAT THEY HAVE BECAUSE NEW YORK HAS 12 MILLION.

CHICAGO HAS 3.5, 4 MILLION, MAYBE MORE THAN THAT.

I DON'T KNOW WHAT THE L.A. MODEL IS, BUT WE'RE TALKING ABOUT THE MEGA CITIES COMPARED TO BOSTON. THAT'S ALL FOR NOW OTHER THAN I WOULD JUST SAY -- WELL, I WILL LEAVE IT AT THAT AND LET MY COLLEAGUES GO.

THANK YOU.

THANK YOU, MADAME CHAIR.

>> I WOULD LIKE TO RECOGNIZE WE'VE BEEN JOINED BY COUNCILOR LYDIA EDWARDS.

I JUST HAVE A QUICK QUESTION -- WELL, HOPEFULLY, IT IS A QUICK QUESTION WITH A SHORTER ANSWER. ARE THERE WAYS IN YOUR OPINION TO IMPROVE THE CURRENT APPOINTED BODY WITHOUT MAKING IT ELECTED?

>> YES.

IF YOU WERE TO TAKE A LOOK AT THE APPOINTED BOARD IN THE EARLY YEARS, THAT WAS A BLUE RIBBON COMMITTEE.

TOP PEOPLE BOTH IN TERMS OF PARENTS BUT ALSO BUSINESS,

EDUCATION.

THE NOMINATING PANEL JUST WENT THROUGH A PROCESS WHERE -- GINA ROBINSON AND JERRY'S ROBINSON'S TERMS WERE GOING TO EXPIRE AT THE END OF THIS YEAR, SO THERE WAS AN EFFORT TO TRY TO ENCOURAGE PEOPLE TO APPLY. THEY'RE BOTH INCUMBENTS, SO THAT PROBABLY STOPS SOME PEOPLE FROM APPLYING.

BUT OTHER THAN THEIR OWN APPLICATIONS, FOR TWO OPEN SEATS, THERE ARE ONLY SEVEN

OTHER NOMINATIONS.
WE'VE GOT TO DO A BETTER JOB OF
TRYING TO ENCOURAGE
COMMUNITY-COMMITTED PEOPLE WHO
WANT TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN
EDUCATION AND HELP THE STUDENTS
TO APPLY FOR THESE JOBS.
THEN IT'S GOING TO BE INCUMBENT
UPON THE MAYOR TO MAKE SURE THAT
HE PICKS THE BEST PERSON FOR
THAT JOB AND IT'S A PERSON HE
SHOULD UNDERSTAND THAT HE IS
BETTER SERVED BY HAVING A STRONG
COMMITTED MEMBER OF THE SCHOOL
COMMITTEE WHO MAY PUSH BACK
BECAUSE OF THEIR OWN EXPERIENCE,
BUT THAT'S GOING TO BE GOOD.
THAT WILL BE BETTER FOR THE
SYSTEM, SO WE CAN DO A BETTER
JOB OF TRYING TO ENCOURAGE
PEOPLE TO APPLY FOR THE SCHOOL
COMMITTEE POSITION.
WE CAN DO A BETTER JOB HOPING
THAT THE MAYOR WILL TAKE THE
BEST PERSON.

>> THANK YOU.
LARRY?
COUNCILOR BAKER?

>> DO YOU WANT TO ADD ANYTHING
TO THAT, LARRY?

>> NO, I HAVE NOTHING TO ADD ON
THAT.

>> ARE THERE ANY CITIES THAT
HAVE CHANGED RECENTLY, LIKE
BECOME APPOINTED IN THE LAST 15
OR 20 YEARS THAT MAY BE
COMPARABLE TO BOSTON?
ANYTHING THAT WE KNOW OF?

>> NO.
SOON AFTER -- BOSTON WAS ONE OF
THE FIRST.

>> YEAH.

>> BOSTON AND CHICAGO.
AFTER THAT, MORE CITIES HAVE --

>> NEW YORK AFTER BOSTON?

>> YEAH, BUT SOON AFTER BOSTON, PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND, ALSO MOVED TO AN APPOINTED BOARD, PHILADELPHIA ACTUALLY HAD AN APPOINTED BOARD BEFORE BOSTON. THAT WAS ORIGINALLY THE MODEL, BUT THE NOMINATING PROCESS WAS CHANGED BECAUSE THE PHILADELPHIA MODEL WOULD ALLOW THE MAYOR TO REJECT UNTIL HE GOT SOMEBODY THAT HE WANTED. THAT'S WHY THE NOMINATING PROCESS IS STRUCTURED THE WAY IT IS HERE, TO PROVIDE INDEPENDENCE BETWEEN THE PANEL AND THE MAYOR.

>> THE MAYOR HAS FINAL SAY THOUGH.

>> YEAH.

>> ONLY RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE MAYOR.

>> BUT HE HAS TO PICK FROM THE LIST OF NOMINEES THAT ARE PRESENTED BY THE NOMINATING PANEL. HE CAN'T REJECT THEM AND SAY I WANT MORE NAMES.

>> ANNISSA ASKED WHAT I THOUGHT WAS A GOOD QUESTION. IF MAYBE GOING TO AN ELECTED OR A HYBRID ISN'T THE RIGHT MODEL, WHAT ELSE CAN WE DO WITHIN THIS STRUCTURE HERE? COULD WE ADD SEATS TO IT? COULD WE ADD A STUDENT. COULD WE ADD A PARENT SO IT WOULD GO UP THREE SEATS? COULD WE DO THINGS LIKE THAT?

>> MEMBERS OF THE BOSTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE HAVE TO BE BOSTON REZ

-- RESIDENTS, SO ANYBODY WHO IS A BOSTON RESIDENT CAN SUBMIT AN APPLICATION TO BE CONSIDERED FOR THE POSITION. A TEACHER ON THE COMMITTEE MAKING POLICY DECISION AFFECTING HIS OR HER OWN POSITION IS NOT --

>> THAT WOULD BE CONFLICT.
THAT COULD BE A PROBLEM.
I REPRESENT A DIFFERENT
MUNICIPALITY.
WE ACTUALLY HAD A DISCUSSION
ABOUT THAT TODAY WHERE IN THIS
CASE THE PERSON WOULD HAVE TO
RECUSE THEMSELVES EACH TIME
THERE WOULD BE SOMETHING THAT
WOULD BE GERMANE.
THAT WOULD BE A REAL PROBLEM
BECAUSE ARGUABLY MOST EVERY VOTE
THEY TAKE, CERTAINLY BUDGETARY
MATTERS, WOULD IMPACT SOMEBODY
WHO IS A TEACHER.
YOU COULD HAVE A RETIRED TEACHER
PROBABLY.
WOULD NOT BE A CONFLICT.

>> THAT WAS THE SAME AS THIS
HERE.
FOUR AT-LARGE AND NINE
DISTRICTS.

>> I WORKED ON THAT IN THE LATE
70s, EARLY 80s.
FROM THE CITY COUNCIL?

>> NO.

>> WE TRIED IT FROM THE CITY
COUNCIL.
WE DID NOT SUCCEED.
THERE WAS A STATE LAW THAT WAS
CRAFTED BY BILL GALVIN,
SOMETIMES CALLED THE GALVIN
BILL, WHICH WOULD ALLOW ANY PLAN
A CITY WHO COULD BY REFERENDUM
CHALLENGE THE CITY COUNCIL AND
THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE SO THAT
THERE WOULD BE ONE PERSON FOR
EACH CERTAIN NUMBERS OF THE
POPULATION AND FOUR AT-LARGE.
I FORGET THE EXACT LANGUAGE, AND
THAT FAILED IN '77 AND IT PASSED
IN '81.
THAT'S HOW WE HAD THAT BEGINNING
WITH THE ELECTION OF '83.
THAT'S ONE OF THE REASONS WE'VE
HAD THE HIGHEST TURNOUT IN A
CITY ELECTION.
WE HAD OVER 200,000 PEOPLE VOTE
THAT NOVEMBER IN THE CITY

ELECTION BECAUSE YOU HAD ALL THESE NEW SEATS BEING CREATED.

>> IN YOUR OPINION, WHY DO YOU THINK IT WAS SO BAD, LIKE THE 13-MEMBER?

>> THE PEOPLE WHO WERE ELECTED WERE MORE INTERESTED IN POLITICS THAN THEY WERE IN EDUCATION WITH A FEW EXCEPTIONS.

>> YEAH.

>> WITH ALL DUE RESPECT, PEOPLE WHO ARE FUNERAL DIRECTORS AND STUFF LIKE THAT, THESE ARE NOT NECESSARILY FOLKS WHO ARE INTERESTED IN EDUCATION. THEY'RE INTERESTED IN POLITICS. THE COMMITTEE AS A BODY WAS BRUTAL. SAM ATTENDED FAR MORE MEETINGS THAN I DID. THE MEETINGS WERE DYSFUNCTIONAL. THAT'S ONE OF THE REASONS YOU HAD THE SUCCESSION OF SUPERINTENDENTS, WHICH IS NOT GOOD FOR ANYBODY. WHEN WE HAD MORE STABILITY WITH THE APPOINTED COMMITTEE, WE HAD TOM AND CAROL JOHNSON COMBINED LIKE 17 YEARS BETWEEN THE TWO OF THEM.

>> THE 13-MEMBER COMMITTEE WAS TOTALLY UNWIELDLY. IT DIDN'T WORK. THEY DIDN'T HAVE THE RIGHT PEOPLE FRANKLY. THAT'S ONE OF THE REASONS THAT THE RESEARCH BUREAU OPPOSED THE 13-MEMBER STRUCTURE FOR THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE. IT MADE A LOT OF SENSE FOR THE CITY COUNCIL BECAUSE PRIOR TO THAT THERE WERE WHOLE AREAS OF THE CITY THAT WERE NOT REPRESENTED, SO THE DISTRICT STRUCTURE ENSURED THAT EVERY NEIGHBORHOOD WOULD BE REPRESENTED WITH AT-LARGE MEMBERS, BUT UNFORTUNATELY IT

WAS HITCHED TOGETHER.

>> HITCHED TOGETHER BY THE STATE
LEGISLATION?

>> YEAH.
IT'S IMPORTANT, AND IT WORKS
WELL FOR THE CITY COUNCIL, BUT
FOR AN EDUCATIONAL POLICY BODY
IT WAS TOTALLY DYSFUNCTIONAL.

>> THEN WE WENT TO APPOINTED IN
'83?

>> '92 WAS THE FIRST YEAR.

>> OKAY.
THANK YOU, MADAME CHAIR.

>> THANK YOU, COUNCILOR.
THANK YOU TO THE TWO OF YOU FOR
BEING HERE.

>> [OFF MIC].

>> WE DO HAVE ONE.
WHEN IT WENT TO APPOINTED, WAS
THERE LANGUAGE IN THERE FOR
CONFIRMATION ABILITY?
FOR THE CITY COUNCIL?

>> NO.

>> THERE WAS NEVER IN LANGUAGE
IN THERE?

>> NO.
IT WAS INTENTIONAL TO ENSURE
THAT THE FULL ACCOUNTABILITY
WOULD BE ON THE MAYOR.

>> OKAY.
THANK YOU.

>> COUNCILOR EDWARDS.

>> I'M GLAD YOU BROUGHT UP
ACCOUNTABILITY.
I APOLOGIZE FOR MISSING SO MUCH
OF THE HEARING.
I'VE BEEN LISTENING TO IT ONLINE
BETWEEN MEETINGS, BUT I DID WANT
TO GET BACK TO ACCOUNTABILITY TO
THE PUBLIC.

I THINK ONE OF THE BIGGEST ISSUES HAS BEEN THAT PEOPLE FEEL THAT THEY CAN BE SEEN, CAN SPEAK AT LENGTH, AND THAT THERE CAN BE NO REPERCUSSIONS FOR BEING TOTALLY IGNORED BY THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE.

IN MANY CASES, IN AN ELECTION OR A PROCESS IN WHICH YOU MUST COME BEFORE THE PUBLIC AND PRESENT YOURSELF IS A PART OF ACCOUNTABILITY.

HOW CAN WE ASSURE THAT THERE'S TRUE ACCOUNTABILITY FOR THE MEMBERS OF THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE, NOT THE MAYOR?

>> WELL, IN THE END, THE MAYOR IS HELD ACCOUNTABLE.

>> I KNOW, BUT THE MEMBERS OF THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE --

>> THAT'S WHERE THE PRESSURE NEEDS TO BE SO THAT IT FILTERS DOWN TO THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEMBERS.

>> OKAY.
THERE IS NO WAY IN THE CURRENT STRUCTURE IS WHAT I'M HEARING TO HOLD THE MEMBERS ACCOUNTABLE DIRECTLY.

>> OTHER THAN ATTENDING SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETINGS AND PUBLIC

COMMENT.
LEGALLY NO.

>> OKAY.

>> CORRECT.
THE IDEA -- AND WE WERE BOTH INVOLVED IN THE EFFORTS IN THE LATE 80s AND EARLY 90s -- WAS TO HAVE THE MAYOR OWN THE SCHOOLS BECAUSE EVERYBODY KNOWS WHO THE MAYOR IS, AND THE MAYOR IS GOING TO BE ON THE BALLOT.
THE REALITY IS THAT AFTER A FEW YEARS A LOT OF MEMBERS OF THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE WEREN'T OPPOSED, WHICH MEANT THEY

WEREN'T VERY ACCOUNTABLE EITHER.
IN THIS BODY, WHEN I WAS HERE,
THEY WERE ANY PLACE FROM 23 TO
41 OF US RAN EVERY TWO YEARS.
THAT SYSTEM YOU DID NOT A GOOD
FAITH EFFORT FROM THE PARENTS
FROM EAST BOSTON ON THE SCHOOL
COMMITTEE.
THAT JUST DIDN'T SEEM TO HAPPEN
FOR REASONS AS I SAID IN MY
TESTIMONY -- I BELIEVE DEEP IN
MY HEART IN ADDITION TO MAKING
THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE MORE
REPRESENTATIVE GEOGRAPHICALLY,
RACE, GENDER, EVERYTHING ELSE
THAT YOU WOULD IN FACT HAVE
PEOPLE THAT THIS IS WHAT THEY
CARED ABOUT AS OPPOSED TO
RUNNING FOR THE COUNCIL OR FOR
CLERK OF COURTS OR FOR SHERIFF,
WHATEVER THE CASE MAY BE, WHICH
IS WHAT PEOPLE IN THE SCHOOL
COMMITTEE HAD DONE FOR DECADES.
THAT DID NOT CHANGE WITH THE
13-MEMBER COMMITTEE.

>> I GUESS THE BACKWARDS WOULD
BE THEN A PERSON NOT TAKING BOLD
MOVES OR BEING ABLE TO BE OUT
FRONT OR PROGRESSIVE TO PROTECT
THEIR POSITION AS AN APPOINTEE
ON THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE IS
ENSURED BY THE FACT ONLY THE
MAYOR CAN APPOINT THEM.
YOU POINTED OUT THAT PEOPLE USE
IT AS A POLITICAL STEPPINGSTONE
TO GET ON SOMETHING ELSE.
THEY WON'T CARE ABOUT EDUCATION
OR EQUITY.
I WOULD ARGUE THEY HAVE THE SAME
ISSUE.
THEY DON'T HAVE TO CARE EITHER
WAY IF THEY'RE APPOINTED IF THEY
DO THE BIDDING OF THE MAYOR AND
DO EXACTLY WHAT HE SAYS
REGARDLESS OF THE RESULTS,
REGARDLESS OF THE ANGER,
REGARDLESS OF THE ANGST OF THE
PARENTS.
THERE'S A BALANCING ACT IN BOTH
WAYS, I SUPPOSE.

>> FORGIVE ME IF YOU MAY OR MAY
NOT HAVE BEEN LISTENING, THIS

HAS BEEN A DISCUSSION GOING ON
FOR ABOUT 150 YEARS.
WE'VE ONLY BEEN AROUND FOR ABOUT
HALF OF IT.

>> THANK YOU.

>> THANK YOU, COUNCILOR EDWARDS.
THANK YOU AGAIN TO THE TWO OF
YOU FOR BEING HERE, FOR THE
HISTORY LESSON BOTH THIS EVENING
AND LEADING UP TO TONIGHT.
THANK YOU.

AT THIS POINT, JUST BEFORE THE
SECOND PANEL COMES DOWN, I'D
LIKE TO GIVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO
THREE MORE FOLKS FOR PUBLIC
TESTIMONY.
DAMON, TESHAWN, AND MONTY.

>> THANK YOU FOR HAVING ME
TODAY.

MY NAME IS DAMON.
I HAVE A DAUGHTER AT PRESCOTT.
I PERSONALLY DON'T WANT TO VOTE
FOR A SCHOOL COMMITTEE.
IT JUST ADDS PEOPLE TO AN
ALREADY CROWDED -- THEREFORE, I
DO NOT HAVE THE TIME TO PROPERLY
RESEARCH THE PEOPLE THAT I VOTE
FOR TODAY.

I PREFER TO HAVE THE MAYOR
RESPONSIBLE AS A POINT OF
CONTACT FOR COMPLAINTS OR
PRAISE.

HOWEVER, THE SCHOOL IS
ULTIMATELY FORMED [INAUDIBLE].
EVERY TRANSITION TO MOVE SCHOOL
IS DISRUPTIVE FOR BOTH THE
STUDENT AND THE PARENT.
FOR THE STUDENTS, IT RESETS
RELATIONSHIPS AND LIKELY
INCREASES BULLYING.

FOR THE PARENTS, EVERY LOTTERY
DONE IS EXTREMELY STRESSFUL.
EVERY SCHOOL HAS A DIFFERENT
COST BENEFIT ANALYSIS BECAUSE
THEY HAVE DIDN'T START AND
ENDING TIMES, COMMUTES, AND
NUMBER OF GRADES.

OUR COMMUTES MUST CHANGE.
IF THE HOURS OF THE SCHOOL
CHANGE, WE HAVE TO MOVE OUT OF
BOSTON.

WE FELT ORIGINALLY THAT WE'D WON
AS OUR CHILDREN HAD A SEAMLESS
1-8 BUT WITH THE PRESENT
CHANGES, WE MAY BE FORCED OUT OF
BOSTON.
THANK YOU.

>> THANK YOU.
MR. TINSLEY.

>> MY NAME IS TESHAWN.
I AM AN EDUCATOR AT AN
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL IN AN
OSTENSIBLY SEPARATE CLASSROOM.
IT MEANS TEACHING IN A SPECIAL
NEEDS CLASSROOM FOR THE BPS.
FOR ME, MY STUDENTS ARE MORE
THAN JUST MY STUDENTS.
THEY'RE MY FAMILY AWAY FROM MY
OWN.
EACH COMES FROM A DIFFERENT
BACKGROUND, AND EACH HAS A
DIFFERENT STORY TO TELL.
I'M HERE TO SPEAK FOR THEM AND
CHILDREN JUST LIKE THEM.
TRANSPORTATION ISSUES, SCHOOL
START TIMES, AND LACK OF
EDUCATIONAL VISION HAVE HINDERED
THE DEVELOPMENT NOT ONLY AT THE
SCHOOL LEVEL BUT AT THE
EXECUTIVE LEVEL.
ON MANY DAYS MY STUDENTS WHO ARE
SUPPOSED TO HAVE DAY-TO-DAY HAVE
SUFFERED FROM A LACK OF
OVERSIGHT FROM THE BPS
TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT AND
HAVE MISSED THEIR BEST.
I HAVE CUT INTO MY INSTRUCTION
PURPOSELY IN ORDER TO ENSURE
THEY START THEIR DAY WITH A GOOD
MEAL.
I HAVE VISITED OTHER SCHOOLS,
AND THEY HAVE TOLD ME THIS
EXPERIENCE IS A SIMILAR
EXPERIENCE FOR THEM.
4,000 HOMELESS STUDENTS ACROSS
THE CITY OF BOSTON HAVE
SEEMINGLY BEEN OVERLOOKED.
WE HAVEN'T EVEN BEGAN TO ADDRESS
THE SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL TRAUMAS
THAT MANY STUDENTS ARE DEALING
WITH AT SUCH A YOUNG AGE.
IF IT WOULD PLEASE THE COUNCIL,
I WOULD LIKE TO SHOW SOMETHING.

I MEET STUDENTS AROUND THE BUILDING EVERY DAY GIVING HIGH-FIVES AND SHARING A LAUGH BEFORE GOING BACK TO THE CLASSROOMS.

ONE MORNING, AS I STOOD IN THE SCHOOL CAF, A FRIEND WALKED OVER TO ME.

HE SPOKE AND I COMMENTED ON HIS SWEATER.

HE MENTIONED HOW IT WAS GIVEN TO HIM BY HIS DAD, WHO MENTIONED HOW HE MISSED HIS FATHER WHO WAS, QUOTE, UP THERE.

BECAUSE HE HAD SUBCOMBED TO THE VIOLENCE IN HIS NEIGHBORHOOD.

HE AND I SHARED A MOMENT BECAUSE I TOO LOST MY FATHER AT A VERY YOUNG AGE.

HE MENTIONED HIS MOTHER BEING TOO BROKE FOR CHRISTMAS.

IT WAS DISHEARTENING THE EMOTIONAL TRAUMA HE ALREADY ENDURED.

THE ONLY THING I COULD DO WAS TO ADVISE THE SCHOOL COUNSELOR OF THE SITUATION.

WE DESERVE REPRESENTATION THAT UNDERSTANDS THEM, THAT UNDERSTANDS THE CHALLENGES THAT EDUCATORS FACE BUT NOT JUST TO TEACH BUT TO INSPIRE.

AN APPOINTED SCHOOL COMMITTEE DOES NOT WORK FOR EVERY STUDENT OR THEIR FAMILIES.

THEIR VOICES ARE NOT OFTEN HEARD.

I URGE THE COUNCIL TO EMPOWER ACCOUNTABLE REPRESENTATIVE LEADERSHIP FOR OUR SCHOOLS NOT JUST BECAUSE OF OUR STUDENTS BUT BECAUSE FAMILIES DESERVE MORE THAN JUST BUSINESS AS USUAL. THANK YOU.

>> THANK YOU.

THANK YOU FOR BEING A TEACHER. MONTY?

>> THANK YOU.

MY NAME IS MONTY.

I'M A MEMBER OF THE BOSTON EDUCATIONAL JUSTICE ALLIANCE AND THE BOARD OF CITIZENS FOR PUBLIC

SCHOOLS, AND I LIVE IN JAMAICA
PLAIN.

THANK YOU FOR HOLDING THIS
HEARING ON WHAT IS CURRENTLY A
VERY IMPORTANT MATTER.

BOSTON NEEDS TO RETURN TO A
DEMOCRATICALLY ELECTED SCHOOL
COMMITTEE.

THIS IS A DISCUSSION FRAUGHT
WITH A RATE OF GENERATIONS OF
STRUGGLES OVER RACE AND CLASS
AND WITH COMPLEX DIFFICULTIES
FACING BOSTON.

I DID A DISSERTATION ON THE
STRUGGLES OF THE BLACK COMMUNITY
IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS 1956 TO 1987.

IN IT, I EXPLORED THE TERRIBLE
HISTORY OF DEEP RACISM IN THE
SCHOOLS, HOW THE BLACK COMMUNITY
STRUGGLED TO END SEGREGATED
SCHOOLING AND TRANSFORM TEACHING
AND LEARNING AND WHY THESE
STRUGGLES HAD ONLY LIMITED
SUCCESS.

THE SHORT ANSWER WAS THE
CONTINUED VICTORY OF RACISM.

AT TIMES IN A SOFTER FORM OVER
THE NEEDS OF PUBLIC EDUCATION.

THOSE WERE THE KEY PROBLEMS OF
THE ELECTED SCHOOL COMMITTEE,
WHICH WERE ALSO FREQUENTLY RIFE
WITH INCOMPETENCE, EDUCATIONAL
IGNORANCE, OPPORTUNITYISM, AND
EVEN THIEVERY AS WE HEARD FROM
THE PREVIOUS PANEL.

THAT HISTORY WOULD SEEM TO --
HOWEVER, OVER THE YEARS WE HAVE
SEEN THE APPOINTED COMMITTEE
MAKE DECISIONS THAT ARE
EDUCATIONALLY UNSOUND, FAIL TO
FACE EQUITY BUT PERPETUATE
INEQUALITY, AND ARE NOT IN THE
INTEREST OF ANY PARENTS,
TEACHERS, STUDENTS, OR THE
COMMUNITY.

THE COMMITTEE HAVE SEEN FAR MORE
WILLING TO CORPORATE INTERESTS
OVER VOICES THAT MUST BE MOST
HEARD.

I'VE STUDIED EDUCATION ACROSS
THE COUNTRY IN MY WORK AS A
FORMER DIRECTOR.

I CAN TELL YOU THAT KIND OF
TERRIBLE APPOINTED COMMITTEE HAS

CERTAINLY BEEN TRUE IN NEW YORK CITY AND CHICAGO. BECAUSE OF CHANGE OF DEMOGRAPHICS IN THE QUARTER CENTURY SINCE THE START OF THE COMMITTEE, INCLUDING THE HUGE GROWTH IN LATINX AND OTHER IMMIGRANT GROUPS, THE ELECTORAL LANDSCAPE OF THIS CITY HAS CHANGED.

I BELIEVE THAT THE CITY COUNCIL THAT ITS COMPOSITION AND ITS VOTING COMES CLOSER TO REPRESENTING THIS NEW BOSTON.

I BELIEVE THAT AN ELECTED SCHOOL COMMITTEE WILL NOW DO THE SAME. IN ADDITION, THE BOSTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE NEEDS A VOTING STUDENT REPRESENTATION.

IT WOULD BE FAR MORE RESPONSIVE TO THE NEEDS OF THE PEOPLE WHO THE SCHOOL SYSTEM IS INTENDED TO SERVE.

IT WILL NOT BE A PANACEA, BUT IT WILL PROVIDE THE SPACE AND OPPORTUNITY FOR ACTIVE COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND FOR EDUCATIONAL PROGRESS THAT THE APPOINTED COMMITTEE HAS NOT DONE AND SHOWS NO SIGNS IT WILL DO.

IT IS TIME FOR A CHANGE.

IT IS TIME TO STRENGTHEN AND EXPAND DEMOCRACY, AND IT IS TIME FOR THE CITY OF BOSTON TO HAVE AN ELECTED SCHOOL COMMITTEE. THANK YOU.

>> THANK YOU, MONTY.

>> NOW I WOULD LIKE TO CALL DOWN OUR SECOND PANEL.

WE HAVE TENEISHA SULLIVAN FROM THE ACLU, RUBY, BOSTON EDUCATION AND JUSTICE ALLIANCE, EDITH FROM BEAM, AND MARY BENTONFIELD FROM QUEST.

DOESN'T MATTER WHERE YOU SIT. OH, THANK YOU.

>> THANK YOU ALL FOR BEING HERE. THE MICROPHONES WILL SCOOT A LITTLE BIT. THANK YOU. TENEISHA, I'M GOING TO START

WITH YOU.
INTRODUCE YOURSELF FOR THE
RECORD, AND GIVE ANY TESTIMONY
THAT YOU WOULD LIKE TO SHARE.

>> GOOD EVENING.
THANK YOU, COUNCILOR
ESSAIBI-GEORGE, FOR THIS
OPPORTUNITY TO SPEAK WITH THE
EDUCATION COMMITTEE OF THE CITY
COUNCIL THIS EVENING.
I WILL NOT BE GIVING THE OPENING
TESTIMONY ON BEHALF OF THE
BRANCH.
THAT WILL BE DONE BY JOSE LOPEZ.
I'M A RESIDENT OF HYDE PARK AND
CURRENT PRESIDENT OF THE NAACP
BOSTON BRANCH.

>> THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR BEING
HERE.

>> THANK YOU.

>> GOOD EVENING.
MY NAME IS JOSE LOPEZ.
I AM A RESIDENT OF ROXBURY, A
HOMEOWNER THERE, AND CHAIR OF
THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE OF THE
BOSTON BRANCH OF THE NAACP.
THANK YOU, MADAME CHAIR, FOR
HAVING US TONIGHT.
THANK YOU TO THE COUNCILORS
FOR OF EDUCATION CIVIL
RIGHTS FOLK HERE.
I JUST WANT TO THANK ALL OF YOU
FOR THE WORK THAT YOU'VE DONE UP
UNTIL THIS MOMENT, I KNOW IT'S
LONG WORK, KNOW THAT WE'RE GOING
TO CONTINUE THIS FIGHT.
THANK YOU LYDIA EDWARDS FOR
ARRANGING SUCH POIGNANT POINTS.
I APPRECIATE YOUR ANALYSIS AND
QUESTIONS ALWAYS.
I DO THINK I WANT TO CLARIFY THE
RECORD ON COUPLE OF THINGS.
I THINK IT'S IMPORTANT TO NOTE
THAT THE FIRST REFERENDUM THAT
ACTUALLY CHANGED THE SCHOOL
COMMITTEE, ONLY PASSED BY 51%
MARGIN.
AND THERE WERE 0,000 BALLOTS
CAST THAT WERE LEFT BLANK ON THE
QUESTION.

THERE WAS AN UPRISE AT THE NEXT ELECTION WHERE IT WAS WITH 69-31 THAT WAS AFTER LEGISLATURE HAD ALREADY LEGISLATED ON THE QUESTION.

SO I THINK IT'S IMPORTANT THAT WHEN WE'RE DEALING WITH KNOWS NUMBERS WE LOOK AT WHAT THEY WERE AND SOME OF THE CONTEXT AROUND THOSE.

THE FIRST TIME THE CITY WAS DEALING WITH THE ISSUE IT WASN'T SO CLEAR CUT.

51% MARGIN ISN'T MUCH ESPECIALLY WHEN YOU HAVE 20% OF THE FOLK UNDECEDED ON THE ISSUE.

IN ADDITION TO THAT I DO WANT TO SPEAK ON THE QUESTION OF ACCOUNTABILITY COMPLETELY RESTING ON THE MAYOR.

I THINK WE ALSO HAVE TO BE MINDFUL THAT 26% OF OUR CHILDREN IN BOSTON DO NOT ATTEND BOSTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

AND SO FOR ALL OF THOSE FAMILIES WHO ARE VOTING THE GOVERNANCE OF BOSTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS IS NOT THEIR MAIN ISSUE, I WOULD ARGUE WHEN DECIDING ON NEXT MAYOR AND SO WE HAVE TO BE CAREFUL TO ASSUME THAT EVERYONE'S APPROACHING THE ELECTION OF THE MAYOR WITH EDUCATION AT THE TOP OF THEIR LIST SPECIFICALLY FOR AT LEAST THOSE 26% OF CHILDREN WHO DON'T ATTEND BPS SCHOOLS. AROUND THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE TO SHARE INPUT BY MEMBERS, EXPERTISE, OUR MISSION, ALSO BY HISTORY.

LET'S TALK ABOUT SOME OF THE THINGS THAT HAVE OCCURRED DURING AN ELECTED SCHOOL COMMITTEE. WE HAVE SEEN BETWEEN IS THE 74-1980 OVER 1,000 BLACK AND MINORITY TEACHERS AND ADMINISTRATORS ATED TO OUR SYSTEM.

WE SAW THE FIRST TIME IN OUR HISTORY, EVEN UP TO THIS POINT FIRST TIME WE HAD TWO AFRICAN AMERICAN SUPERINTENDENTS RUN OUR SCHOOLS BACK TO BACK.

THE GUIDING QUESTION HERE IS

WHETHER ANOTHER GOVERNING
STRUCTURE COULD LEAD TO MORE
ACCOUNTABILITY FOR THE ACTIONS
OF OUR SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEMBERS
AND WHETHER WE SHOULD HAVE THAT
MECHANISM IN PLACE HERE IN
BOSTON.

I THINK IT'S ALSO WORTHY TO NOTE
THAT ONE OF OUR SPEAKERS LIVES
IN THE CITY OF HOLE BROOK WITH
ELECTED SCHOOL COMMITTEE.
THE PARTICIPATION OF OUR PARENTS
AND COMMUNITY STAKEHOLDERS IN
DECISION MAKING PROCESS IS
LIMITED TO TWO OFFICIAL AVENUES.
FIRST BEING PARTICIPATION IN
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETINGS.
THE SECOND BY A VOTE FOR THE
MAYOR TO APPOINT THESE MEMBERS.
IN TRYING TO UNDERSTAND
CONTEXTUALIZE HOW MUCH POWER AND
CHOICE REALLY EXISTS I'LL OFFER
YOU THREE VIGNETTES.

THERE ARE THREE INSTANCES WHERE
I WONDER IF SCHOOL COMMITTEE
MEMBERS MIGHT HAVE CONDUCTED
THEY WILL SELF DIFFERENTLY IF
THEY WERE HELD ACCOUNTABLE BY
LOCAL ELECTIONS.

THE FIRST, ON OCTOBER 23, 2015,
THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE SIGNED AN
AGREEMENT TO OFFER SEVERANCE
PACKAGES TO TEACHERS THAT WERE
OCCUPYING SUITABLE POSITIONS OF
THOSE OVER 00 TEACHERS,
CHARACTERIZE AS TEACHERS OF
COLOR, BLACK AND OF HAVING BEEN
EVALUATED AS PROFICIENT OR
EXEMPLARY.

AT THE SAME TIME, BPS WAS IN
NONCOMPLIANCE WITH THE FEDERAL
COURT ORDER REQUIRING 5% OF THE
TEACHING FACULTY BE BLACK, AT
THAT TIME WE WERE LESS THAN 21%.
NOTWITHSTANDING THE NEEDS OF
DIVERSIFY, NECESSITATING THE
HIRING OF MORE TEACHERS OF CO
COLOR, THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE
REQUIRED THAT IN A SEVERANCE
PACKAGE OFFERS TO THESE TEACHERS
IN EXCHANGE FOR RIGHT TO
POSITION THAT THEY NEVER APPLY
FOR A POSITION WITHIN BPS IN
THEIR LIVES.

EXCEPT AS SUBSTITUTE.

THESE WERE WELL SEASONED
EDUCATORS WITH YEARS OF
EXPERIENCE.

WHO HAD BEEN EVALUATED
ALTERNATES A MINIMUM AT
PROFICIENT AND REQUIRE THAT THEY
LEAVE THE SYSTEM NEVER ABLE TO
APPLY.

THIS DOCUMENT WAS SIGNED BY OUR
SCHOOL COMMITTEE.

A SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEMBER IN
CITED BY RACIAL ANIMUS YELLED AT
A PARENT, DISPARAGING THEM BASED
ON RACE AT A OPEN MEETING AND
PERCEIVED ECONOMIC STATUS OF
THIS PARENT.

THE THIRD EXAMPLE WAS A
SURPRISING AND AVOIDABLE ERROR
HOW SCHOOL -- THESE SCHOOL
ASSIGNMENT SYSTEM WAS
IMPLEMENTED FOR SIXTH GRADE.

FAMILIES ARE SUPPOSED TO HAVE
ACCESS TO TWO TEAR ONE BUT
ALGORITHM WAS SET TO SET BASIS.

AS RESULT SCHOOLS THAT DIDN'T
OFFER 6th GRADE WERE REMOVED
FROM THE LIST OF SCHOOLS THAT
PARENTS COULD CHOOSE.

CONSEQUENTLY THIS MEANT THAT NO
TEAR ONE REMAIN WHO WERE
ULTIMATELY REPRESENTED BY BLACK
AND BROWN CHILDREN.

THAT ALGORITHM WAS REQUIRED TO
BE AUDITED EVERY YEAR HAD IN THE
BEEN AUDITED FOR FOUR.

CAUSING ARGUABLY HARM TO THESE
FAMILIES.

THAT WAS SCHOOL COMMITTEE
RESPONSIBILITY.

THESE THREE EXAMPLES PROVIDE
INSTANCES WHERE CONDUCT BY
SCHOOL MITT TEE MEMBERS WERE THE
PROXIMATE CAUSE OF POOR
REPRESENTATION OF THE VALUES OF
OUR SCHOOL SYSTEM AND POLICIES
THAT NOT ONLY POTENTIALLY
CAUSE -- EXCUSE ME, HARM TO OUR
CHILDREN BUT MADE IT MORE
DIFFICULT OF SCHOOL DEPARTMENT
TO MEET OBLIGATION TO DIVERSIFY
AS ORDERED AND ACHIEVE ITS
MISSION.

THIS CONSEQUENTLY LEAVES MANY TO

WONDER IF AN ELECTED BODY WOULD
YIELD DIFFERENT RESULTS,
DIFFERENT DECISIONS MADE ON
THESE POLICIES COULD RESIDENTS
MORE EASILY REMOVE A SCHOOL
COMMITTEE MEMBER, MOTIVATED BY
RACIAL AND ECONOMIC BIAS.
COULD PARENTS FIND MORE DIGNITY.
AS FAR AS WE'RE CONCERNED
ACCOUNTABILITY IN THE DECISION
MAKING PROCESS AND EQUITABLE
OUTCOMES FOR CHILDREN WHO IS
MOST IMPORTANT IN THIS PROCESS.
WE ARE WILLING TO SUPPORT THE
GOVERNING STRUCTURE THAT MOST
EFFICIENTLY, EQUITABLY AND WITH
GREATEST DEFERENCE TO THE WELL
BEING OF OUR CHILDREN AND
RELATIONSHIPS WITH THEIR PARENTS
ACHIEVES THE GOALS AND MISSION
OF THE BOSTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS.
IN ADDITION, HISTORICALLY
ENFRANCHISEMENT HAS NEVER RESTED
ON SOMEONE'S ABILITY TO PASS A
TEST OR SOMEONE'S ABILITY TO PAY
A TAX.
OR OF THEIR DEMONSTRATION OF A
THEIR ABILITY TO MAKE A GOOD
CHOICE.
OR HOW THE FIELD OF CANDIDATES
MIGHT BE OR HOW CONTENTIOUS THE
DECISION WOULD BE.
THE EXPECTED OUTCOME OF VOTER
PARTICIPATION.
AS A MATTER OF FACT THESE WERE
OFTEN THE PRETEXT TO ENSURE
DISENFRANCHISEMENT OF
MARGINALIZED PEOPLE.
THE PARADE OF HORRIBLES OFFERED
TONIGHT COULD POSSIBLY BE DEALT
WITH BY BEING CAREFUL IN THE
LEGISLATION AND THE WAYS IN
WHICH WE MOVE FORWARD.
AS ALWAYS, THE BOSTON BRANCH OF
THE NAACP STANDS BY ITS MISSION
TO MAKE SURE THAT EQUITY FOR ALL
CHILDREN IS ACHIEVED ESPECIALLY
ALONG CONTOURS OF RACE AND
ECONOMIC STATUS.
THANK YOU SO MUCH.

>> THANK YOU, JOSE.
RUBY.

>> THANK YOU FOR HOSTING THAT HEARING.

I AM THE DIRECTOR OF THE BOSTON EDUCATION JUSTICE ALLIANCE COALITION OF PARENTS, STUDENTS AND TEACHERS WORKING TO SUPPORT PUBLIC EDUCATION IN BOSTON. EVERY SINGLE CITY AND TOWN FALL IN STATE WHY NOT BOSTON. ALONG THE SAME LINES I'D LIKE TO OFFER VIGNETTE THAT HAPPENED LAST WEEK ON WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 5th, I WAS AT THE BUILDING UNTIL MIDNIGHT.

LISTENING TO THE BACK AND FORTH OF SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEMBERS TALK ABOUT THE DIFFICULTY OF MAKING THE DECISION TO CLOSE WEST ROXBURY EDUCATIONAL COMPLEX. THIS HI HAVE TO DECIDE THE FATE OF 690 STUDENTS ON DECEMBER 19th THEY ASKED BPS ADMINISTRATION QUESTIONS WANTING MORE INFORMATION, DATA AND OPTIONS.

MADE UP OF SEVEN VOTING MEMBERS, CONTRACT WHO STEPPED DOWN FROM HER POST.

ALEX, DR. COLEMAN REMARKS GINA ROBINSON, JERRY ROBINSON AND MICHAEL O'NEILL.

EVELYN REYES IS THE STUDENT ADVISORY SHE HAS NO VOTING PRIVILEGE.

IN ITS ABSENCE THE SEVEN NOW SIX PEOPLE ARE GIVEN THE TASK OF SHUTTING DOWN A SCHOOL AND DISBURSING STUDENTS TO WHEREVER THERE IS SPACE.

THE SEVEN MEMBERS TRIED TO MAKE SENSE OF THE MESS IN ORDER TO MAKE THE BEST DECISIONS.

THEY HAVE SHARED HOW THEY STAYED AWAKE THINKING WHAT THEY SHOULD BE DO, LISTENED TO PARENTS, STUDENTS, TEACHERS AND SO MANY COMMUNITY VOICES UNANIMOUSLY AND RESOUNDINGLY DEMAND NOT TO HARM OUR CHILDREN.

OUR PUBLIC EDUCATION AND FOR SCHOOL COMMUNITIES TO STAY TOGETHER.

THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE ASKED HARD QUESTION, SPOKEN UP AND ON

BEHALF OF OUR STUDENTS.
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEMBERS
REFERENCE THE PARTHENON REPORT
WHICH SHOWED RESEARCH THAT 91%
OF STUDENTS WHO ENTERED SCHOOL
IN 9th GRADE STAYED FOR THEIR
ENTIRE HIGH SCHOOL CAREER
GRADUATED IN FOUR YEARS.
HOWEVER, 35% OF STUDENTS WHO
EVENTUALLY TRANSFERRED TO
ANOTHER HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATED IN
FOUR YEARS.

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEMBERS
EMPHATICALLY UNDERSTAND THAT
THEY WILL BE DIRECTLY
RESPONSIBLE FOR THE DROP OUT OF
OVER 287 STUDENTS WITH THIS ONE
DECISION.

THAT DOES NOT INCLUDE
GENERATIONS OF YOUNG PEOPLE WHO
WILL FOLLOW THEIR PARENTS' LEAD
IN DROPPING OUT.

HOWEVER, ON DECEMBER 19th,
THEY WILL VOTE.

MOST LIKELY TO CLOSE WEST
ROXBURY AND DISPERSE STUDENTS
WHEREVER BPS HAS FIRST CHOICE.
WHY, BECAUSE THEY ALMOST ALWAYS
VOTE TO UNANIMOUSLY PASS
WHATEVER IS PUT BEFORE THEM.

THAT IN ESSENCE IS WHAT IS
FLAWED ABOUT APPOINTED SCHOOL
COMMITTEE.

SEVEN LONG TIME RESIDENTS,
PROFESSIONALS, PEOPLE DEDICATED
TO EDUCATION TRYING TO DO WHAT
IS BEST FOR BOSTON'S CHILDREN,
TEACHERS AND PARENTS BUT
CONSISTENTLY VOTE WHAT THEY HAVE
BEEN APPOINTED TO VOTE.

WE KNOW THAT MAYOR WALSH
ULTIMATELY SELECTS COMMITTEE
MEMBERS," RIM SYSTEM AND CHOICE
OF TOMMY CHANG, THE MAYOR PUSHES
IN A PARTICULAR DIRECTION AND
SCHOOL COMMITTEE RESPONDS
ACCORDINGLY.

BOSTON IS A CITY WITH TIGHT MALE
CONTROL THAT IS CENTERED ON ONE
PERSON.

IT IS HEART WRENCHING BECAUSE
IT'S NOT DEMOCRATIC.

BOSTON SERVES LARGEST NUMBER OF
STUDENTS OF COLOR ACROSS

MASSACHUSETTS AND IS THE ONLY APPOINTED SCHOOL COMMITTEE. WHILE BPS IS THE LARGEST LIFE OF THE CITY'S FINANCIAL PIE, MANY VOTERS CERTAINLY CARE ABOUT EDUCATION, THE FACT IS THAT THE MAYOR'S COMMITMENT TO PUBLIC EDUCATION IS ONLY A PIECE OF HIS CAMPAIGN.

ONE PIECE OF HIS ADMINISTRATION'S PRIORITIES AND ONE PIECE OF WHY PEOPLE DID OR DID NOT VOTE FOR HIM.

OUR CURRENT SYSTEM DOES NOT ALLOW FOR THOSE GENERATIONS OF BOSTONIANS MOST DIRECTLY IMPACTED BY BPS TO VOTE.

YOUNG PEOPLE WHOSE FATE IS BEING DECIDED THROUGH THIS APPOINTED GROUP HAVE NO SAY SO IN WHAT HAPPENS TO THEM.

REPRESENTATIVE HAS NO VOTING POWER.

ALL OUR COMMUNITIES CAN DO IS PROVIDE TESTIMONY, MEET WITH ELECTED OFFICIALS WHO HAVE NO DIRECT SAY OVER THE SCHOOLS, HOPE THAT AN UNDEMOCRATICALLY SELECTED COMMITTEE HIS EBBS TO THOSE WHO SHOULD BE ITS REAL CONSTITUENTS AND HOPE THAT DECISION BY AN APPOINTED GROUP REPRESENTS THEIR BEST INTERESTS.

AN ELECTED SCHOOL COMMITTEE CREATES SPACE FOR DEMOCRATIC PROCESS TO HOLD ACCOUNTABILITY FOR PEOPLE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE BEST PART OF OUR CITY.

OUR CHILDREN.

THE FEAR OF AN ELECTED SCHOOL COMMITTEE IS ROOTED IN A VERY PRESENT HISTORY OF RACE IN BOSTON BUT DEMOGRAPHICS HAVE CHANGED SINCE THE START OF THE APPOINTED COMMITTEE.

ELECTION OF SIX WOMEN OF COLOR TO THE CITY COUNCIL INCLUDING THREE ELECTED CITY WIDE AS WELL AS THE ELECTION TO CONGRESS SHOWS WHEN IT COMES TO VOTING BOSTON IS OUT GROWING ITS PAST HISTORY OF RACE RIOTS AND SEGREGATION.

HOWEVER, OUR NEIGHBORHOODS

CONTINUE TO BE DIVIDED BY RACE
AND CLASS.
ACCORDING TO THE BOSTON PLANNING
AND DEVELOPMENT AGENCY IN 015,
IMMEDIATE I CAN'T BE FAMILY
INCOME WAS 26K WHILE MEDIAN IN
NEWLY INVESTED SEAPORT AREA WAS
111K.
THE STATISTICS BY ONLY
HIGHLIGHTED THE DISTURB CAN
RACIAL IMPLICATIONS WITH BLACK
BOSTONIANS HAVE MEDIAN NET WORTH
OF \$8 IN COMPARISON TO THE
MEDIAN NET WORTH OF \$47,500.
SO WE KNOW THAT RACE IS A FACTOR
IN HOW THE CITY IS DIVIDED.
I RAISE THIS POINT BECAUSE
COMMUNITY, PARENT AND CIVIL
RIGHTS GROUP WHO MOST REPRESENT
THESE COMMUNITIES ARE IN FAVOR
OF AN ELECTED SCHOOL COMMITTEE.
IT IS THE CORPORATE ELITE WHO
MOST BENEFIT FROM THE HARSH
INEQUITY IN BOSTON THAT
ACCORDING TO TODAY'S BOSTON
GLOBE MOST SUPPORTS UNELECTED,
UNDEMOCRATIC SCHOOL COMMITTEE.
WE PROPOSE ELECTED SCHOOL
COMMITTEE HAVE STRUCTURE SIMILAR
TO THAT OF THE CITY COUNCIL
WHICH THERE ARE SEVERAL
CITY-WIDE SEATS AS WELL AS
NEIGHBORHOOD SPECIFIC.
IN ADDITION WE SUPPORT ADDING
MUCH NEEDED VOTING YOUTH
REPRESENTATIVES.
THE BOSTON EDUCATION JUSTICE
ALLIANCE BELIEFS IN DEMOCRACY
AND CONCLUDES IT MAKES SENSE AT
THIS TIME FOR BOSTON TO RETURN
TO A FULLY ELECTED SCHOOL
COMMITTEE TO DIRECT OUR CITY'S
MOST IMPORTANT DUTY THE CARE AND
EDUCATION OF OUR CHILDREN.
THANK YOU.

>> THANK YOU, RUBY.
WELCOME.

>> THANK YOU, MADAM CHAIR, GOOD
EVENING, HONORABLE CITY
COUNCILORS MY NAME IS HE'D IT I
AM GRADUATE OF BOSTON PUBLIC
SCHOOLS, I ALSO SERVED 14 YEARS

AS A TEACHER AND 18 YEARS AS A DISTRICT WIDE ADMINISTRATOR, I AM HERE TO PRESENT AS PRESIDENT OF BOSTON EDUCATORS ALLIANCE OF MASSACHUSETTS OUR STATEMENT AND MY THANK YOU FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY TO SHARE THE POSITION ON THIS VERY IMPORTANT ISSUE.

WE BELIEVE THAT THE GOVERNANCE OF BOSTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS IS BROKEN.

THE MAYORAL POINTED BOSTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE HAS FAILED TO DELIVER EQUITABLE EDUCATION TO ALL BOSTON STUDENTS.

IT IS TIME TO RESTORE AN ELECTED SCHOOL COMMITTEE TO BOSTON AS IN EVERY OTHER CITY AND TOWN IN MASSACHUSETTS.

I'M SURE WE CAN ALL AGREE THAT THE MOST IMPORTANT CHARGE FOR ANY SCHOOL COMMITTEE HAS BEEN STATED IS TO ENSURE THAT THE SCHOOL THEY GOVERN PROVIDE QUALITY EDUCATION FOR ALL STUDENTS.

HOWEVER DESPITE THE PROMISES OF AN APPOINTED SCHOOL COMMITTEE THAT EDUCATION WOULD IMPROVE ALL STUDENTS IN BOSTON, BPS REMAINS AMONG THE LOWEST RANKS OF SCHOOL DISTRICTS IN MASSACHUSETTS.

ACCORDING TO LATEST STATE ACCOUNTABILITY DATA, BPS HAS 49 SCHOOLS IN NEED OF EITHER FOCUS OR BROAD SUPPORT FROM THE STATE. OPPORTUNITY AND ACHIEVEMENT GAPS PERSIST FOR STUDENTS OF COLOR, STUDENTS WHO ARE ENGLISH LEARNERS AND STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES.

LIKE SCHOOL COMMITTEES IN EVERY OTHER TOWN IN MASSACHUSETTS, THE BOSTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE TAKES ITS DIRECTION FROM THE MAYOR NOT FROM THE PARENTS OR OTHER CITIZENS.

THE MAYOR APPOINTS SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEMBERS AND THEY RESPOND PRIMARILY TO THE MAYOR. OR MAJOR ISSUES THAT DRIVE QUALITY OF EDUCATION SUCH AS BUDGET AND FACILITIES, THE MAYOR

MAKES DECISION IN THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE DUTIFULLY FOLLOWS THEM DESPITE THE EXPRESSED WISHES OF PARENTS, STUDENTS, OTHER CITIZENS AND OFTEN THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEMBERS THEMSELVES. WE KNOW THAT RECENTLY PARENTS, STUDENTS, BPS STAFF BY THE HUNDREDS HAVE PROTESTED TO THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE OVER BUDGET CUTS TO SCHOOLS, SCHOOL CLOSURES AND OTHER ISSUES AS MY COLLEAGUES HAVE STATED. THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE HAS LISTENED TO THESE PROTESTS AND HEARINGS AND FORUMS BUT HAVE LARGELY IGNORED THEM AS THEY HAVE VOTED THE MAYOR'S WISHES. THE BOSTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE CAN DISREGARD THE VOICES OF BOSTON CITIZENS BECAUSE IT IS DIRECTLY ACCOUNTABLE TO THE MAYOR AND NOT VOTERS.

AGAIN, UNLIKE SCHOOL COMMITTEES IN EVERY OTHER CITY AND TOWN IN MASSACHUSETTS, BOSTON CITIZENS NO LONGER ELECT MEMBERS OF THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE.

VOTERS IN BOSTON CANNOT DIRECTLY ELECT TO THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE PEOPLE WHO REPRESENT THEIR EDUCATIONAL PRIORITIES AND CONCERNS.

VOTERS ALSO CANNOT REMOVE SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEMBERS WHO TAKE ACTIONS CONTRARY TO THE INTERESTS OF THE VOTERS, WHY SHOULD BOSTON, A LARGE URBAN CITY WITH MAJORITY POPULATION OF PEOPLE OF COLOR BE THE ONLY CITY TOTALLY DISENFRANCHISED FROM THIS DEMOCRATIC PROCESS.

SINCE 1991, BOSTON HAS HAD SCHOOL COMMITTEES APPOINTED BY MAYORS OF THE CITY.

NEARLY THREE DECADES IS SUFFICIENT TIME FOR THE APPOINTED SCHOOL COMMITTEES TO HAVE DEMONSTRATED THAT THEY COULD DELIVER QUALITY EDUCATION TO ALL BOSTON RESIDENTS.

THEY HAVE NOT.

IT IS TIME TO RESTORE TO BOSTON CITIZENS THE RIGHTS ENJOYED BY

CITIZENS OF ALL OTHER
MASSACHUSETTS CITIES AND TOWNS.
BOSTON CITIZENS ARE COMPETENT TO
ELECT A MAYOR, A CITY COUNCIL
AND A HOST OF OTHER STATE AND
FEDERAL OFFICIALS, SURELY THEY
ARE COMPETENT TO ELECT MEMBERS
OF THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE.

IN CLOSING, WE REITERATE THAT
THE DATA SHOWS THAT THE
APPOINTED SCHOOL COMMITTEE HAS
FAILED TO DEMONSTRATE
IMPROVEMENT IN THE EDUCATIONAL
OUTCOMES FOR ALL BPS STUDENTS
AND HAS DISENFRANCHISED PARENTS
OVER AND OVER AGAIN FOR THE PAST
30 YEARS.

NEARLY 30 YEARS.

IN ORDER TO SAVE CURRENT AND
FUTURE GENERATIONS OF BOSTON
PUBLIC SCHOOL STUDENTS FROM
BEING CONDEMNED TO MEDIOCRE
EDUCATIONAL ANOTHER OUTCOMES
THAT ILL-PREPARES THEM FOR THE
PROFESSIONS OF THE FUTURE AND TO
GIVE BPS STUDENTS, PARENTS AND
CITIZENS INCLUDING THOSE WHO
SERVE AS TEACHERS,
ADMINISTRATORS AND STAFF IN THIS
GREAT CITY OF BOSTON, DECISION
MAKING PROCESS, THE TIME IS NOW
FOR AN ELECTED SCHOOL COMMITTEE.
THANK YOU.

>> THANK YOU, EDITH.
MARY.

>> GOOD EVENING, MY NAME IS MA
MARY, I HAVE BEEN BOSTON PUBLIC
SCHOOL PARENT SINCE 2000 WHEN MY
OLDEST ENTERED YOUNG ACHIEVERS
AS K1 STUDENT I'M A MEMBER OF
THE GRASS ROOTS PARENT GROUP
QUEST, QUALITY EDUCATION FOR
EVERY STUDENT.

AND RESIDENT OF JAMAICA PLAIN
AND PROUD TO BE REPRESENTED BY
COUNCILOR O'MALLEY.

THANK YOU FOR HOLDING THAT
HEARING AND FOR YOUR ADVOCACY ON
BEHALF OF BOSTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS.
WE'RE HERE BECAUSE WE CURRENTLY
DON'T HAVE A CHANCE TO ELECT OUR
SCHOOL COMMITTEE.

BUT YOU AS OUR CITY COUNCILORS
HAVE FREQUENTLY RAISED YOUR
VOICES TO SAD SLOW KATE FOR OUR
STUDENTS AND FAMILY, I AND OTHER
PARENTS APPRECIATE THE LISTENING
TOURS AND OTHER COMMUNITY GROUPS
I PARTICULARLY WANT TO THANK
COUNCILOR EDWARDS FOR COMING OUT
ON A COLD, RAINY NIGHT THE
MONDAY AFTER THANKSGIVING TO
CURTIS HALL TO MEET WITH QUEST
WHEN WE HELD A MEETING.

I ALSO APPRECIATE THE PUBLIC
STATEMENTS SUCH AS THE ONE READ
AT LAST WEEK'S SCHOOL COMMITTEE
ON THE BUILD BPS PLAN.

BUT THAT INDIRECT INFLUENCE,
IMPORTANT AS IT IS IS A
MITIGATING FACTOR DOES NOT
CHANGE THE FACT THAT AN ENTIRELY
APPOINTED SCHOOL COMMITTEE DI
DISENFRANCHISES PARENTS AND
GIVES TOO MUCH MR. POWER TO THE
MAYOR.

CITY HALL AND BPS MAKE DECISIONS
WITHOUT ANY PRIOR NOTICE MUCH
LESS COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT.
THROUGH RECENT EXAMPLES OF THIS
ARE THE FORCED DEPARTURE OF DR
DR. CHANG, ATTEMPT TO INSTITUTE
UNIFIED CHARTER DISTRICT
ENROLLMENT LOTTERY AND LACK OF
OVERSIGHT OF THE HOME BASED
STUDENT ASSIGNMENT SYSTEM WITH
THE PROBLEMS HIGHLIGHTED BY MR
MR. LOPEZ.

AS A RESULT EXPERIMENTS ARE
BLINDSIDED AND COME TO DISTRUST
THE DISTRICT.

FAMILY ENGAGEMENT COMES TO MEAN
PR MESSAGING TO GET PARENTS ON
BOARD WITH ALREADY DETERMINED
PLAN RATHER THAN A GENUINE
SHARED DECISION-MAKING PROCESS.

THUS, AB APPOINTED SCHOOL
COMMITTEE HAS DEMONSTRABLY
NEGATIVE IMPACT ON FAMILY AND
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT.

IT'S AT ODDS WITH DEMOCRACY AND
GIVEN THAT 86% OF BOSTON PUBLIC
SCHOOL STUDENTS ARE BLACK, ASIAN
OR LATINO, IT IS AT ODDS WITH
RACIAL EQUITY.

IT'S FUNDAMENTALLY CLASHES WITH

THE TENAMENT EXPRESSED BY AYANNA PRESSLEY THAT, QUOTE, THE PEOPLE CLOSEST TO THE PAIN SHOULD BE CLOSEST TO THE POWER DRIVING AND INFORMING OUR POLICY MAKING. FOR A LONG TIME I HAVE BEEN ON THE FENCE AND QUEST HAD NOT TAKEN POSITION.

HOWEVER, AFTER SO MANY YEARS OF SEEING THE PEOPLE CLOSEST TO THE PAIN SHUT OUT OF ANY DECISIONS AFFECTING OUR CHILDREN, OF WA WATCHING HELPLESSLY AS BOSTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE MAKES CHOICES THAT GO AGAINST CLEARLY EXPRESSED WISHES AND BEST INTERESTS OF FAMILY AND ST STUDENTS, THAT'S GOTTEN ME OFF THE FENCE.

I'M FIRMLY IN FAVOR OF BOSTON JOINING THE 98 TO 99% OF THE REST OF THE COUNTRY AND ALLOWING OUR COMMUNITY TO ELECT THE PEOPLE WHO TAKE CARE OF OUR SCHOOLS AND THROUGH THEM OUR CHILDREN.

THE VOICES OF PEOPLE CLOSEST TO THE PAIN NOT BUSINESS OR POLITICAL LEADERS WHO SIT ABOVE IT SHOULD ELECT OUR CITY SCHOOL LEADERS.

MOST RECENTLY AS YOU HAVE HEARD THE VOICES CLOSEST TO THE PAIN HAS BEEN PARENTS, TEACHERS AND STUDENTS OF THE McCORMICK MIDDLE SCHOOL AND WEST ROXBURY EDUCATION COMPLEX.

LISTENING TO THEM SPEAKING IN SPANISH OR IN THE HALTING ELOQUENT TONES OF A STUDENT ON THE AUTISM SPECTRUM I AM STRUCK BOTH BY THE POWER OF THOSE TESTIMONIES AND BY OUR POWERLESSNESS.

WE LACK THE POWER TO DO WHAT STATE REPRESENTATIVE CHARLES IA IANELLO DID NOT TO BE CONFUSED WITH CHRIS AFTER WHOM? CHAMBER IS NAMED.

THEN SUPERINTENDENT PROPOSED CLOSING 20 SCHOOLS AS COST SAVING.

THE REPRESENTATIVE WITH PARENTS, STUDENTS AND ALUMS FROM BOSTON

CLERICAL, DORCHESTER HIGH SCHOOL FOR GIRLS AND OLIVER WENDELL HOLMES PETITIONED THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE.

THEY VOWED TO, QUOTE, WORK FOR THE DEFEAT IN THIS FALSE ELECTION OF SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEMBERS WHO FAVOR THE SCHOOL CLOSING.

NOT ONLY DO WE LACK ANY REAL MECHANISM TO HOLD CITY HALL AND BPS FOR CRITICAL DECISIONS BUT SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEMBERS THEMSELVES MAY BE HOBbled FROM DOING WHAT THEY THINK IS RIGHT. THE APPOINTED SYSTEM MAKES THEM AND NONPROFIT OR ORGANIZATIONS DEPENDENT UPON THE MAYOR. POLITICS REMAINS VERY MUCH AT PLAY.

BUT IT'S POLITICS IN THE NEGATIVE SENSE OF INFLUENCE AND PAY TRICK -- TAKE TRONNAGE TO THE POSITIVE POTENTIAL OF ELECTORAL POLITICS, POTENTIAL THEME IN SO MANY LOCAL AND NATIONAL RACES THIS FALL.

I AM SO PROUD THAT FORMER ELECTED SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEMBER, I ASK HER PERMISSION, I HAVE A QUOTE FROM HER IN HERE.

SHE SAID THIS IN 1996, DURING THE REFERENDUM BATTLE OVER THE ELECTED SCHOOL COMMITTEE.

IT REALLY CONCERNS ME THAT WE WOULD GIVE UP IN BOSTON WHAT WE DUMPED TEA IN BOSTON HARBOR FOR. THEN SHE ADDED THIS IS REFERRING TO THE BILL CLINTON CAMPAIGN, IT'S DEMOCRACY, STUPID.

I WAS ASKED TO SPEAK HERE AS PARENT AND MEMBER OF QUEST BUT ALSO HISTORY PROFESSOR FOR MANY YEARS NOW AT BOSTON UNIVERSITY AND AT SOME POINT I WOULD BE HAPPY TO SPEAK ABOUT THE 19th CENTURY HISTORY THAT COUNCILOR GAVE BECAUSE I HAVE A DIFFERENT TAKE ON IT.

BUT BEFORE WRITING THESE COMMENTS, I DO WHAT I ALWAYS DO IN SPEAKING TO UNDERSTAND AN ISSUE I LISTEN TO PARENTS AND COMMUNITY MEMBERS AND RESEARCH

THE HISTORY.

THE DOMINANT NARRATIVE OF
DYSFUNCTIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE
IN THE '50S AND '80S IS NOT
ENTIRELY NEW ORLEANS NOR IS THE
THE WHOLE STORY.

PARTICULARLY IT'S IMPORTANT TO
ACKNOWLEDGE THAT BLACK ELECTED
OFFICIALS IN COMMUNITIES OF
COLOR LARGELY OPPOSE AN
APPOINTED SCHOOL COMMITTEE.
IN 1989 THE CITY COUNCIL VOTED
10-2 FOR AN APPOINTED BOARD.

THE TWO NO VOTES WERE THE TWO
AFRICAN AMERICAN COUNCILORS.
AFTER WHOM IRONICALLY IN THE
CONTEXT THAT HAVE VOTE SCHOOL
COMMITTEE HEADQUARTERS ARE NA
NAMED.

THE BLACK PARENT LEADER AT THAT
TIME HEAD OF THE CITY WIDE
PARENT COUNCIL VOTED ALSO
ADVOCATED VOTED AGAINST THE
BOARD BECAUSE IT GIVES COMPLETE
CONTROL TO THE MAYOR FOR
WHATEVER HE WANTS TO DO.

THE STATE LEGISLATURE, MANY
BLACK AND HISPANIC
REPRESENTATIVES VOTED AGAINST A
PETITION FOR APPOINTED BOARD.

MR. TYLER SPOKE ABOUT THE
ELECTION RESULTS WITH AGGREGATE
FIGURES, MISS HAD IS REALLY
HAPPENING AT MORE DEEP LEVEL, IN
BOTH 1991 AND 1996 WOULD SHOW
YOU THAT RACE WAS STRONGEST
PREDICTOR OF SUPPORT FOR AN
ELECTED SCHOOL COMMITTEE, WITH
VOTERS IN PREDOMINANTLY BLACK
WARDS FAR MORE LIKELY TO FAVOR
AN ELECTED COMMITTEE.

I THINK, DON'T QUOTE ME BECAUSE
I DIDN'T -- I THINK IT WAS 64%
OF THE DOMINANTLY BLACK WARDS IN
1991, TO KEEP ELECTED WARD WAS
57% IN 1996.

ALSO EAST BOSTON, CHARLESTOWN
ALSO WERE ARE COMMUNITIES THAT
HAD HIGHER PERCENTAGES VOTING TO
KEEP AN ELECTED BOARD.

THAT NARRATIVE THAT THE CITY
OVERWHELMINGLY VOTED JUST ISN'T
FALSE IT DOESN'T CAPTURE IT.
DEMOCRACY IS MESSY.

AS A 2016 REMINDS US A LOT CAN
GO WRONG.
IS WRONG.
I THANK YOU FOR HOLDING THIS
HEARING AND I LOOK FORWARD TO
FURTHER CONVERSATIONS ABOUT HOW
WE CAN MAKE IT RIGHT.
THANK YOU THANK YOU, MARY AND
THANK YOU TO ALL EVER YOU YOU
FOR YOUR TESTIMONY THIS EVENING.
I'M GOING TO OPEN UP FOR
QUESTIONS FROM MY COLLEAGUES.
COUNCILOR O'MALLEY.

>> THANK YOU, MADAM CHAIR.
THANK YOU ALL, LADIES AND
GENTLEMEN.
I REALLY APPRECIATE THAT TH
THOUGHTFUL AND IN MY OPINION
RIGHT ON THE MARK TESTIMONY THAT
YOU ALL GAVE AND PARTICULARLY
APPRECIATE YOUR CLOSING
ARGUMENTS ABOUT WHY POLITICS IN
THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE WE OUGHT TO
BE TALKING ABOUT AS A GOOD TH
THING.
YES, DEMOCRACY IS MESSY BUT
ALLOWS FOR THAT DIRECT
REPRESENTATION F. WE WERE TO
SUGGEST THERE'S NO POLITICS IN
THE CURRENT STRUCTURE WE'RE NOT
BEING HONEST.
TO OPEN THAT UP I FIRMLY BELIEVE
WE OUGHT TO BE EXPLORING AND
MOVING TO.
MY QUESTION IS, ANYONE CAN JUMP
IN OR EVERYONE JUST WEIGH IN I
SORT OF HEARD LOUDLY AND CLEARLY
A LOT OF SUPPORT FROM THIS PANEL
ON HAVING A SIMILAR STRUCTURE TO
THE 1983 VERSION, WHICH WOULD BE
FOUR AT-LARGE CITY WIDE ELECTED.
ANALOGOUS WITH THE COUNCIL
DISTRICTS.
ANY THOUGHT ON SORT OF WHAT I'VE
BEEN TALKING ABOUT WITH THIS
HYBRID APPROACH WHICH OTHER
CITIES HAVE DONE, WASHINGTON,
D.C. MAY HAVE CHANGED BACK.
HAVING SOME ELECTED AND SOME
APPOINTED DOES ANYONE SORT OF
WANT TO WEIGH IN ON THOUGHTS OF
THAT?

>> COUNCILOR O'MALLEY, I
ACTUALLY WANT TO BE VERY CLEAR
AS RELATES TO NAACP BOSTON
BRANCH AT THIS POINT IN TIME.
WE HAVE NOT FORMALLY COME OUT IN
SUPPORT OF ANY DICK GOVERNANCE
STRUCTURE.
BUT WHERE WE ARE FIRMLY
POSITIONED IS IN A BELIEF THAT
WHEN IT COMES TO THE
RELINQUISHMENT OF THE RIGHT TO
VOTE FOR SCHOOL COMMITTEE
REPRESENTATION UNDERSTAND CITY
OF BOSTON, THAT IT IS HIGH TIME
FOR US TO REVISIT THAT DECISION.
ANY TIME WE EITHER RELINQUISH
VOLUNTARILY OR WE ARE STRIPPED
OF OUR RIGHT TO VOTE IN THIS
COUNTRY, IT SHOULD ONLY BE AN
EXTREME CIRCUMSTANCES WHEN THERE
IS NO OTHER ALTERNATIVE.
SO WHILE THERE MAY HAVE BEEN
CONDITIONS IN 1989 AND 1996 THAT
LID THE CITY TO BELIEVE THAT WE
HAD NO OTHER ALTERNATIVE BUT TO
GO FORWARD WITH AN ELECTED -- AN
APPOINTED SCHOOL COMMITTEE, OUR
POSITION IS THAT THE TIME IS NOW
FOR US TO HAVE AN OPEN,
TRANSPARENT CONVERSATION AS A
CITY ABOUT WHAT IS THE BEST
GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE FOR OUR
SCHOOL COMMITTEE THAT WILL LEAD
TO THE ACADEMIC OUTCOME THAT WE
ALL WANT TO SEE FOR OUR
CHILDREN.
IN DEEP CONVERSATION IN THE
CONDITION THAT LED TO THE
DECISION TO MOVE TOWARD AN
APPOINTED SCHOOL COMMITTEE.
SPECIFICALLY, WHAT WE BELIEVE WE
NEED TO HAVE A BETTER
UNDERSTANDING OF IS WHETHER AN
APPOINTED SCHOOL COMMITTEE HAS
ACTUALLY DONNED JOB IT WAS SET
OUT -- THAT WE BELIEVED IT WAS
GOING TO DO.
ONE OF THE COMMENTS THAT WAS
MADE ON EARLIER PANEL WAS WITH
RESPECT, YOU COMMENTED ON THEM
AS WELL.
IS THAT COMMENT WITH RESPECT TO
THE MANY ISSUES THAT THIS SCHOOL
DISTRICT IS FACING, WHETHER

WE'RE TALKING ABOUT ELIMINATION OF ACHIEVING OPPORTUNITY GAPS, DECISIONS RELATED TO FACILITIES, WE'RE TALKING ABOUT FUNDING FOR THE DISTRICT, WE'RE TALKING ABOUT WHO IS SITTING IN OUR CLASSROOMS FOR CHILDREN. THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE MAKES THE DECISION AGAIN OUR POSITION AT THIS POINT IN TIME IS THAT WE NEED TO HAVE A CONVERSATION NOT ABOUT WHETHER WE SHOULD CONTINUE TO HAVE.

>> THANK YOU, MADAM PRESIDENT, APPRECIATE THAT CONTEXT. DID ANYONE ELSE WANT TO WEIGH IN ON SORT OF THE HYBRID MODEL OF THOUGHTS.

>> I WANT TO ECHO WHAT WAS SAID. HOWEVER WE BELIEVE THAT IN ORDER TO HAVE TRUE INPUT AND INCLUSIVE AND TRANSPARENT PROCESS, ALSO IN TRUST IN PARENTS THAT MUST BE A BALANCE OF POWER IN THE DECISION MAKING PROCESS. RIGHT NOW BPS CONTINUES TO STRUGGLE WITH FAMILY AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT. IT'S ALWAYS BEEN AN ISSUE. ONE OF THE THINGS IS BUILDING TRUST AND PARENTS BEING INVOLVED IN HAVING THE POWER OF THEIR VOICES HEARD BEING PART OF THE DECISIONS THAT ARE BEING MADE AND NOT BEING MADE SHROUDED IN SECRECY. WE CAN INCLUDE THE ASSIGNMENT OF THE APPOINTMENT OF THE INTERIM SUPERINTENDENT, THE BILL BPS ISSUE, NUMBER OF ISSUES HAVE BEEN MADE AND PARENTS FEEL THAT EVEN KNOW FORUMS AND MEETINGS ARE HELD THAT'S JUST FOR CHECKING THE BOX, THIS THEIR VOICES ARE NOT HEARD. THAT THEIR INPUT IS NOT INCLUDED, THAT THEY ARE NOT PART OF THE DECISION-MAKING PROCESS. SO, FROM THE POSITION OF -- WE STRONGLY BELIEVE THAT WE NEED TO GO BACK TO AN ELECTED SCHOOL COMMITTEE SO THAT WE CAN HAVE

CLEAR REPRESENTATION AND PARENTS
HAVE A VOICE, THEY HAVE AN
OPPORTUNITY TO SPEAK TO
REPRESENTATIVES WHO HAVE THEIR
PRIORITIES AND INTERESTS IN MIND
AND THEY CAN CONNECT AND SPEAK
WITH THEM IN AN OPEN AND
TRANSPARENT WAY.
WE DEFINITELY ARE FOR ELECTED
SCHOOL COMMITTEE.

>> THANK YOU.

>> I JUST WANTED TO ASK THAT --
I THINK IN AN EFFORT, THE
MAYORAL CONTROL IS THE REAL
SITUATION THAT HINDERS THE
DEMOCRATIC PROCESS SO WITH
HYBRID MODEL YOU STILL HAVE
MAYORAL CONTROL IN APPOINTMENTS
AND IN DECISIONS.
CURRENTLY WITH WEST ROXBURY
COMPLEX DECISION THAT IS GOING
TO BE HAPPENING DECEMBER 19th
HOPE Y'ALL ARE ABLE TO MAKE IT.
AND SUPPORT CHILDREN AND
FAMILIES TRYING TO KEEP THEIR
SCHOOL OPEN AND KEEP THEIR
EDUCATION.
THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE ASKED
REALLY HARD QUESTIONS TO BPS
THEY MADE COMMENTS ABOUT HOW
SOME OF THE INFORMATION THAT
THEY HAVE GIVEN THEM DOESN'T
FEEL RIGHT AND HOW THEY HAVE
BEEN IN THEIR EDUCATIONAL
PROFESSIONALS AND NUMBERS DON'T
ADD UP SO THEY THEMSELVES HAVE
DISTRUST OF BPS.
BUT AGAIN THEY'RE MAKING
DECISIONS THAT THEY'RE APPOINTED
TO.
I THINK THE REAL CRUX OF THE
SITUATION IS THE LACK OF
DEMOCRACY IN ELECTED MEMBERS
REPRESENTING THESE COMMUNITIES.

>> COUNCILOR MATT O'MALLEY, WEST
ROXBURY ACADEMY AND URBAN
SCIENCE ARE IN YOUR DISTRICT I
HOPE YOU'LL BE SUPPORTIVE OF
THOSE FAMILIES LOOKING TO REMAIN
TOGETHER.

>> I HAVE MET EARLY ON WITH THE STUDENTS AND WILL CONTINUE TO DO EVERYTHING I CAN. APPRECIATE THAT. THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

>> THANK YOU, COUNCILOR O' O'MALLEY. COUNCILOR EDWARDS.

>> THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR YOUR TESTIMONY. I REALLY THINK THIS CONTEXT GETTING IN TO THE DETAILS ABOUT HISTORY OF RACIALIZED HISTORY WHICH WAS USED TO JUSTIFY APPOINTED SCHOOL COMMITTEE, REALLY HELPS TO UNDERSTAND THAT IN REALITY THERE ARE MANY, MANY LEVELS TO THIS CONVERSATION AND THAT THE FACT THAT SOME OF THE ARDENT SUPPORTERS OF AN ELECTED SCHOOL COMMITTEE HAVE BEEN AFRICAN AMERICANS THROUGHOUT THE ENTIRE DISCOURSE IS EXTREMELY IMPORTANT.

I REALLY APPRECIATE AND WANT TO THANK YOU FOR HIGHLIGHTING THAT. ANYONE CAN ANSWER THESE QUESTIONS AS THEY COME UP, AS I PRESENT THEM.

INASMUCH AS THE BUSINESS OF DEMOCRACY IS MESSY, AS MUCH AS MONEY IS VERY PART OF OUR POLITICAL DISCOURSE.

ONE OF THE BIGGEST QUESTIONS I HAVE WHY I LOOK AT THE HYBRID MODEL WHETHER AT LEAST PERMANENT STANDING MEMBERS OR A MODEL WHERE YOU HAVE A STAGGERED ELECTION SYSTEM WHERE NOT ALL OF THE MEMBERS ARE UP FOR ELECTION LIKE WE DO WITH CONGRESS, ONLY SOME ARE UP AND SOME ARE UP THEN SOME ARE UP YOU ALWAYS HAVE PERSON THERE, NOT EVERYONE IS RUNNING AT THE SAME TIME, FOR EXAMPLE, AND ALSO TRY TO RUN THE SCHOOLS.

SOME OF THE ISSUES I'M REALLY CONCERNED ABOUT IS HOW DO YOU ACCOUNT FOR WITH DEMOCRACY AND MONEY AND CHARTER SCHOOLS OR ENTITIES AND PROFESSIONALS

COMING IN BEING ABLE TO
INFLUENCE BY AN ELECTION, PUT
OUT LITERATURE, BE ABLE TO
PROMOTE THE PERSON'S NAME.
MONEY DOES MAKE A DIFFERENCE, IT
DOESN'T MAKE THE DIFFERENCE AS
WE HAVE SEEN IN RECENT EL
ELECTIONS, PEOPLE 3456 BEEN WAY
OUTRAISE RAISED STILL BE ABLE TO
WIN.
MAN, COOKS IT CHANGE THINGS HOW
MONEY CAN INFLUENCE.
SO TELL ME IN YOUR MODEL FOR AN
ELECTED SCHOOL COMMITTEE HOW DO
YOU ENVISION MONEY?

>> INFLUENCING, BEING A PART --
THINK PART OF THE ELECTORAL
PROCESS.
I FEEL LIKE THERE'S A POLITICAL
SYSTEM THAT WE DEAL WITH
CURRENTLY WHERE, WHEN YOU'RE
RAISING FUNDS FOR POLITICAL
CAMPAIGNS YOU'RE TAKING MONEY
FROM CHARTER AS WELL AS
NON-CHARTER.
I THINK THAT IT HAPPENS ACROSS
THE BOARD.
IN THE ESTIMATE THAT IS PART OF
WHAT MAKES THE PROCESS MESSY BUT
ALSO -- AFFECTS YOUR POSITION
AND SO THOSE THINGS ARE, I TH
THINK, PART OF THE POLITICAL
PROCESS.
IF YOU WANT TO TALK ABOUT THE
POSSIBILITIES OF PUTTING IN
STRUCTURES WHERE ONLY A CERTAIN
AMOUNT CAN BE USED FOR POLITICAL
CAMPAIGNS, THAT'S A WORTHY
CONVERSATION ACROSS THE BOARD
NOT JUST FOR AN ELECTION SCHOOL
COMMITTEE.
MAXIMIZING A CERTAIN AMOUNT FOR
CAMPAIGNS.
I WOULD LOVE TO SEE THAT NOT
JUST IN AN ELECTED SCHOOL
COMMITTEE BUT FOR CITY COUNCIL
POSITIONS, FOR LEGISLATORS, FOR
MAYORS, THAT CAP.
YOU CAN ONLY SPEND SO MUCH.
THERE'S ALWAYS UGLY WAYS AROUND
IT AND THERE ARE HUGE CORPORATE
INVESTMENTS IN CHARTERS.
WE'VE SEEN HUGE -- MOST RECENTLY

IN TODAY'S BOSTON GLOBE, THERE WAS ACTUALLY PAUL GROGAN FROM THE BOSTON FOUNDATION WROTE AN EDITORIAL THEN WAS QUOTED IN TODAY'S BOSTON GLOBE AROUND THE POSSIBILITY OF INCREASING THE NUMBER OF CHARTERS.

AND WHILE ON MOST THINGS PUBLIC EDUCATION WISE, I DON'T AGREE WITH PAUL, HE DID SAY THAT THERE WAS MAYORAL CONTROL IN HIS EDITORIAL.

SO I THINK IN DEMOCRACY THAT IS WHAT MAKES IT UGLY.

YOU HAD A PANEL UP HERE EARLIER WITH A NON-BOSTON RESIDENT GIVING YOU INFORMATION ABOUT THE HISTORICAL CONTEXT AND I'M A BOSTON RESIDENT, I'M A DORCHESTER RESIDENT, A HOME OWNER, I'M NOT A BPS PARENT BUT I'VE WORKED WITH SO MANY CHILDREN IN THE CITY AND THAT'S MY DEDICATION TO PUBLIC EDUCATION IS THAT IT HAS TO WORK.

>> I AGREE WITH RUBY.

THE MONEY IS GOING TO BE A FACTOR BUT WHAT I APPRECIATE MOST ABOUT THE QUESTION IS THE QUESTION.

BECAUSE I THINK IT'S THE RIGHT PATH.

IN TERMS OF, AGAIN, I THINK THE FOCUS FOR THIS BODY AND FOR US AS A CITY TRYING TO FIGURE OUT HOW -- WHAT STRUCTURES DO WE NEED TO PUT IN PLACE TO HAVE THE BEST MOST REPRESENTATIVE OF THE PEOPLE AND THE WILL OF THE PEOPLE.

AND SO WHETHER WE TALK ABOUT THE 13 PEOPLE OR 7 PEOPLE, IS IT HYBRID OR FULLY ELECTED, TO ME THE DEVIL IS IN THE DETAIL SO TO SPEAK BUT I THINK IF WE ALL FUNDAMENTALLY BELIEVE, THIS IS THE THING THAT YOU HEARD CONSISTENTLY UP HERE.

WE ALL FUNDAMENTALLY BELIEVE IN DEMOCRACY.

LIKE REALLY BELIEVE IN IT.

REALLY BELIEVE THAT THE PEOPLE

IN THIS CITY HAVE THE RIGHT TO
CHOOSE WHO REPRESENTS US WHEN IT
COMES TO GOVERNANCE.

THEN WE CAN BE DISRUPTIVE AND
CREATIVE AS WE WANT TO BE WHEN
IT COMES TO HOW WE STRUCTURE
THIS THING.

BUT I THINK WHAT IS TROUBLING TO
ME MOST IS THAT IN 2018 SOMEHOW
DEMOCRACY IS LIKE THIS RADICAL
IDEA.

WE'RE FIGHTING FOR OUR RIGHT TO
VOTE FOR OUR REPRESENTATION, TO
ME THAT'S CRAZY AND TOO MUCHLY
DISHEARTENING.

SO AGAIN I APPRECIATE THE
QUESTION, BECAUSE IT'S THE RIGHT
PATH.

AND SO I'M HOPEFUL THAT AGAIN WE
CAN -- WHETHER IT'S PULLING
TOGETHER YET ANOTHER COMMISSION
TO FIGURE OUT HOW DO WE DO THIS,
HOW DO WE MOVE FORWARD IN A WAY
THAT IS NOT DIVISIVE BECAUSE
LAST THING WE NEED IS ANOTHER
DIVISIVE ISSUE IN THE CITY THAT
PULLS US FURTHER APART.

HOW DO WE COME TOGETHER TO
FIGURE OUT HOW WE ARE GOING TO,
AS SHE SAID RESTORE POWER TO THE
PEOPLE.

HOW DO WE DO THAT.

I APPRECIATE THE QUESTION.

>> ALSO HAVE TRUST IN THE PUBLIC
TO MAKE THESE DECISIONS BECAUSE
THEY HAVEN'T HAD THE OP
OPPORTUNITY.

WE DO RIGHT NOW KNOW THERE'S A
LACK OF EQUITY, WE KNOW THAT OUR
NEIGHBORHOODS IN OUR SCHOOLS IN
DORCHESTER, PARTS OF DORCHESTER,
ROXBURY AND MADAPAN ARE
DISPROPORTIONATELY AFFECTED BY
DECISIONS.

THERE'S NO REPRESENTATION.

WE'RE GOING FROM GROUND ZERO TO
SOMETHING.

AND TO PUT POWER BACK INTO THE
HANDS OF THE PEOPLE AND TO GIVE
THEM VOICE IS GOING TO INCLUDE
THOSE NEIGHBORHOODS WHO HAVE FOR
THE PAST 30 YEARS BEEN
DISENFRANCHISED AND HAVE NOT HAD

DECISIONS THAT HAVE BEEN IN THEIR BEST INTERESTS AND AS RESULT THIS ACHIEVEMENT GAP, OPPORTUNITY GAP AMONG THESE POPULATIONS OF STUDENTS AND THE PARENTS DON'T FEEL THAT THEY HAVE A VOICE AND INPUT TO CHANGE IT.

SO WE HAVE TO HAVE TRUST IN THE PUBLIC THAT THEIR VOICES WILL BE HEARD.

THAT IS THE PROCESS WHERE EVERYONE WILL HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO BE PART OF THE DECISION MAKING.

>> I THINK IT BEARS UNDERSCORING.

SOUTH BOSTON CHARLESTOWN AND WARDS IN ROXBURY.

THIS IS AS MUCH ABOUT CLASS AS IT WAS ABOUT RACE.

WHEN WE LOOK AT SOME OF THE DECISIONS THAT ARE BEING MADE BY -- NOT JUST THE CURRENT SCHOOL COMMITTEE.

BY THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE OVER PAST 15-20 YEARS NOT ONLY ARE WE SEEING AN UNDERLYING THEME OF RACIAL INEQUITY BUT ALSO SEE CLASS DISENFRANCHISEMENT.

SO AGAIN, RETHINKING HOW WE ARE GOVERNING OUR SCHOOLS WILL NOT ONLY HELP WITH RESPECT TO RACIAL EQUITY, BUT ALSO HELPING TO CLOSE THE CLASS DIVIDE.

>> MONEY AND CAMPAIGNS MAYBE HAVE GOTTEN WORSE WITH DARK MONEY.

BUT IT IS BEEN AN ISSUE.

IN THE 1996 REFERENDUM, THE -- FAVOR OF ELECTED COMMITTEE SPENT ABOUT \$5,000 TO KEEP THE APPOINTED WAS ABOUT 600,000.

THERE WERE HUGELY OUTSPENT AND I -- QUESTION TWO MADE ME FEEL BETTER ABOUT THIS, ABOUT THE MONEY THAT PARTICULARLY IN BOSTON AS SMALLER CITY THAN L. L.A., DOOR KNOCKING, LOW COST KIND OF CAMPAIGNING REALLY CAN WORK.

I CAN'T REMEMBER WHO TESTIFIED TO IT.

WITH CONGRESSWOMAN ELECTION WITH

THE NEW DEMOGRAPHICS OF THE CITY COUNCIL, THE VOTERS IN BOSTON ARE DEMONSTRATING AILINGNESS TO CONSIDER TO LOOK AT AND TO MOVE IN A DIFFERENT WAY, I THINK IT'S WORTH CAPTURING THAT ENERGY IN LOOKING HOW WE GOVERN OUR SCHOOLS.

I WOULD ENCOURAGE, BECAUSE I THINK THIS CONVERSATION IS JUST BEGINNING AND WILL ONLY GET MORE INTENSE IN A GOOD WAY THAT ADVOCATES I'D LOVE FOR YOU TO, WHEN YOU COME BACK, I READ IT, IT'S INCREDIBLE.

WHEN YOU COME BACK AND TALK ABOUT THINGS WE NEED TO CONSIDER, ABOUT MESSY DEMOCRACY AND HOW IN THE CREATIVE AND AMAZING MIND SPACE THAT WE HAVE HOW WE CAN ACCOUNT FOR THAT AND PROTECT DEMOCRACY.

I WOULD LOVE FOR YOU TO LOOK AT THINGS SUCH AS HOW WE'RE DOING REDISTRICTING, HOW THAT COULD LOOK LIKE FOR SCHOOL COMMITTEE, DRAWING DISTRICT LINES.

TERM LIMITS ARE SOMETHING THAT IS WORTH, I DON'T KNOW, IN YOUR ANALYSIS IF IT DOES MAKE US MORE DEMOCRATIC OR NOT.

WHAT MAKES SOMEONE QUALIFIED TO RUN FOR SCHOOL COMMITTEE.

SHOULD IT BE AS SOMEONE ELOQUENTLY QUOTED, CLOSEST TO THE PAIN, SHOULD BE CLOSEST TO THE POWER.

SHOULD ONLY BPS PARENTS BE RUNNING FOR SCHOOL COMMITTEE WITH CHILDREN CURRENTLY IN THE SYSTEM SO THAT THEIR DIRECT DECISIONS WILL DIRECTLY IMPACT NOT JUST TENS OF THOUSANDS OF CHILDREN BUT THEIR OWN, MAYBE IT SHOULDN'T, TOO BIASED FOR THE SCHOOLS THAT THEIR KIDS GO TO, I DON'T KNOW.

LOOKING AT BOSTON RESIDENCY AS A REQUIREMENT, YES OR NO, UP TO YOU.

LOOKING AT WHO CAN VOTE FOR SCHOOL COMMITTEE.

WE'VE HAD ANALYSIS ABOUT EXPANDING VOTING RIGHTS.

I DO KNOW THAT I THINK IT'S
WORTH CONSIDERING CHILDREN.
YOUNG ADULTS I WOULD SAY.
WHETHER SENIORS IN HIGH SCHOOL
WHO CAN PREREGISTER TO VOTE AT
16 SHOULD BE ABLE TO VOTE AND BE
PART OF THIS PROCESS.
THE STEP UP ANALYSIS THAT I
THINK MR. DECARA BROUGHT UP THAT
PEOPLE ONLY USE THIS AS STEPPING
STONE TO GET INTO POLITICS, I
WOULD ARGUE THAT PEOPLE COULD
USE IT AS STEPPING STONE TO GET
INTO POLITICS.
AS A LOT OF WOMEN HAVE DONE THIS,
A LOT OF WOMEN OF COLOR
HAVE DONE THIS.
IS THAT ALWAYS A BAD THING THAT
THIS IS TRAINING GROUND SOME OF
THE MOST ACTIVELY INVOLVED
INDIVIDUALS I'LL SAY THIS,
THERE'S STILL GENDER EQUITY
ISSUE.
I'LL JUST PUT THAT OUT THERE.
FINALLY PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING
HOW MAYBE THAT COULD BE COUNTER
TO THAT, SO DIRECT -- WHETHER WE
HAVE ELECTED SCHOOL COMMITTEE OR
NOTE WHETHER SHOULD BE DIRECT
VOTE ON THE BUDGET BY FOLKS OR
COMPONENTS OF THE SCHOOL BUDGET
BY BOSTONIANS THEN FINALLY, I
CERTAINLY WONDERED WOULD IT MAKE
MORE SENSE IF YOU WERE TO WEIGH
THE ELECTED SCHOOL COMMITTEE
VERSUS AN OUTRIGHT ELECTION TO
SUPERINTENDENT.
I ASK THIS ONLY BECAUSE I HAVE
MORE QUESTIONS THAN ANSWERS.
AND I REALLY APPRECIATE YOUR
TESTIMONY.
I'LL THROW IT RIGHT BACK AT YOU,
JOSE, IN YOUR ANALYSIS THE WAY
YOU BROKE DOWN ESPECIALLY THAT
HOW VOTING FOR MAYOR CANNOT BE
THE WAY WHICH WE HOLD SCHOOL
COMMITTEE MEMBERS ACCOUNTABLE,
JUST CANNOT BE BY VIRTUE OF HOW
MANY YEARS IT TAKES TO VOTE FOR
A MAYOR BUT HOW MANY KIDS DO NOT
GO TO BPS AND PARENTS STILL VOTE
FOR THE MAYOR.
I DON'T HAVE CHILDREN, FOR
EXAMPLE.

I DO CARE ABOUT OBVIOUSLY IN MY POSITION BPS AND STUDENTS IN SCHOOLS.

BUT I CAN ASSURE YOU WHEN I WAS MUCH YOUNGER HERE IN BOSTON THAT WAS NOT AT THE TOP OF MY MIND WHEN I WAS VOTING FOR THE MAYOR. I WOULD LOVE TO HAVE THAT DEEPER ANALYSIS AS YOU GUYS GO BACK TO YOUR EXPERTISE AND TO YOUR BASES AND TO YOUR INDIVIDUALS AND TO ADD IN HOW DO WE MAKE DEMOCRACY LESS MESSY WHEN WE'RE GOING TO BE TALKING ABOUT OPENING UP FOR SCHOOL COMMITTEE. BUT THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR BEING HERE TONIGHT.

>> THANK YOU ALL AGAIN. I DO HAVE ONE QUESTION BECAUSE TIME IS A SIGNIFICANT BARRIER TO CHANGING THE GOVERNING STRUCTURE OF THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE. IT WILL TAKE A VERY LONG TIME TO GET TO THAT POINT WE THINK ABOUT CHARTER REFORM, THE PROCESS THAT WE NEED TO FOLLOW.

I THINK THE NEEDS OF OUR PA PARENTS, I THINK ABOUT MYSELF AS BPS PARENT CHANGES THAT NEED TO HAPPEN AND CHANGES THAT MANY PARENTS ARE CALLING FOR, ESPECIALLY THOSE THAT ARE TESTIFYING REGULARLY ARE LOOKING FOR MUCH MORE IMMEDIATE CHANGE. LIKE I POSED TO THEM EARLIER, WHAT ARE SOME OF THE OPPORTUNITIES THAT YOU MIGHT SEE AS WAYS TO IMPROVE THE CURRENT STRUCTURE, THE CURRENT BODY AS IT SITS RIGHT NOW AS AN APPOINTED BODY?

>> I THINK THERE ARE A COUPLE OF THINGS. ONE, THE CITIZENS NOMINATING PANEL I THINK CERTAINLY OVER THE PAST PROBABLY SIX WEEKS OR SO I HAVE BECOME INCREASINGLY MORE CONCERNED ABOUT THAT PARTICULAR PANEL. AS SOMEONE WHO PROBABLY FOLLOWS EDUCATION IN THE CITY OF BOSTON MORE THAN MOST, I STRUGGLE TO

EVEN NAME FIVE MEMBERS OF THAT
NOMINATING PANEL.

AND THAT'S DISTURBING.

ESPECIALLY GIVEN HOW MUCH
RESPONSIBILITY THEY HAVE FOR
IDENTIFYING CURRENTLY NOMINEES
FOR THE COMMITTEE.

SO I DO THINK LOOKING AT THE
STRUCTURE OF OF THAT PARTICULAR
PANEL, ALSO AGAIN AS WE KIND OF
CURRENTLY SIT HERE, BEING MORE
TRANSPARENT AND THAT PROCESS
MAKING SURE THAT FOLKS, THAT
FAMILIES AND RESIDENTS OF THE
CITY OF BOSTON KNOW WHEN THEY'RE
MEETING AND KNOW WHAT IS OPEN TO
THE PUBLIC AND WHAT IS NOT I
THINK WOULD BE A GOOD --
SOMETHING THAT COULD BE DONE NO
NOW.

I DO THINK, LOOK, THE
RESPONSIBILITY OF THE SCHOOL
COMMITTEE IS TO CERTAINLY HIRE,
EVALUATE, TERMINATE WHEN
APPROPRIATE SUPERINTENDENT AND
SET THE POLICY OF THE DISTRICT.
RESPONSIBILITY OF THE MAYOR TO
APPOINT THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE
MEMBERS.

THEN THE MAYOR IS SUPPOSED TO
STEP OUT AND SO ONE OF THE OTHER
THINGS THAT COULD BE DONE
IMMEDIATELY THAT DO CHANGE FOR
SCHOOL COMMITTEE TO DO ITS JOB
AND THAT IS TO ASK AS AN
INDEPENDENT BODY AND TO MAKE
DECISIONS THAT THEY BELIEVE ARE
IN THE BEST INTEREST OF OUR
CHILDREN, FAMILIES AND ED
EDUCATORS.

AS WAS MENTIONED ON THIS PANEL,
TIME AND TIME AGAIN WHAT WE HEAR
IN TESTIMONY FROM SCHOOL
COMMITTEE MEMBERS, TIME AFTER
TIME IS HOW PAINFUL THE
DECISIONS ARE THAT THEY'RE
MAKING.

HOW MUCH THEY DON'T AGREE WITH
THE DECISIONS THAT THEY'RE GOING
TO MAKE.

YET THEY CAST VOTES CONTRARY TO
THEIR INTERESTS AND TO THEIR
BELIEFS ALL THE TIME.

THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE TO DO ITS

JOB.

>> I WANTED TO ADD THAT CURRENTLY THERE'S A STRUCTURE WHERE THERE'S A REPRESENTATIVE OF YOUNG PEOPLE ON SCHOOL COMMITTEE.

THEY HAVE BEEN ASKING TO HAVE THAT PERSON BE A VOTING MEMBER, THAT'S ONE EASY WAY THAT ALREADY HAS PERSON REPRESENTING YOUNG PEOPLE.

CURRENTLY THERE'S ALSO A SUPERINTENDENT SEARCH THAT MANY OF US CONTRIBUTED TO A STATEMENT WHERE WE ASKED FOR AN EDUCATIONAL LEADER AND WE WANT THAT TO BE THE FOCUS OF THE SEARCH.

SOMEONE WHO IS A VISIONARY, SOMEONE WHO BELIEVES IN PUBLIC EDUCATION, A CHAMPION OF PUBLIC EDUCATION.

WE DON'T WANT A MANAGER, WE DON'T WANT FISCAL MANAGER EVERYBODY DON'T WANT SOMEONE WHO IS DIGITALLY LITERAL, AN EDUCATIONAL POWER HOUSE. THEN I THINK THE OTHER TWO ISSUES ARE, HOUSING AND GENTRIFICATION.

AND THIS IS MORE ALONG THE LINES OF THE CITY COUNCIL'S WORK AS WELL IS JUST THINKING ABOUT OVERDEVELOPMENT IN THE CITY AND HOW MANY, MANY FAMILIES ARE BEING PUSHED OUT BECAUSE OF RENTAL COSTS AND INABILITY TO PAY FOR THOSE SKYROCKETING RENTAL COST AND BUDGETING AT THE CITY COUNCIL LEVEL.

WE HAVEN'T EVEN GOTTEN INTO SCHOOL BUDGET SEASON WHERE EVERY SCHOOL COMMITTEE SINCE ANNOUNCING OF THE SCHOOL CLOSING, THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE HAS BEEN STAYING THERE UNTIL MIDNIGHT BECAUSE THEY HAVE BEEN LISTENING TO ALL THESE FAMILIES TALK ABOUT THE IMPACT OF THESE SCHOOL CLOSINGS.

AND THEN THAT WILL HAPPEN WITH THE SECOND WAVE OF THE BUDGET CUTS THAT THEY WILL BE

ANNOUNCING.

I KNOW THAT YOU ALL VOTE ON A BUDGET THAT ISN'T NECESSARILY LINE ITEM BASED BUT REALLY TH THINKING ABOUT YOUR BUDGETARY VOTE AND YOUR STANCES AND PRIORITIES IN THE BUDGETING SEASON AS IT QUICKLY APPROACHES.

>> WE BELIEVE THAT MOST RECENT PLAN TO CLOSE SCHOOLS, THERE'S NOT A REAL PLAN FOR WHAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN TO THOSE STUDENTS. AT THE LAST SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING ON SEPTEMBER 5th, IT WAS NOT CLEARLY DELINEATED. FOR EXAMPLE, THERE ARE 60 STUDENTS IN THE OUGHTISM PROGRAM AT WEST ROXBURY EDUCATIONAL COMPLEX THERE'S NO REAL PLAN IN TERMS OF WHAT IS GOING TO HAPPEN WITH THEM.

WE BELIEVE THAT THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE NEEDS TO HAVE A MORATORIUM ON THE SCHOOL CLOSINGS UNTIL THEY HAVE A CLEAR PLAN OF WHAT IS GOING TO HAPPEN WITH THOSE STUDENTS THAT IS CLEARLY LAID OUT TO THE PARENTS. WE ALSO BELIEVE THAT INPUT FROM THE COMMUNITY IS NOT BEING LISTENED TO BY THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE.

FOR EXAMPLE, THEY VOTED ON A JOB DESCRIPTION, DOES NOT HAVE THREE TOP PRIORITIES THAT THE COMMUNITY PROVIDED.

THEY CONTINUE TO HAVE LISTENING SESSIONS AND THEY'RE NOT FOLDING IN THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE COMMUNITY.

WE BELIEVE THAT, YES, THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEMBERS NEED TO DO THEIR JOB.

THEY NEED TO LISTEN TO THE COMMUNITY AND THEY NEED TO TAKE THE INPUT AND CLEARLY LISTEN TO IT AND INTEGRATE THAT INPUT IN PROVIDING PARENTS.

MORE THAN THAT, NEED TO HAVE DIALOGUE OF WHAT IS HAPPENING IN THE SCHOOLS BECAUSE PARENTS ARE NOT CLEAR AND THERE'S NOT CLEARLY LAID OUT PLAN IN TERMS

OF WHAT ARE THE NEXT STEPS ON
HEALS OF SCHOOL CLOSURE,
SUPERINTENDENT SEARCH, JOB
DESCRIPTION.

THERE'S A LOT OF WORK THAT NEEDS
TO BE DONE WITH THESE HOT BUTTON
ISSUES THAT ARE CLEARLY
DISRUPTING A LOT OF THE LIVES OF
THE PARENTS RIGHT NOW.

>> THANK YOU.
MARY.

>> ONLY THING I WOULD ADD
SPECIFIC SUGGESTION TO DO --
THEM TO DO WHAT YOU HAVE DONE.
IN OTHER WORDS, HAVE US COME UP
HERE AND SPEAK AS AN OFFICIAL
PANEL INSTEAD OF, RUBY AND I
LITERALLY AFTER MIDNIGHT WHEN WE
TESTIFIED ON WEDNESDAY NIGHT.
THEN YOU DON'T GET ANY FEEDBACK,
GIVE AND TAKE, YOU READ YOUR
STATEMENT, THEY CUT YOU OFF,
YOU'RE GONE.

>> I APPRECIATE THAT BECAUSE I
HAVE THAT SAME EXPERIENCE WHEN I
TESTIFY BEFORE SCHOOL COMMITTEE.

>> YES.
BUT TO HAVE -- TO LET COMMUNITY
AND PARENT MEMBERS TO COUNT US
AS PARTNERS NOT JUST HAVE BPS
OFFICIALS UP THERE ALL THE TIME.

>> CLEARLY YOU ARE MODEL FOR
WHAT WE LIKE TO SEE HAPPEN IN
THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE, WE THANK
YOU FOR THE RECIPROCITY.

>> IF I MAY, COUNCILOR.
I'M NOT SURE WE COULD ASK THE
SCHOOL COMMITTEE TO DO NOW
BECAUSE THAT'S IT'S SUCH A
STRICT BODY.
TO TRY TO TRANSFORM THAT RIGHT
NOW WOULD BE VERY DIFFICULT.
I DO THINK -- HOW TO CHANGE TH
THAT, I DON'T KNOW WHAT WE COULD
DO NOW THAT WOULD CHANGE THE
FACT THAT IF THE CURRENT
CONFIGURATION WE'VE HAD TWO
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

INVESTIGATIONS INTO BPS FOR
SERIOUS FINDINGS ABOUT OUR
NONCOMPLIANCE WITH PROVIDING
CHILDREN WITH FEDERAL LEHMAN
DATED MINUTES REGARDING ESL
INSTRUCTION TO THEN ONLY HAVE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE RETURN AND
FIND THAT THERE WAS NOT
COMPLIANCE.

I DON'T KNOW WHAT RIGHT NOW WE
COULD DO TO MAKE THE SCHOOL
COMMITTEE MORE ACCOUNTABLE TO
THAT.

THE FACT THAT BEFORE OUR LAST
MAYORAL ELECTION ONE OF OUR
CHILDREN IN EAST BOSTON WAS
PULLED OUT OF SCHOOL AND SET FOR
DEPORTATION FOR AN ARGUMENT IN A
SCHOOL CAFETERIA.

I DIDN'T EXPECT FOR A CITY TO
DECIDE THAT, THAT WAS JUST THE
MAYOR'S FAULT HOLD HIM
ACCOUNTABLE FOR THAT.

NEVERTHELESS, THERE WAS REALLY
NO ONE HELD ACCOUNTABLE FOR TH
THAT.

THAT POLICY DECISION.

A DECISION THAT CAME FROM A
POLICY DECIDING TO SHARE
INFORMATION WITH FEDERAL AGENTS,
I DON'T KNOW WHAT RIGHT NOW THE
CURRENT STRUCTURE WOULD REALLY
ALLOW FOR.

HOWEVER, IF I COULD MAKE A
RECOMMENDATION ABOUT THE CITY
COUNCIL, MAYBE HOW THE CITY
COUNCIL COULD BE MORE HELPFUL IN
THIS ENDEAVOR AS WE TRY TO GET
TO A MORE EQUITABLE EDUCATION
FOR OUR CHILDREN.

I THINK ONE WOULD BE MORE
AUDITING ON THE BUDGET SORT OF
AFTER THE FISCAL YEAR HAS COME
TO AN END TO LOOK FOR HOW MONIES
WERE SPENT AND HOW EFFECTIVE OR
EFFICIENT THOSE ENDEAVORS WERE
TO FURTHERING EDUCATION OF
CHILDREN.

I ALSO THINK THERE'S AN
OPPORTUNITY FOR PRO-ACTIVELY
DECIDING HOW WE WOULD LIKE AS A
CITY OUR COMMUNITY-BASED CREDIT
TO BE SPENT BY NONPROFIT
PARTNERS AROUND THE CITY WILL

GET TENS OF MILLIONS OF DOLLARS
IN CBCs ARE NOT ALLOWED TO
SPEND THOSE WITHOUT ANY
DIRECTION I THINK REALLY FROM
CITIZENS HOW THEY SHOULD BE
SPENT.

I THINK THAT MIGHT BE AN
INTERESTING WAY TO SAY COULD WE
DO MORE WITH WHAT WE'RE GETTING
IF WE'RE GOING TO ALLOW COLLEGE
TO CLAIM \$3 MILLION OF
COMMUNITY-BASED CREDIT MAYBE
MILLION DOLLARS TO GO TO AFTER
SCHOOL TUTORING OR WHATEVER IT
IS, SET THOSE GUIDELINES.

THE COURAGE QUITE FRANKLY THAT
YOU'RE EXHIBITING NOW THIS BODY
IS EXHIBITING NOW ENGAGE IN THIS
DIALOGUE, THAT'S ALL WE NEED TO
GET THIS CONVERSATION STARTED
AND TO CONTINUE DOING WHAT WE'RE
DOING HERE TODAY AND TO HAVE
THESE WONDERFUL PEOPLE CONTINUE
TO SHOW UP AND LEND THEIR
EXPERTISE TO YOU.

I'VE GONE TO SOME OF THE BEST
COLLEGES TO OFFER, I LEARN MORE
ON MY WAY OUT OF MEETINGS THAN I
DO IF I'M SITTING BECAUSE WE
BENEFIT FROM SUCH DEEP EX
EXPERTISE.

SO I WOULD SHARE WITH YOU, I
WOULD SHARE WITH YOU COUNCILOR
THAT YOU HAVE ALL OF THE
EXPERTISE THAT YOU NEED TO MAKE
SOME GREAT, INFORMED DECISIONS
ON THIS.

AND UNTIL A CHANGE, YOU CAN
CONTINUE TO COUNT ON US TO HOLD
PEOPLE AS ACCOUNTABLE AS WE CAN
TO THESE THINGS, THAT INCLUDES
THE CURRENT STRUCTURE AND
MEMBERS OF THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE,
WHO I DON'T -- MAKE SURE WE
DON'T DEMONIZE.

BECAUSE THEY HAVE BEEN APPOINTED
AND I DO BELIEVE, I'VE SEEN THEM
GO FROM MEETING TO MEETING AND
BE EXHAUSTED AND BE TIRED AND
LISTEN AND I KNOW THAT THAT IS
TAXING ON THE BODY EMOTIONALLY.
I KNOW THEY'RE TRYING TO DO WHAT
THEY CAN.

THIS MIGHT BE AN OPPORTUNITY TO

LIBERATE THEM FROM SOME OF THE STRESS AND PRESSURE THAT THEY MIGHT BE UNDER.

BUT AT A MINIMUM, I DO WANT TO MAKE SURE THOSE MEMBERS WHO DO SHOW UP AND SHOW UP FROM THE HEART AND DO THE WORK FROM THE HEART THAT WE ALSO LET THEM KNOW THAT WE SEE THEM AND WE'RE ALSO HERE TO SUPPORT THEM AS WELL.

>> TAKE THAT QUOTE.

>> I DON'T KNOW WHICH ONE.

>> I THINK WE DO HAVE STILL FEW MORE FOLKS FOR PUBLIC TESTIMONY I DO APPRECIATE YOU SAYING THAT ABOUT THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEMBERS.

THIS IS NOT JUDGMENT ABOUT THEM AS INDIVIDUALS.

I KNOW ALL OF THEM TO VARYING DEGREES AND INDIVIDUALLY THEY'RE VERY GOOD PEOPLE THAT ARE FUNCTIONING UNDER THE CONSTRAINTS OF THE STRUCTURE THAT HAVE SCHOOL COMMITTEE. ALSO WILL SAY AT THIS POINT SOME OF YOU REFERENCED MY EARLIER PANEL THEY WERE BOTH INVITED GUESTS OF MINE, RESIDENCY IS REALLY IMPORTANT THING TO ME PERSONALLY SOMETHING THAT I WORK ON BOTH AS MEMBER OF THE RESIDENCY COMMISSION BUT ALSO TALK ABOUT OUR STUDENTS IN THE BOSTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS BEING RESIDENTS OF THE CITY OF BOSTON. I DO WANT TO SAY FOR THE RECORD AS INVITED GUESTS OF MY PANEL IT'S NOT ABOUT WHERE AN INDIVIDUAL LIVES WHEN THEY'RE INVITED GUESTS ON THE PANEL, ABOUT INFORMATION THAT THEY'RE ABLE TO SHARE.

MAKE THAT CLEAR.

ANY ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS, THANK YOU.

YOU ALL ARE WELCOME TO CERTAINLY STAY, FEW MORE MEMBERS THAT WANT TO GIVE PUBLIC TESTIMONY WHICH I'D LIKE TO GET TO THAT.

WHILE YOU ARE CLEARING OUT,

THANK YOU VERY MUCH.
WE WILL NOT BE HERE AS THE
SCHOOL COMMITTEE.
I JOKE THAT I CAN GO FROM SCHOOL
COMMITTEE MEETINGS AND
TESTIFYING EARLY ON WHICH I HAVE
THE GREAT LIBERTY TO DO, THEN
GOING TO ANOTHER COMMUNITY
MEETING OR EVENT THEN GOING HOME
AND WATCHING THE END OF THE
MEETING WHILE FOLDING LAUNDRY.
I KNOW DR. JEAN MAGUIRE WOULD
LIKE TO TESTIFY.
THAT'S ALL I HAVE LEFT FOR
SIGNING UP.
IF ANYONE WOULD LIKE TO TESTIFY
FOLLOWING MR. MAGUIRE YOU'RE
WELCOME TO LINE UP BEHIND HER.
THANK YOU, IF YOU WOULD
INTRODUCE YOURSELF AND SHARE
YOUR TESTIMONY.

>> JEAN MAGUIRE.
LIVE IN ROXBURY, IS THAT ENOUGH?

>> THANK YOU FOR BEING HERE.

>> I JUST HOPE ALL OF US HAVE
THE SENSE AND HUMILITY THAT
CITIZENS KNOW WHAT IS BEST FOR
THEIR STUDENTS.
IT SEEMS MUCH OF THE DISCOURSE
PEOPLE DISCOUNT THE FACT THAT
CITIZENS OF BOSTON WHOSE
CHILDREN ATTEND THE SCHOOLS.
WHETHER THEY'RE LEGAL CITIZENS
OR RESIDENTS, LET ME CLARIFY
THAT, RESIDENTS OF BOSTON.
WHO ATTEND -- WHO SUPPORT AND
WHO I AM CONCERNED ALWAYS SHOULD
HAVE THE VOICES.
I DO NOT UNDERSTAND ANYWHERE IN
THE COUNTRY EVEN WHERE THEY HAVE
HAD APPOINTED SCHOOL COMMITTEEE
MOST OF NEW ENGLAND AND MOST OF
THE EAST COAST ALL HAVE ELECTED
SCHOOL COMMITTEES.
IN THE YEARS I'VE DEALT WITH MET
PROCEED TOLL TAN BOSTON I'VE
NEVER SEEN AN APPOINTED SCHOOL
COMMITTEE.
I VOTED AGAINST IT WHEN I WAS ON
THE FIVE-MEMBER ELECTED SCHOOL
COMMITTEE THEN ONE THAT ADDED,

BOTH ON CITY COUNCIL AND ON THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE.

WE HAVE A RIGHT UNDER THE CONSTITUTION IN THE COURSE OF HUMAN EVENTS, WE, THE PEOPLE, FORGET ALL OF THOSE CATEGORIES, WE THE PEOPLE WHO LIVE HERE ON THIS CONTINENT THIS GREAT COUNTRY WITH TWO OCEANS AND MANY DESERTS AND MOUNTAINS AND PRAIRIES AND CITIES AND SMALL HAMLETS, WE THE PEOPLE HAVE AND SHOULD ALWAYS HAVE NEVER GIVE UP THE RIGHT TO OUR VOICE AND TO VOTE.

I CANNOT FOR THE LIFE OF ME UNDERSTAND HOW WE CAN HAVE A SERIOUS CONSTITUTIONAL CRISIS PENDING WHEN WE TALK ABOUT GIVING UP THE RIGHT TO OUR VOICE.

FOUR FREEDOM, FREEDOM OF SPEECH, FREEDOM OF VOICE, FREEDOM OF VOTE, FREEDOM TO LIVE WHERE WE WANT.

WATCH THESE RESTRICTIONS, THEY ARE DANGEROUS, VERY DANGEROUS THERE'S ONLY ONE CHILD IN THE WORLD.

THAT CHILD IS -- THEY HAVE TO HAVE AN EDUCATION TO THE BEST OF OUR ABILITY AND THIS COUNTRY SPENT ON WARS IN AFGHAN AND IRAQ \$1.6 TRILLION.

LOT OF THAT IS OUR TAX MONEY.

WE SHOULD KEEP THAT IN MIND BECAUSE ONE OF THE REASONS WE WANT TO EDUCATE PEOPLE IS TO HELP THEM TO BE PREPARED TO DEFEND AND MAINTAIN DEMOCRATIC STRUCTURES IN THE WORLD.

OTHER COUNTRIES UNDEMOCRATIC, WE ARE IN TROUBLE.

WE'RE NOT ON AN ISLAND BY OURSELVES.

WE HAVE TO WORK WITH, COMPETE WITH, EXCHANGE GOODS AND SERVICES WITH, COUNTRIES AND NATIONS ALL OVER THE WORLD.

AND WE BEGINNING TO HAVE ALL THESE RESTRICTIONS AND DEVICES AND WORDS THAT I NEVER REMEMBER HEARING.

AND I NOTICE WHEN THEY FIRST

STARTED CLOSING SCHOOLS THE
BLACK EDUCATORS WAS THEN THE
MASSACHUSETTS NEGRO EDUCATORS
ALLIANCE AND MEMBERS OF THE BTU
WE FOUND THAT SCHOOLS THAT WERE
CLOSED WERE CLOSED IN ROXBURY.
SO OUR KIDS HAD TO GET ON TO THE
BUS.

MANY OF US ON THE LAST ELECTED
SCHOOL COMMITTEE AT LARGE WHICH
WAS HOW I GOT ELECTED.

I TALK TO DAN BURKE WHO IS
ADAMANTLY OPPOSED TO SCHOOL
TRANSPORTATION UNTIL WHAT WAS
ROXBURY -- WAS CHANGED I THINK
TO DORCHESTER, TO CHILDREN FROM
SOUTH BOSTON WERE TOLD THEY HAD
TO GET THE T TO GET TO SCHOOL.
WE STOPPED AND DANDY SIDED, WAIT
A MINUTE, I HAVE ABOUT 20
PARENTS WHO WANTED TOWER KIDS TO
HAVE A BUS.

HE VOTED AGAINST TRANSPORTATION.
HE LATER BECAME A PRINCIPAL AND
SUPERINTENDENT.

WAS ADAMANT SUPPORTER OF
ADEQUATE AND STATE
TRANSPORTATION FOR CHILDREN TO
GET TO SCHOOL.

NOT MANY CHILDREN LIVE WHERE
THEY GO TO SCHOOL.

LATIN SCHOOL NOT IN ANYBODY'S
NEIGHBORHOOD.

WE TOOK THE BUS, TOOK THE TRAIN,
THE TROLLY FROM PARK SQUARE.
WHOLE IDEA OF THE WORD
NEIGHBORHOOD SCHOOLS NEVER CAME
UP WHEN I WAS IN SCHOOL.

IT WAS ASSUMED THAT THE SCHOOLS
WERE FOR EVERYBODY.

WE NEED TO WATCH ABOUT THESE
RESTRICTIONS AND THESE
CATEGORIES AND LAYERS AGAINST
WHICH WE ARE CATEGORIZING OUR
CHILDREN AND THEIR PARENTS.
DOESN'T MATTER WHETHER THEY'RE
LEGAL CITIZEN, THEY LIVE HERE
THEY PAY TAXES HERE BECAUSE THEY
PAY RENT.

SO WE NEED TO MAKE CERTAIN THAT
OUR VOICE OF THE PEOPLE IS
ALWAYS HEARD.

THAT THE VOICE ALWAYS HAS THE
RIGHT TO VOTE, ALWAYS.

ONCE YOU LOSE THE RIGHT TO VOTE,
YOU LOSE YOUR VOICE, YOU LOSE
DEMOCRACY.

THIS IS A SWEET COUNTRY.

GOT TWO OCEANS, IT'S GOT SEAS,
IT'S GOT MOUNTAINS, PRAIRIES,
SMALL TOWNS, HAS BIG TOWNS, HAS
PEOPLE FROM ALL OVER THE FOUR
WINDS BLOW, THEY LIVE HERE IN
AMERICA.

WE CAN GET ALONG TOGETHER, WE
CAN LOVE AND CARE FOR OUR
CHILDREN AND GIVE THEM THE VERY
BEST THAT WILL PREPARE THEM TO
BE CITIZENS WHO RUN THE WORLD.
NOT JUST UNITED STATES, BUT
EVERYONE THAT WE HAVE TO
COMMUNICATE WITH AND SELL GOODS
TO.

AGREE TO PROTECT THEM.

I HOPE THAT IT IS CLEAR THAT I
AM ADAMANTLY FOR ELECTED
OFFICIALS.

DO WE WANT TO APPOINT THE
GOVERNOR ARE OUR STATE SENATORS
WORKS IS GOING TO DO THE AP
APPOINTING AND ON WHAT TERMS.
APPOINT THE CITY COUNCIL, I
DON'T THINK SO.

I THINK THE PEOPLE WHEN THEY'RE
GIVEN CLEAR ISSUES AND CLEAR
KNOWLEDGE OF WHAT IS AT STAKE
THEY WILL WANT TO HAVE A VOICE
STREETS AND THE DAY WE GIVE UP
THE VOTE WE'RE NOT A DEMOCRACY.

I'M RAISED IN BOSTON, WENT TO
SCHOOLS IN BOSTON MOST OF MY
LIFE, I LOVE THE DEARBORNE, I
WENT TO HIGGINSON I BELIEVE IN
PUBLIC EDUCATION IN MY WORK I'VE
ALSO DEALT WITH 131 COMMUNITIES
AND THEIR SCHOOL COMMITTEES.

I MIGHT SAY IN MOST ELECTED
BODIES NOBODY GOES HOME UNTIL
ALL THE BUSINESS IS OVER.

TELL THAT TO YOUR CITY COUNCIL
FROM JEAN.

YOU DON'T GO HOME UNTIL THE
PUBLIC GOES HOME THAT'S IF YOU
WANT TO GET ELECTED AGAIN.

SEE THAT YOU WANT TO HEAR.

I'M SERIOUS ABOUT THAT.

MANY OF US HAVE CHILDREN AND
JOBS MAYBE WE HAVE TO LEAVE YOU

LET PEOPLE KNOW, I CAN'T STAY
AND REASON WHY, OTHERWISE PEOPLE
THINK YOU'RE NOT INTERESTED.
I'M SORRY YOU'RE THE LONE PERSON
SITTING UP HERE.

>> ON BEHALF OF MY COLLEAGUES
WHEN I SCHEDULE A HEARING, I
SCHEDULE THAT I'M CHAIRING TO
FIT MY SCHEDULE, NO ONE ELSE'S.

>> WHEN YOU RUN FOR OFFICE YOU
TAKE THAT INTO ACCOUNT BECAUSE
NOW YOU ARE RUNNING TO REPRESENT
THE VOICE OF THOSE PEOPLE WHERE
YOU LIVE.
YOU HAVE TO MAKE SACRIFICE, ALL
OF US HAVE CHILDREN AND DINNERS
AND WASHING MACHINES, ALL THAT
STUFF TO DO, THE DOGS TO LET OU
OUT.

>> STILL LATE FOR YOU AT HOME.
IT DOESN'T GET DONE ON IT'S OWN.

>> JEAN, THANK YOU SO MUCH.

>> PLEASE, ELECTED AT ALL TIMES
FOREVER.
WE THE PEOPLE WHEN IN THE COURSE
OF HUMAN EVENTS, THOSE EVENTS
HAVEN'T ENDED, I KNOW I SPEAK
FOR THE FIVE MEMBERS OF ELECTED
SCHOOL COMMITTEES I FIRST JOINED
THEN LATER THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE,
WE WERE ALWAYS SUPPORTIVE OF THE
VOICE OF THE PEOPLE.
WE WERE ALWAYS SUPPORTIVE OF
ELECTED.
WHEN THE HOME RULE PETITION CAME
UP AGAIN, MY STUDENT WHO RAN FOR
MAYOR MADE PART OF HIS CANDIDACY
AN ELECTED SCHOOL COMMITTEE.
THANK YOU.

>> THANK YOU, JEAN.
THANK YOU FOR BEING WITH US.

>> WANT TO SHARE WITH ALL OF YOU
SINCE I WENT TO THE LATIN SC
SCHOOL, IT'S TO ALL OF US WHO
ARE CITIZENS HERE, THIS IS
FROM -- WE USED TO HAVE TO -- WE
DID PUBLIC SPEAKING WE HAD TO

QUOTE FROM ONE OF OUR SCHOLARS.
HE WAS A PERSON WHO HELPED TO
BRING TURKEY INTO MODERN TIMES
BUT HE'S ONE OF THE WORLD'S
GREAT POETS, HIS NAME IS NAZIM.
HE HAS SOME WORDS WHICH I THINK
ALL OF US IN ELECTED OFFICE AND
WHO VOTE FOR PEOPLE IN ELECTED
OFFICE, ALL OF US, DON'T LIVE IN
THIS WORLD AS IF YOU ARE RENTING
OR HERE ONLY FOR THE SUMMER OR
ACT AS IF IT'S YOUR FATHER'S
HOUSE, BELIEVE IN SEEDS AND
EARTH AND THE SEA BUT PEOPLE
ABOVE ALL LOVE CLOUDS, MACHINES
AND BOOKS.
BUT PEOPLE ABOVE ALL GRIEVE FOR
WITHERING BRANCH AND DYING STAR
AND HURT ANIMAL BUT FEEL FOR THE
PEOPLE ABOVE ALL.
REJOICE IN ALL THE BLESSINGS,
DARKNESS AND LIGHT, THE FOUR
SEASONS, BUT PEOPLE ABOVE ALL
FOR THIS IS --
[Applause]

>> THANK YOU VERY MUCH.
I THINK WE'VE GOT ANOTHER MEMBER
FOR PUBLIC TESTIMONY?
ANYONE ELSE FOR PUBLIC
TESTIMONY?
CHRISTINE, YOU GET TO FINISH US
OUT THIS EVENING.

>> I'LL GO FAST.
MY NAME IS CHRISTINE, I AM
DORCHESTER RESIDENT.
MY INVOLVEMENT WITH THE BOSTON
PUBLIC SCHOOLS STRETCHES BACK 60
YEARS TO 1958 WHEN I STARTED
KINDERGARTEN AT THE PJ KENNEDY
SCHOOL IN EAST BOSTON.
I ATTENDED SCHOOL UNDER ELECTED
SCHOOL COMMITTEE ALSO BEGAN MY
CAREER IN BPS DURING ELECTED
SCHOOL COMMITTEE, MY OWN THREE
KIDS ATTENDED WHEN IT WAS
APPOINTED SCHOOL COMMITTEE WHEN
I RETIRED AFTER 36 YEARS STILL
UNDER THE APPOINTED SCHOOL
COMMITTEE.
I'M HERE TODAY TO SPEAK IN FAVOR
OF ELECTED SCHOOL COMMITTEE.
ONE OBJECTION MANY MAKE TO

ELECTED BOARD IT WILL BECOME
POLITICAL.

I WOULD SUBMIT THAT THE BOARD
ALREADY POLITICAL JUST THAT THE
POLITICS REPRESENTED ARE THOSE
OF ONE PERSON.

IN A DEMOCRACY VOICE OF THOSE
WHO PAY TAXES MUST BE
REPRESENTED.

IT DOESN'T WORK THAT WAY
CURRENTLY.

UNDER MAYOR MENINO PRIORITIES 98
98% OF THE TIME.

UNDER MAYOR WALSH RECENTLY SEEN
ONE SUPERINTENDENT SUMMARILY
DISMISSED ANOTHER HIRED WITHOUT
EVEN PRETEXT OF SCHOOL COMMITTEE
VOTE.

ANOTHER COMMON OBJECTION THE
LAST ELECTED SCHOOL COMMITTEE
WAS DISASTER.

WE RUN THE RISK THAT SOMETIMES
MAKE BAD CHOICES AS -- BAD
DECISION MAKING IN DEMOCRACY
ISN'T LESS PARTICIPATION IT'S
MORE.

ALSO THE APPOINTED SCHOOL
COMMITTEE HASN'T EXACTLY ALWAYS
INSPIRED CONFIDENCE.

IN DECEMBER OF 2010 BEGAN DURING
ROUND OF RECOMMENDED SCHOOL
CLOSURES, ONE MEMBER NAME
REDACTED AS REPORTED BY BOSTON
GLOBE ON DECEMBER 16th, 2010.

QUOTE, WHEN I NEED A COMMENT
FROM A WHITE PRIVILEGED KID LIKE
YOU I'LL LET YOU KNOW.

END QUOTE FROM THE MEMBER.

THE MAN WHO APPEARED TO BE IN
HIS 20s WAS THE MAN WHO WAS
DIRECTED HAD TATTOOS ON HIS NECK
AND ARMS YELLED BACK THAT HE WAS
UNEMPLOYED AS HE VOICED HIS OUTS
RAGE OVER THE COMMENT.

A PREGNANT TEACHER LEADS TO THE
MAN'S DEFENSE SHE YELLED FROM
HER SEAT AT THE MEMBER WHO WAS
ON THE STAGE, THAT PROMPTED A
CALL, REPEATED CALL FOR SECURITY
TO REMOVE THE PREGNANT TEACHER,
SHE LEFT ON HER OWN.

PERHAPS THIS MEMBER WOULD HAVE
BEEN MORE RESTRAINED IN HIS
REMARKS HAD HE KNOWN HE WAS

GOING TO STAND FOR RE-ELECTION.
MORE RECENTLY OCTOBER SCHOOL
COMMITTEE MEETING WITH SOME 58
INDIVIDUALS GAVE EMOTIONAL
TESTIMONY AGAINST CLOSING OF THE
WEST ROXBURY COMPLEX WHILE
PARENTS, TEACHERS AND STUDENTS
START TO ENGAGE THE SCHOOL
COMMITTEE MEMBERS, ONE MEMBER
SEATED ON THE DIAS TWEETING
ABOUT TOTALLY UNRELATED TO THE
SITUATION UNFOLDING BEFORE HIM.
IT IS DIFFICULT TO FEEL
CONFIDENT THAT HIS FULL
ATTENTION WAS DIRECTED TO THOSE
BEFORE HIM BUT HOW MIGHT WE HAVE
HELD HIM ACCOUNTABLE FOR HIS
ACTION?

CURRENTLY THE COMPOSITION OF
BOSTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE LOOKS
LIKE THAT OF TRUSTEES OF
MASSACHUSETTS CHARTER SCHOOLS
WITH SOME 31% OF THE TRUSTEES
COME FROM THE CORPORATE WORLD
AND LITTLE PARENT RE
REPRESENTATION.

IT'S WORTH POINTING OUT THAT
THERE ARE NO K-12 TEACHERS
SERVING ON SCHOOL COMMITTEE.
THAT SEEMS TO BE CONSIDERED A
LACK, CONFLICT OF INTEREST
RATHER THAN PERTINENT
EXPERIENCE.

LASTLY BOSTON IS ONLY ONE OF
MASSACHUSETTS 351 TOWNS, WE HAVE
LARGEST AND MOST COMPLEX SCHOOL
SYSTEM IN THE STATE AND WIDE
RANGE OF VIEWPOINTS NECESSARY TO
SUPPORT OUR SCHOOLS.

WHAT IS THE RATIONAL FOR
DEPRIVING SOME 700,000 RESIDENTS
OF THE REPRESENTATION THAT ALL
OTHER COMMUNITIES IN THE STATE
ENJOY.

BECAUSE SCHOOL COMMITTEES,
WEALTHY PRIVATIZERS ARE
DETERMINED TO UNDERMINE SCHOOL
BOARDS ACROSS THE COUNTRY.
FOR EXAMPLE, IN KEYNOTE SPEECH
AT THE CALIFORNIA CHARTER
SCHOOLS ASSOCIATION ON MARCH
4th, 2014, REED HASTINGS THE
CEO OF NETFLIX ADVOCATED FOR
ELIMINATION OF SCHOOL BOARDS.

SPEAKING FAVORABLY OF CHARTER SCHOOLS HE SAID, MOST IMPORTANT THING THAT THEY CONSTANTLY GET BETTER EVERY YEAR.

THEY ARE GETTING BETTER BECAUSE THEY HAVE STABLE GOVERNANCE THEY DON'T HAVE AN ELECTED SCHOOL BOARD THAT'S REAL TOUGH ISSUE.

NOW IF WE GO TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC AND WE SAY, HERE IS ARGUMENT WITH WHY YOU SHOULD GET RID OF SCHOOL BOARDS, NO ONE IS GOING FOR THAT.

SCHOOL BOARDS HAVE BEEN ICONIC PART OF AMERICA FOR MORE THAN 200 YEARS.

I DO HAVE ONE CAVEAT WHICH WAS RAISED TONIGHT IN THE PURSUIT OF ELECTED SCHOOL PERIOD.

WE MUST KEEP OUT A WEARY EYE FOR DARK MONEY.

IN 2017, \$15 MILLION WAS SPENT ON LOS ANGELES SCHOOL BOARD ELECTION.

REED HASTINGS THE CEO OF NETFLIX CONTRIBUTED \$7 MILLION, DARK MONEY, DIFFICULT TO TRACE. GOAL WAS TO ELECT CHARTER FRIENDLY SCHOOL BOARD.

WHICH THEY DID.

BOARD HAS JUST NAMED HEDGE FUND MANAGER AND BANKER A PERSON WITH NO RELEVANT EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCE TO WORK AS SUPERINTENDENT.

SOMETHING WE NEED TO KEEP FOCUSED ON.

TO ACHIEVE AN ELECTED SCHOOL BOARD.

>> THANK YOU.

>> THANK YOU, CHRISTINE. COUNCILOR EDWARDS, ANY CLOSING REMARKS?

THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

I DO APPRECIATE EVERYONE, THE PANELS AND PUBLIC TESTIMONY TODAY ESPECIALLY AT THIS HOUR.

THE INPUT WAS CERTAINLY THOUGHTFUL AND VERY INFORMATIVE AS WE GO ABOUT THIS WORK THAT'S BEFORE US.

I LOOK FORWARD TO WORKING WITH

ALL OF YOU CERTAINLY CONTINUED
CONVERSATION ABOUT THIS VERY
SPECIFIC TOPIC.

I THINK EVERYONE HAS CHECKED IN,
IF YOU HAVEN'T PLEASE MAKE SURE
THAT WE HAVE YOUR INFORMATION SO
THAT WE CAN FOLLOW UP WITH YOU
REGARDING NEXT STEPS.

AND I LOOK FORWARD TO EXPLORING
THOSE NEXT STEPS WITH YOU, WITH
MY COLLEAGUES AND WITH OTHERS
WHO ARE INTERESTED.

THIS MEETING IS ADJOURNED.