

**To: Interim Superintendent Laura Perille, members of the Boston School Committee, Mayor Martin J. Walsh and members of the City Council  
November 14th, 2018**

As community organizations concerned about the well being of the students, schools and future of our city, we come to you with concerns about recently announced plans for Phase II of “Build BPS,” including plans to close three district schools.

Billed as a long term and comprehensive plan, Build BPS to date is neither long-term nor comprehensive. It lacks critical aspects that would allow students, families, educators and communities to understand the direction and vision for our schools.

The plan lacks the following:

- A 10-year timetable for facility maintenance, relocation, construction, and closure of our schools.
- An analysis to determine if plans are equitable by race, socio-economic status, neighborhood, disability, and linguistic groups.
- An impact analysis to understand the effects on current and future students, families and neighborhoods in the city.
- A financial report, including estimated costs for rebuilds, relocations, maintenance, program expansion, swing space, etc.
- An educational plan regarding programs, grade configurations, extended learning time, student assignment, etc.

In short, the plan does little to answer the question, “What are the long-term plans for the schools of my children, and the children across our city?” And “how will the Phase II recommendations of the plan affect current students and communities?”

As a city of many neighborhoods, Boston must make long-term decisions that address the city as a whole, and in a comprehensive way. This is especially critical regarding our schools, where decisions made regarding one school or neighborhood have great potential impact on other students, schools and neighborhoods. For this reason, plans for any one area of the city must be part of the documents provided to the stakeholders in each community. In light of years of distrust in our schools, it is also especially important that meaningful stakeholder involvement be at the core of any plan. To date, the Build BPS plan does not address these concerns.

Build BPS is a plan for the future that goes back to the past. It ignores reports about increased segregation and inequity among our schools, especially painful as we approach the 65<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Brown v. Board of Education decision and the 45<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Morgan v. Hennigan decision; punishes schools with highly vulnerable student populations; creates divisions between schools, asking them to compete against each other for new builds and renovated buildings; and does nothing to address the burning issues of variable quality across our district. And importantly, the plan does active harm to the 1091 students of the McCormack, Urban Science Academy and West Roxbury High School, all slated for closure over the next year and a half.

It is for these reasons that we, the undersigned, request a moratorium on school closures and major facilities decisions until the full 10-year facilities and educational plan with the missing information requested above is released. Exempted from the moratorium request is the construction of new school buildings already approved for existing schools. In addition we request that there be no divestment of school properties/land, or breaking up of school communities should a school community need to move for proven safety reasons. Finally, we reiterate our request for authentic community engagement in decisions about the future of our city's schools.

Sincerely,

Black Educators Alliance of Massachusetts  
Boston Branch NAACP  
Boston Education Justice Alliance  
Boston Network for Black Student Achievement  
Citizens for Public Schools  
Harbor Point Task Force  
Massachusetts Coalition for Occupational Safety and Health  
SURJ (Showing Up for Racial Justice: Boston)  
Start Smart BPS  
QUEST (Quality Education for Every Student)  
Union of Minority Neighborhoods