

The Public Schools of Brookline
School Committee Meeting of Thursday, June 6, 2019
Superintendent Report
Andrew J. Bott

Maimonides School Building: Listening Sessions for the Pierce School Community

Since our meeting last week, we hosted two listening sessions for members of the Pierce School community to gather feedback on the possible use of a building on the Maimonides School campus (2 Clark Road) to relieve overcrowding at Pierce.

In addition to the listening sessions on Monday evening, June 3 and Thursday morning, June 6, we also hosted a tour of the 2 Clark Road building on Monday afternoon for parent leaders from the Pierce School and Town Meeting Members who represent the Pierce district.

Update: Coolidge Corner School Naming Process

In addition to the Public Hearing during tonight's School Committee meeting, we have scheduled and advertised two listening sessions for community members to offer feedback on the four finalist names that are being considered as the new, permanent name for the Coolidge Corner School. Attached please find a copy of the letter and flyer that were sent earlier this week to all parents, guardians and staff in the district.

On Wednesday afternoon, June 5, it was my pleasure to join the CCS Student Nomination Committee –the *Bee-lievers of Change* – at a celebration in their honor. You can attest – following their remarkable presentation to this committee last week – to the amazing dedication that the student team has shown over the last seven months. Their hard work, commitment to the process, and true spirit of camaraderie and citizenship was applauded at yesterday's celebration and I was so pleased to be one of those thanking them for their critical contribution to this important process.

FY16-FY19 New Positions Added

Recently, questions have been raised about the new positions that have been added to the school district since FY16. There has been concern in the community that large numbers of administrators have been hired in recent years. To help answer these questions, at Brookline Town Meeting on May 21 I shared the attached data highlighting the composition of new hires since FY16. The data of actual positions added refutes these claims.

As you will see, between FY16 and FY19, 92% of all new positions (178 of 196) have been teachers and paraprofessionals. Fewer than 7 positions of the 196 that have been added since FY16 have been Central Office positions. 189 of the 196 positions are union positions, and 7 are not.

In recent overrides, and especially in the 2015 override, the community has supported what has potentially been an unprecedented increase in hiring of school based educators and support staff. These increases were purposefully made and voted on by the community to address the demands of the Town's historic enrollment increases. Because we understand the centrality of the classroom and

recognize that our most important work happens in our classrooms and schools, almost the entire number of positions added by the Town has been focused on classrooms and schools.

School Visits and Community Events

Since my last report, I joined Dr. Sevelius in visiting classrooms at Heath School on May 30 and I also joined the Heath faculty meeting on Tuesday afternoon, June 4. Today I had the opportunity to join Principal Crowley in classrooms visits at Lawrence School.

On Wednesday, June 5, I was honored to participate in a student presentation in Marilyn Yorgey-Williams' 8th grade science classroom at the Coolidge Corner School. As part of a project-based learning unit called "Mission Possible", each student team had researched, planned and created a suitable habitat for human life on their chosen planet in our solar system. The students pitched their ideas to me and the other judges who were acting as potential investors in their venture and after the presentations and questions we made decisions about which projects to "fund". I was very impressed with the students and how thoroughly they had prepared for our visit, described their project, and answered our questions.

Last night I attended a celebration of Brookline High School's METCO graduates. It was a wonderful evening filled with powerful stories about student experiences in Brookline and at BHS. Of particular note was the deep appreciation that the students shared for being *known* by the adults in our community. I'd like to extend my thanks to METCO Director Dr. Keith Lezama and our incredible METCO team for organizing this celebration.

It was my pleasure to attend the Brookline Educators Union Retirement Tea on Monday afternoon, June 2. The following educators were celebrated in recognition of their upcoming retirement: Anu Advani, Mary Burchenal, Jeong Won Chong, Jody Curran, Mary Kay Deiss, Barbara Donnelly, Mazal Jaret, Amy Keefe, Marie Leman, Christien Polos, Jan Preheim, Laurie Sheffield and Geoff Tegnell.



RUTH BATSON



ROLAND HAYES



SYBIL HOLMES



**FLORIDA
RUFFIN RIDLEY**

COOLIDGE CORNER SCHOOL NAMING PROCESS

**WE ENCOURAGE YOU TO ATTEND
ANY OF THESE PUBLIC MEETINGS
TO SHARE YOUR THOUGHTS
ABOUT WHICH FINALIST THE
SCHOOL SHOULD BE NAMED FOR.**

PUBLIC HEARING:

THURSDAY, JUNE 6 AT 7:00 P.M.
BROOKLINE TOWN HALL, 333 WASHINGTON STREET,
5TH FLOOR
(DURING THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING)

EVENING LISTENING SESSION:

THURSDAY, JUNE 13 AT 7:00 P.M.
COOLIDGE CORNER SCHOOL, 345 HARVARD STREET,
MULTIPURPOSE ROOM

MORNING LISTENING SESSION:

MONDAY, JUNE 17 AT 8:15 A.M.
COOLIDGE CORNER SCHOOL, 345 HARVARD STREET,
CAFETERIA

Don't miss this opportunity to offer your feedback to the Brookline School Committee as they review the four finalist names.

The School Committee will recommend one of these four names to the Brookline Town Naming Committee as the new, permanent name for the Coolidge Corner School.



Andrew J. Bott
Superintendent

The Public Schools of Brookline
Town Hall
333 Washington Street, 5th Floor
Brookline, Massachusetts 02445
617.730.2401

June 2, 2019

Dear Brookline Families and Staff,

One year ago, Brookline Town Meeting acknowledged that it is no longer acceptable to name a school after a person who held another human in slavery and voted to change the name of the Edward Devotion School. This important decision temporarily changed the name of the school to the Coolidge Corner School and launched a community-wide process to identify a new name that better represents Brookline's commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion. At the School Committee meeting on Wednesday, May 29, this process reached an important milestone when our Student Nominations Committee - the Bee-lievers of Change - announced the names of the four finalists for the school's new name:

- [Ruth Batson](#)
- [Roland Hayes](#)
- [Sybil Holmes](#)
- [Florida Ruffin Ridley](#)

As the student members of the Nominations Committee so capably explained in front of the public and the School Committee, these four leaders are examples of courage, dedication, and a commitment to enduring causes; each of them is worthy of the honor. These leaders - a civil rights activist, a tenor, a politician, and a suffragist - all have close ties to Brookline, with three of them having lived here and the fourth working in Brookline in her efforts to desegregate area schools. In selecting four finalists from the 15 semi-finalists, the Nominations Committee also responded to community input to recognize a person who supported education, made a positive impact on their local community, and embodied the school's values of work hard, be kind, and help others. The four finalists are an impressive group of individuals whose contributions have been minimized, dismissed, or forgotten entirely until a Brookline community member put their name forward. We can all be proud that one of our most important public facilities will be named after one of these four impressive individuals.

Our community should also be proud of the dedicated and hard-working group of students who have served on the Nominations Committee and led the process so far. As they presented the finalists to the public, these young leaders' commitment to the process, seriousness of purpose, and extensive work shined through. They have stepped up, fully embraced their role as leaders, and are an example for all of Brookline of how to work together respectfully.

Our student leaders considered 119 unique nominations that were submitted by more than 250 community members. The students researched all nominations, assessed them against defined criteria, and narrowed down the options to 15 semi-finalists. At three open and public community Naming Nights, these students met with hundreds of community members, teaching them about the 15 semi-finalists, listening to input and feedback, and engaging in respectful dialogue. More than 200 people submitted feedback on the semi-finalists and provided input on how the Nominations Committee should decide on finalists. The students considered each semifinalist in light of the input they received from community members.

Identifying these finalists has been the result of a thoughtful, thorough, and community oriented process that has been focused on the Coolidge Corner School community while also including the larger Brookline community.

What Happens Next?

From here much of the process is guided by the Town's by-laws for naming public buildings. The School Committee has planned three opportunities for public feedback:

- *Public Hearing:* Thursday, June 6 at 7:00 p.m. on the 5th Floor of Brookline Town Hall, 333 Washington Street
- *Morning Listening Session:* Monday, June 17 at 8:15am in the Cafeteria of the Coolidge Corner School, 345 Harvard Street
- *Evening Listening Session:* To Be Announced

Members of the community are encouraged to attend any session to share their thoughts about which finalist the school should be named for. The School Committee will recommend one of the four finalists to the Town Naming Committee. The Town Naming Committee will consider the recommendation and may have a public hearing before considering whether or not to recommend the name to Town Meeting. Ultimately, Town Meeting must vote to approve the naming of any Town building. The timeline for the remainder of this process is still being determined. We will post the timeline and update the community when the timeline is finalized.

In addition to the students on the Nominations Committee, many others have played a central role in the naming process to date. I want to thank Principal Jennifer Buller and Vice Principal Saeed Ola for supporting, guiding, and mentoring the student leaders every step of the way. I would also like to thank the original petitioners, Deborah Brown and Anne Greenwald, who met with the Nominations Committee and have been great allies throughout this entire process. We have also received excellent support and input from an Ad Hoc Working Group that includes parents, teachers, district administrators, town residents, and the original petitioners. They have provided guidance and insight throughout the process and helped extensively with public outreach.

We are only part way through this journey and hope that you and many other community members will engage in the process in the coming months. For complete information about the process, please visit the Coolidge Corner Renaming website at www.brookline.k12.ma.us/renameccs

Sincerely,

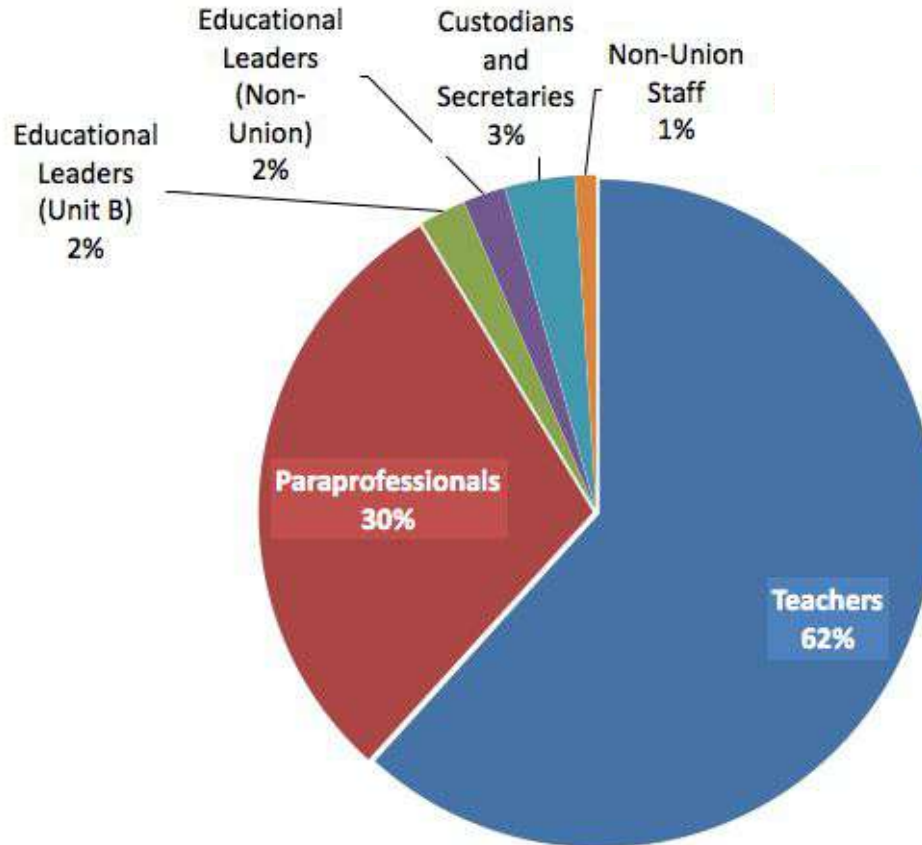


Andrew J. Bott
Superintendent

Positions Added: FY 2016 - FY 2019

	Teachers (Unit A)	Para- professionals (Unit C)	Custodians & Secretaries	Educational Leaders (Unit B)	Educational Leaders (Non-Union)	Non-Union Staff
FY 2016	50.7	7.1	4.6	2.4	3.0	2.0
FY 2017	32.2	22.5				1.0
FY 2018	23.8	11.9*		1.0	-1.0	-1.0
FY 2019	14.5	16.7	2.0	1.0	2.0	
Totals	121.2	57.1	6.6	4.4	4.0	3.0
% of all hires	62%	30%	3%	2%	2%	1%

Positions Added: FY 2016 - FY 2019



Total Staff Hired FY 2016-2019 = 196.3 FTE

- Teachers & Paraprofessionals hired = 178.3 FTE
- Education Leaders hired = 8.4 FTE
- School-based staff hired = 189.9 FTE
- Central Office staff hired = 6.4 FTE
- Union staff hired = 189.3 FTE
- Non-union staff hired = 7.0 FTE