

Mayor Appoints O'Neill to School Committee

Banking professional has long history with BPS and at-risk youth

On July 7th, Mayor Thomas M. Menino appointed Michael D. O'Neill to the Boston School Committee for a term which began on July 15th. Mr. O'Neill will complete the remaining unexpired term of Michele Brooks which ends on January 5, 2009. Ms. Brooks joined the School Committee in 2005 but now has been appointed by Superintendent Carol Johnson to serve as Assistant Superintendent for Family and Student Engagement.

Mr. O'Neill brings to the School Committee a career in financial services with an active involvement with programs serving at-risk youth. He is Senior Vice President, U.S. Trust, Bank of America and received his MBA from Babson College. He is responsible for developing business for local investment, trust and banking professionals.

Mr. O'Neill is a resident of Charlestown and a graduate of Boston Latin School. He serves as Chair of the Private Industry Council's Youth Council and has focused on initiatives to reduce the drop-out rate in the BPS and develop alternative programs for off-track youth.

The appointment of Mr. O'Neill returns to the School Committee a member with a strong business background.

That role was last fulfilled by William Boyan, former President of John Hancock Financial Services whose term expired on January 1, 2007.

A business perspective on the Committee is especially important now as Superintendent Johnson is charged with developing a plan to streamline operational spending to achieve savings that can be allocated to new or existing educational initiatives in the FY10 budget. The plan is expected to address school closings, transportation, school lunch and other operational issues.

The School Committee consists of seven members appointed by the Mayor to staggered four-year terms. A list of the current members of the Committee is shown below.

Boston School Committee 2008		
Member	Term Expires January	First Appointed
Elizabeth Reilinger	2010	1994
Marchelle Raynor	2012	1999
Michael D. O'Neill	2009	2008
Helen M. Dájer	2010	2005
Claudio Martinez	2012	2008
Rev. Gregory G. Groover, Sr.	2011	2007
Alfreda J. Harris	2011	1993