RESEARCH UPDATE

November 4, 2026

BOSTON MUNICIPAL RESEARCH BUREAU

Opportunity to Serve on the Boston School Committee

Qualified Candidates Needed: Deadline 11:59pm November 13, 2026

Interested in shaping the future of the Boston Public Schools? Consider applying to join the Boston School Committee, the governing body of Boston Public Schools. Two seats are available as Chairwoman Jeri Robinson's and Committee Member Quoc Tran's terms expire in January 2027. The term for the two open seats is January 1, 2027 through January 8, 2031. If you are interested in serving on the School Committee, advocating for students, families, and educators, we encourage you to apply here.

Role of the Boston School Committee – The Boston School Committee plays a crucial role in making decisions that impact the direction and quality of K-12 public education in Boston. It works to create an inclusive and effective educational system that addresses the needs of students, families, and educators. Some of the essential functions of the Committee include setting the district's objectives and approving and overseeing the implementation of the Boston Public Schools' annual budget. The School Committee approved BPS' $1.73B FY27 budget in March 2026, which makes up 34.9% of the City's operating budget, allocating resources effectively to benefit students and improve learning environments, and selecting and evaluating the Superintendent. More information about the school committee's responsibilities regarding the budget can be found in our *Research Update*. Additionally, the Committee initiates, approves and ratifies BPS collective bargaining agreements. The current Boston Teachers Union contract, signed in March 2025, expires on August 31, 2027, is expected to cost $181.0M over three fiscal years.

Requirements & Process – The School Committee is composed of seven voting members and one non-voting student representative. Applicants must be Boston residents and submit the application form. The School Committee Nominating Panel will review and interview applicants. The Nominating Panel consists of thirteen members from a variety of backgrounds including parents, business leaders, and

Boston School Committee Members November 2026

Name	Profession	First Appointed	Term Expires	First Appointed By
Jeri Robinson, Chair*	(Retired) Vice President of Early Childhood Initiatives at the Boston Children's Museum	November 2014	January 2027	Mayor Walsh
Rachel Skerritt, Vice Chair	Chief Strategy Officer, Attuned Education Partners	September 2025	January 2028	Mayor Wu
Quoc Tran*	(Retired) Secretariat Deputy Director, Diversity/Civil Rights, Executive Office of Health and Human Services, MA	January 2019	January 2027	Mayor Walsh
Rafaela Polanco Garcia	Director of Parent Engagement and Organizing, St. Stephen's Youth Programs	July 2021	January 2028	Mayor Janey
Dr. Stephen Alkins	DEI Officer, TERC; Principal Investigator, REVISE Center; Education Policy Fellow, Rennie Center for Education Research & Policy	January 2022	January 2030	Mayor Wu
Franklin Peralta	Director of Business Engagement and Public Policy, English for New Bostonians	January 2026	January 2030	Mayor Wu
Lydia Torres	Retired Assistant Principal and Middle School Director, Eliot K-8 Innovation School	January 2026	January 2029	Mayor Wu

*Seat available as part of November 2026 application round

educators. The Panel will review applications and conduct public interviews, which are expected to take place on December 1, 2, and/or 3 via Zoom. After, the panel will submit a list of recommended candidates for each seat to the Mayor. The Mayor will then appoint the two individuals to serve on the School Committee for four-year terms expiring in January 2031.

All applications should be emailed to scnominatingpanel@boston.gov or be mailed or hand-delivered to the Boston School Committee Nominating Panel, City Hall, Mayor's Office 5th floor, Boston, MA 02201. Applications must be received by 11:59pm on Friday, November 13th.