

September 2014

Changes in the School Committee and Nominating Panel

Recent resignation starts the search for a new member this year

Mayor Walsh will appoint a new School Committee member by mid-November as a result of Margaret McKenna's resignation from the School Committee on September 11th. She was appointed by Governor Patrick to be Chair of the state Board of Elementary and Secondary Education. The Mayor will appoint a second Committee member in December as the current term of Rev. Groover expires on January 5, 2015 and he is eligible to reapply. The Mayor's two appointments are particularly important because in 2015 the School Committee will select a new Superintendent.

Ms. McKenna had been appointed by Mayor Menino to the School Committee on November 4, 2013 to fill the remaining term of Alfreda Harris that ends on January 5, 2015.

The City Clerk's letter of September 17th informing the Panel of the vacancy set in motion the nominating process that led to a Panel meeting on September 30th. The Panel is required by October 30th to submit at least three names and no more than five names for the Mayor's consideration. Within 15 days of receiving the list of applicants, the Mayor must select one individual to serve on the School Committee. The person selected will fill the remaining weeks of Ms. McKenna's term and will presumably apply again and be appointed to a full four-year term starting on January 5, 2015.

Nominating Panel

The Nominating Panel is composed of 13 members with nine being designees of parent

organizations, school unions, the business community, a college or university president and the Commissioner of Education. Four members are appointed by the Mayor. Mayor Walsh will continue the terms of three mayoral appointees and has appointed Lois Roach, a Roxbury resident activist and Lecturer in Theatre Studies at Wellesley College, to serve on the Panel. At its September meeting, the Panel members elected Laurie Ciardi, a BPS teacher, Chair.

Application Requirements

Applications for the vacant School Committee seat are due by Friday, October 17th at 5:00 P.M. Applicants must be residents of Boston and are required to complete a questionnaire on education-related topics. The Research Bureau will provide the application and submission information as soon as it is available.

Second School Committee Seat

The current term of School Committee member Rev. Gregory G. Groover will expire on January 5, 2015. Rev. Groover was initially appointed to the School Committee in January 2007 and has the option to reapply for a new four-year term. Whether he does or does not apply, the Mayor will appoint a School Committee member in December to a new four-year term starting on January 5, 2015. Applications for this position are due on Friday, November 7 at 5:00 P.M. Applications submitted for the first open seat will be considered for the second position as well.