

Henderson Inclusion School  
Governance Board Meeting - Update on Henderson Head of School Search  
August 9, 2023

The Meeting was called to order by Eva Clarke at 5:31 PM

**Attendance:**

*Governance Board (GB)*

Administrators: Sheneal Parker (DOI Lower Campus)

Parents: Jess Butler (K0-1st), Michelle Carmell (6-8), Courtney Feely Karp (2-5),  
Danielle Tierney (6-8)

Community Partners: Eva Clarke

Teachers: Brett Nadan-Buresh (9-12), Mary O'Brien (2-5), Stephanie Okwudi (6-8),  
Allison Mulkerins (K0-1)

Screening Committee (SC) Members: Bethany Moffi (parent), Keyona Aviles (parent),  
Nisha Subramanian (parent), Christina Ogunti (BTU), Manny Pierre (BTU), Phyllis  
Leslie (community member), Amanda Savage (BTU)

District: Drew Echelon (Chief of Schools), Pauline Lugira (Superintendent of  
Autonomous Schools)

*Absent: Vilma Silva (GB community member), Bamari Davis rep (GB student), Kim  
Willingham (SC community member), Teresa Maynard (SC parent), Qanna Spencer  
(SC BTU), Kathleen Powers (SC BTU), Nicole Daley (GB community member)*

**Update on Head of School Search**

Drew Echelon gave the Governance Board and Head of School Screening Committee an update on this summer's progress for finding the next permanent leader for the Henderson School.

Stephanie Sibley has taken a leadership position within BPS and will not be returning as the Henderson's school leader.

Drew described the steps the Screening Committee and the Governance Board followed in the Head of Schools search process.

- The Governance Board held a number of town halls and conducted surveys to get feedback from the community about what we were looking for in a leader.
- Members of the Governance Board worked together to craft a Job Description specific to the Henderson School.

- Once the Screening Committee (SC) was selected, this body reviewed resumes and application materials for a number of candidates.
  - The SC ranked semifinalists and selected a number of candidates to participate in pre-screening calls.
- After these calls, the SC moved 3 finalists forward to be interviewed fully.
- Following the full length interviews, the SC was nearly unanimous about sending a single candidate forward to the superintendent to serve as the next Head of School. This candidate was uniquely qualified to lead the Henderson.
  - The superintendent interviewed/recruited this candidate and offered the candidate the position August 1.
  - The candidate contacted the superintendent on August 4th and declined the position.

Ultimately, this leaves the Henderson without a permanent leader for the upcoming school year and an interim Head of Schools will take over until we find one.

The process revealed to the district and the Superintendent several things about our community needs. It appears the community favors a co-leadership model and wants a strong high school leader. The district will support this process more in the fall. They have committed to working with a recruitment firm for next year at a better time to find candidates (November). The Henderson community will still have input and be part of the process for the search for the Head of Schools. The district and superintendent will also be reaching out to Dr. Henderson to get his support and insight in the process both in the short term and in the long term as we head into early to mid fall.

The superintendent is in talks with MassArt to form a partnership with the Henderson to infuse our current arts programming and possibly provide dual enrollment. She is hoping to write an MOU for the upcoming school year.

The district will know more about an interim leader in the next week. Once this is determined, the district will call another informational public Governance Board meeting with 48 hours notice.

Drew expressed thanks to the Screening Committee for their tireless efforts and conveyed that the district is very committed to supporting the Henderson start the school year strong. Over the summer, the district has worked on scheduling and staffing and will continue to do so.