

Boston School Committee Meeting Testimony

Sept 28, 2022

By Lisa Jeanne Graf

My name is Lisa Jeanne Graf, and I live in the Fenway Neighborhood.

Welcome New Superintendent Mary Skipper,

First, It was good to meet with you and SPED PAC members last month. I was so happy that you were interested in learning about the neurodiversity movement. This approach can offer students strength based learning environments that are responsive to all student's needs. I look forward to collaborating in this area with BPS staff. Please include the disability community in this work as well, as they have lived experience.

Second, poor bus service is impacting the employment of numerous parents from buses that don't show up, and numerous students are put at risk of harm from buses without monitors.

I recommend that you increase the starting wage for bus monitors to encourage more individuals to apply.

I also encourage the district to consider a co-operative model for the next transportation contract. This could allow for higher bus driver pay and ensure that the knowledge of people running the routes is used in planning routes well.

Also some efficiency can be gained by changing start times by ten minutes or less, here and there. This could help with more on time buses and shorter trips with minimal impact on families' schedules. ([link](#)) I have a proposal that I have publicly shared and also emailed to all of you.

Third, COVID safety is an issue that we need to address by preventative measures, especially when COVID is increasing in waste water in the city. I support the recommendations by FamCOSA, and as a member of this group, I look forward to collaborative work on this issue.

Fourth, please release the 2nd and 3rd reports about the Mission Hill K-8 School to ensure that the district learns from both the strengths and weaknesses of this closed school.

There is a lot of important work ahead. Best wishes for the coming school year.