

4 Elected School Committee Proposals

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Ideas to generate discussion

Proposal 1

7 members could be voted by and represent the following groups:

1. Citywide Parent's Council - 1 member
2. BSAC (Boston Student Advisory Council) - 2 members
3. Sped PACac (BPS Special Education Parents Advisory Council) - 1 member
4. BTU PAC (Boston Teachers Union Parent Advisory Council) - 1 member
5. DELLAC (District English Language Learner Advisory Committee) - 1 member
6. Community members at school site councils, or school governing boards in BPS - 1 member

All members would have a vote, including the students member. This would need to be changed on a state level, through a change in the city charter, but there is legal precedence in Maryland.

Proposal 2

The school committee could be represented by candidates from the 9 districts in the city, like the city council but not include at large seats and be voted in by **Boston residents**. Also each candidate would need to be a parent of a BPS student, a former BPS student, a community member who has advocated for public education, or a teacher. 2 student members would also be included and voted in by BSAC students.

Proposal 3

The school committee could be represented by candidates from the 9 districts in the city, like the city council but not include at large seats and be voted in by **ward members**. Also each candidate would need to be a parent of a BPS student, a former BPS student, a community member who has advocated for public education, or a teacher. 2 student members would also be included and voted in by BSAC students.

Proposal 4

The school committee would be a hybrid of Proposal 1 and 2.

There would be five city school committee members that would be voted in by city residents. 4 members would each represent two districts and live in one of those districts. The 5th position would represent the district with the largest student population (in K-12

public education). That member would live in the same district.

Four members would be voted by and represent the following groups:

1. Citywide Parent's Council - 1 member
2. BSAC (Boston Student Advisory Council) - 1 member
3. Sped PACac (BPS Special Education Parents Advisory Council) - 1 member
4. DELLAC (District English Language Learner Advisory Committee) - 1 member

All members would have a vote.

Funding Restrictions:

All 3 proposals would have the following funding restrictions:

1. no money for campaigns could come from businesses, including charter schools, and developers.
2. only individual personal contributions would be allowed, and at a maximum of \$50.00

Question:

- For elections what would be the guidelines for collecting signatures? Perhaps the amount currently for city council elections, for district candidates would be appropriate.

Interesting Facts:

- School Committees throughout the country have between 3 to 15 members.
- Some Maryland school district's let student members have a vote.

References:

How to be an elected School Committee Member [Link](#)
ballotpedia [link](#)

Thoughts on the current model:

- The process of appointing school committee members does not work, because potential members that have views contrary to the mayor, are not offered as options to the mayor by the nominating committee, when new school committee members are being considered for open positions. This limits the amount of representation to those who agree with the mayor's positions.
- It is human nature to want to represent the person(s) who made your position possible.