

Minutes of the Paul A. Dever Elementary School  
Open Meeting

Saturday, March 20, 2021  
10:30-11:10 am ET (remote via Zoom)

Statutory Notice of this meeting was filed with Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.

**1. Call to Order**

Chair, Jim Gross called the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m. ET.

**2. Roll call, Introductions**

School & Main Institute (SMI) Board of Directors present: Chantel Devaughn, Jim Gross, Lorenzo Harrison, Robert Sainz, Gregg Weltz.

Others present: Dever Principal Margaret Reardon, SMI School Receiver Fran Roy.

**3. Report from School Principal and Receiver**

Margaret Reardon, principal, and Fran Roy, receiver, began with a brief history of the school and the demographics of the student population:

SMI is the 4<sup>th</sup> appointed receiver of the school.

Majority Latinx students (60%) with 25 % African American and a small number of white students (8.5%).

Ms. Reardon shared the intersecting goals of the school: creating independent learners, developing social and emotional dexterity, and empowering families. Both Ms. Reardon and Ms. Roy shared what it's been like through Covid-19 providing a timeline of how the instruction has moved and shifted between virtual learning to in-person learning, from full-remote to hybrid, and also the challenges and strengths during and from Covid-19. Ms. Roy outlined the work related to the upcoming 6<sup>th</sup> grade expansion and the restructuring of the classroom configurations from K2-5 to K2-6 which will all be full inclusion classrooms (with the inclusion of English language learner and Emotionally impaired students). The grade expansion and restructured classrooms will be implemented in school year 2021-22. Ms. Reardon concluded that overall things are moving in the right direction: improving instruction, changing the school's overall mindset, changing the structure to set up the students and the school for success.

**3. Q&A between SMI Board of Directors and Receiver**

The School & Main Institute (SMI) board had an opportunity to ask questions of the Receiver and/or Principal or give comment.

- When teaching remotely how does that work? With the new directive from DESE (Department of Elementary and Secondary Education) to be back in the building starting April 5<sup>th</sup> what percentage of students do you expect to will remain fully remote?
  - Use a Polycom camera for the remote learning. It does require a special level of skill and expertise to do both the in classroom and teaching to those remote.
  - Maybe 25-30% will remain remote.
- What were the outcomes for this year?

- Want students to understand the content - students are engaged, participating and clearly understanding the content. Parent engagement and the vision of the Family Engagement position - restructuring how it is happening and working to redesign this so that it is a much more central and integrated approach. Have started a 'whole child support team' so want to have a 'family support team'. Dever has three Leadership teams [academic team, social emotional team, family engagement team] that all have equal weight.
  - Is there an official definition of high needs or how is it defined?
    - It's a DESE definition: a student who is an English language learner, with disability(ies), or low income (eligible for free/reduced price school lunch).
  - Reflecting on the various experiences under the receiverships how would you describe SMI?
    - SMI has been a breath of fresh air. Putting forth expectations and clear routines that are sustainable. SMI's understanding of the tools and supports for what is best for the kids.
- Board of Directors members thanked the Principal and Receiver for the informative presentation, and expressed their thanks to the Principal, administrators, teachers, and other staff for their dedication and exceptional work.

#### **4. Public Comment**

There was no public comment received.

#### **5. Adjournment**

Minutes of meeting will be posted on School & Main Institute website.

Chair, Jim Gross adjourned the meeting at 11:01 a.m. ET.