



Offered by City Councilor *Andrea J. Campbell* Essaibi-George Janey  
Baker Flaherty Flynn McCarthy City Of Boston O'Malley, Pressley Wu Zakim Ciommo

## CITY COUNCIL

IN THE YEAR TWO THOUSAND AND EIGHTEEN

### ORDER FOR A HEARING TO REVIEW THE BOSTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS STRATEGIES TO SERVE OFF-TRACK YOUTH

- WHEREAS Boston Public Schools (BPS) has not made progress in its high schools over the past ten years, particularly for off-track, high-risk students. Although there have been various initiatives and additional resources, the outcomes have not significantly changed; and
- WHEREAS A recent report by Ernst & Young LLP and Parthenon as commissioned by BPS and the Barr Foundation pinpoints challenges across schools in preventing students from falling off track and in meeting the needs of those who do fall off track; and
- WHEREAS Data identified more than 3,400 students as off-track – with only several hundred seats available in support programs to serve them; and
- WHEREAS An alarming number of BPS 8th grade students are already showing signs of being off-track including low attendance, suspensions, failed MCAS; and
- WHEREAS Hundreds of students who enter BPS high schools *without* any warning signals become off-track or high-risk by the 10th grade; and
- WHEREAS Off-track and high-risk students are not being supported in an equitable or strategic way – many BPS schools are supporting students with needs ranging from academic remediation to English acquisition status; and
- WHEREAS Although alternative schools are designed for students with more needs, they do not receive more funding and have worse student outcomes than off-track students in non-alternative schools; and
- WHEREAS The Reengagement Center, designed to intervene with off-track youth, is not actually intervening with half of the students it works with; **NOW, THEREFORE BE IT**
- ORDERED That the appropriate committee of the Boston City Council convene one or more public hearings to explore strategies to resolve these challenges. Boston Public Schools, the Mayor's Chief of Education, and all other interested parties are invited to attend and provide testimony.

Filed in City Council: June 6, 2018