



## STATEMENT FROM THE CITYWIDE PARENT COUNCIL OF THE BOSTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

The Citywide Parent Council (CPC) is made up of elected parents and guardians with the goal of representing all 125 schools in the Boston Public Schools. It has been in existence since 1974 and is one of the 3 officially recognized parent organizations in the district. Nearly half of the district's schools currently have representatives in the CPC.

Tonight, we are here to stand with the Boston Education Justice Alliance, the Boston Education Equity Coalition, and other organizations made up of stakeholders like us, in stating our disappointment with the design of the superintendent search process. We are also here to endorse the candidate our members believe is best qualified to serve as superintendent: Dr. Brenda Cassellius.

The time frame of this final and most critical step has made it nearly impossible for us to do the work we are charged to do. We have not had time to properly reach out to our constituents in each school, ensure that they have been educated about the 3 finalists, and gather their reactions. Although our council contains many members from throughout the city's schools, we all have encountered many parents who are still unaware that the superintendent search is at its completion. We are *certain* that the School Committee lacks a full understanding of the community's perspective on this choice—because we are *certain* that the community has not had time to form that opinion.

Given this disenfranchisement and lack of parent voice, the Citywide Parent Council decided to undertake a brief, but concentrated, effort to engage more parents and families in the Superintendent search. We also decided that, if a clear pattern of support emerged or if we felt a compelling need to act in the public interest, we would endorse a candidate.

We sought parent and family feedback through in-person conversations, emails and a multi-lingual survey which received 267 responses. Because we value transparency in our decision-making, we shared these data with our members and engaged in a dialogue to decide on a course of action. It is unfortunate that you have failed to make public what you have heard from your own surveys and listening sessions. The public does not even have an explanation of how or if the School Committee has taken community feedback into account in its decision-making. We therefore believe we are acting in the public interest by making this endorsement, which a strong majority of our respondents supported.

Dr. Cassellius articulated an inspiring, yet practical, vision of how she has been able to make historic achievements in equity in her position as Commissioner of Education in Minnesota, named specific actions she would take to engage with parents, families and community members, and provided clear evidence of her commitment to a robust public school system that seeks to provide a well-rounded education for all children. An emphasis on the whole child, commitment to wrap-around services, respect for teachers, and extensive classroom expertise confirm that Dr. Cassellius is not just the most qualified candidate for this position, but is the only candidate who is fully committed to what is best for our children, and for Boston Public Schools, and for our city.