



Offered by City Councilor Annissa Essaibi-George
Flaherty, Bok, Mejia, Breadon, Wu, Arroyo, Campbell and Janey

**CITY OF BOSTON
IN CITY COUNCIL**

**ORDER FOR A HEARING REGARDING LIBRARIES
AND LIBRARY STAFF IN THE BOSTON PUBLIC
SCHOOLS**

WHEREAS: In the 2017-2021 Boston Public Schools Library Services Strategic Plan, the Strategic Planning Committee identified that only 53 BPS schools had a library and/or librarian staff: 25 are in elementary schools, 1 in a middle school, and 19 of the 21 high schools have certified school library teachers; and

WHEREAS: Today, thirty of our K-8 schools and only 16 of our high schools have have Library Teachers or Paraprofessionals, despite the Strategic Plan's priority to increase library access across the District by 2021; and

WHEREAS: Prior to COVID-19, our librarians and library paras did incredible work with the resources they had including creating mobile libraries on carts, running book fairs, creating curriculum specific library lessons in tandem with teachers, coordinating computer labs, making manipulatives for interactive library lessons, fundraising for our schools, and running visits to local libraries; and

WHEREAS: During the pandemic, our librarians and library paras have worked tirelessly to digitize collections, have live and recording reading hours, deliver books to our students homes, hosted remote reading groups, and provided necessary classroom support to our teachers; and

WHEREAS: In order for BPS to provide a high quality education that encourages a love of reading and research, every school should have a library and library staff as well as a strong partnership with the Boston Public Library system, **THEREFORE, BE IT**

ORDERED: That the appropriate committee of the Boston City Council hold a hearing to examine the needs and current barriers to ensuring that every Boston Public School has fully supported library staff and a fully equipped library, with culturally, developmentally, and linguistically appropriate materials, so that the district can fosters a love of reading in every Boston Public School student.

Filed: August 13th, 2020