



## CITY OF BOSTON IN CITY COUNCIL

### ORDER FOR A HEARING TO ENSURE THAT SCHOOL THE BOSTON POLICE AND SCHOOL SAFETY OFFICERS WORK TOGETHER TO ENSURE A SAFE ENVIRONMENT FOR ALL OUR STUDENTS AND STAFF IN THE BOSTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

**WHEREAS**, The audit of Boston Public Schools by the state Department of Elementary and Secondary Education reported that the Boston Public School system does not support the physical, social, and emotional well-being of all students and does not ensure a safe environment for all students ; *and*

**WHEREAS**, That audit also found that the district's system for managing, responding to, and resolving complaints is not responsive to parent and guardian concerns. This has led to many parents believing that the district does not prioritize the physical, social, and emotional well-being and safety of all students: *and*

**WHEREAS**, Acts of violence in Boston Public Schools, including physical assaults, bullying, and sexual assaults are on the rise and students, families and school staff do not feel that the district is handling these attacks appropriately ; *and*

**WHEREAS**, The Mission Hill School report makes painfully clear that unabated sexual and mental abuse of students took place there for nearly a decade to countless students as young as 4 and 5, and not only was nothing done, but actions were taken by the district to cover up the behavior and hide the truth; *and*

**WHEREAS**, There were 440 reported incidents of bullying and 744 sexual assaults reported last school year.. This school year we have had gun shots, bullying, physical attacks, loaded guns, and sexual assaults happening across the City.

**WHEREAS**, Crimes happening outside school grounds are also a growing worry. The May 11th stabbing at Nubian Square Station and the shooting outside Burke High School in September are just a couple of the incidents. Both victim and attacker were students of Boston Public Schools. In another incident, earlier this spring, a teacher and student were shot just outside of TechBoston Academy in

Dorchester; *and*

**WHEREAS,** On January 4, 2023, the first day back from winter break, a teacher from Young Achievers School escorted a student from the building at dismissal because the girl was afraid to walk home alone. The teacher and student were jumped by a group of girls and witnesses saw them being punched and kicked repeatedly. As the teacher shielded the student on the ground, one of the girls jumped on her head knocking her unconscious and causing severe damage to her face and eyes.

**WHEREAS,** With all the recent, tragic incidents in schools nationally, it's clear that sensible, timely communication and action regarding dangerous school situations is more important than ever. Now is the time for law enforcement and Boston Public Schools to cooperate, rather than alienate ; *and*

**WHEREAS,** Concerned parents and guardians are removing their children from Boston Public Schools. Enrollment has steadily dropped for over ten years and has only accelerated in the last two years. Teachers are also leaving the system because of fear for their own safety; *and*

**WHEREAS,** Too many Boston Public School children and educators are being assaulted and seriously hurt. If our students are going to be able to compete in a global economy, at the least they need to feel safe at school so they can learn. ***NOW, THEREFORE BE IT***

**ORDERED:** That the appropriate committee of the Boston City Council holds a hearing to examine how the Boston Police Department, the BPS School Safety Officers and the Boston Public School Administration works together to enforce a policy that ensures all our students and staff are safe. Representatives from the Boston Police Department, City of Boston, Boston Public Schools, MBTA Transit Police Department, the Office of Safety Services in Boston Public Schools, youth leaders, members of the public, and other interested parties shall be invited and are encouraged to attend.

Filed on: January 11, 2023