Blackstone School community mobilizes to fight $500,000 budget shortfall

Rally, speeches, and an art exhibit boost their campaign to stop staff cuts

Submitted by Ariel Branz

Over a hundred parents, students, and teachers from the Blackstone Elementary School in the South End marched on Boston Public Schools headquarters this week to demand that staff cuts slated for next year be cancelled.

The BPS budget is scheduled for release at a School Committee meeting on February 6, but parents at several schools have already learned of painful staff cuts. More parents are expected to converge on the School Committee meeting February 6.

In a taste of things to come, Blackstone community members held banners and signs marched through the elegant Bulfinch Building lobby last Wednesday and set up an exhibit of student art and letters opposing the cuts outside the School Committee chambers. More than 20 spoke at the School Committee meeting, telling personal stories about staff who changed students’ lives.

Fifth grader Joshua Greenaway testified: “I don’t understand why my school keeps losing the things that mean the most to me, while other

Continued on page 4

Friends of the South End Library

Submitted Marleen Nienhuis

South End Wreath Update

Tuesday, February 26

Zeitgeist Stage Company, a resident theater company at the Boston Center for the Arts, will present how a play goes from Stage to Stage. Triggers Warning, by playwright Jacques Lamarr, was commissioned by Zeitgeist Stage, and will be in the BCA theatre starting April 4. The play examines the impact of a school shooting from the perspective of the shooter’s family. Playwright Lamarr will join Zeitgeist’s award-winning Artistic Director David Miller for the event at the library, as will some of the actors. Seating is limited.

Tuesday, March 12

A talk about the architectural design of the South End library by Dan Kelley, a principal in the Philadelphia firm affiliated with the original architects, Mitchell Giurgola.

Tuesday March 19

Award-winning author Suzanne Berne will read from her suspense novel, The Dogs of Littlefield. Note: Additional bookings are in process, depending on the timeline for the library’s planned closing.

Library Park Update

The back-splashed counter in Library Park is history. The initial placement caused some concern in the Parks Department; changes were made to create a more balanced design.

Continued on page 5

Death Investigation

In the area of 186 Northampton Street

Submitted by Boston Police Department

At about 12:35 PM on Monday, February 4, 2019, officers assigned to District D-3 (South End) responded to a call for a person shot in the area of 186 Northampton Street in Lower Roxbury. On arrival, officers located an adult male victim suffering from apparent gunshot wounds. The victim, suffering life-threatening injuries, was transported to an area hospital where he was later pronounced deceased.

The Boston Police Department is actively reviewing the facts and circumstances surrounding this incident. Anyone with information is strongly urged to contact Boston Police Hoseide Detective at (617) 343-4470.

Community members wishing to assist this investigation anonymously can do so by calling the Crime Stoppers Tip Line at 1 (800) 494-TIPS or by texting the word TIP to CRIME (27463).

South End Students Earn Boston College High School Honors

The following South Ender achieved Honors for the Second Quarter at Boston College High School:

Naol Zacharias, 2018 High Honors
Dylan Mullin, 2020 High Honors
Aldo Souza-Ellis, 2021 Honors
John Mullin, 2022 High Honors
Lucas Rimmer, 2022 Honors

For Honors an upperclassman needs a 3.8 QPA and all grades "C+" or higher.

A senior needs a 3.6 QPA and all grades "C+" or higher.

For Honors an upperclassman needs a 3.2 QPA and all grades "C-" or higher. A senior needs a 3.16 QPA and all grades "C-" or higher.

Boston College High School is a Jesuit, Catholic, college preparatory school for young men founded in 1863. The school enrolls approximately 1,000 students from more than 100 communities in eastern Massachusetts.

Check us out online at
www.mysouthend.com
twitter.com/SouthEndNews
facebook.com/SouthEndNews
Sen. Sonia Chang-Díaz Announces Winter Neighborhood Office Hours

**SUBMITTED BY SEN. CHANG-DÍAZ**

Senator Sonia Chang-Díaz has announced neighborhood office hours for February 2019. Office Hours, held by Sen. Chang-Díaz and her staff, will take place within each of the neighborhoods of the Second Suffolk District.

These office hours are a great opportunity to discuss any community or state issues and hear about what’s going on at the State House. Office hours will be held at the following times and locations. Please note that there are both morning and evening office hours.

**Jamaica Plain — Tuesday, February 5, 5-6PM, Jamaica Plain Library, 30 South Street.** Description: Grab your weekend page turner and talk about issues in the neighborhood with Senator Chang-Díaz and Legislative Aide Ethan Smith.

**Mattapan — Wednesday, February 6, 4:30-6PM, Mattapan Library, 1350 Blue Hill Avenue.** Description: Take your library card along and meet with Legislative Aide Maia Raynor to talk about issues in the neighborhood & State House.

** Hyde Park — Thursday, February 7, 5-6PM, Hyde Park Library, 33 Harvard Ave.** Description: Refresh your reading list and sit down with Legislative Aide Ethan Smith to discuss what is going on in the neighborhood.

**Mission Hill — Tuesday, February 12, 8:30-10AM, Mike’s Donuts, 1524 Tremont St.** Description: Pick up a delicious donut and then join Communications Director Joshua Wolfson for local updates and upcoming legislation.

**Dorchester — Tuesday, February 12, 1:30-3:30PM, Grove Hall Senior Center, 51 Geneva Ave.** Description: Sit down with Legislative Aide Maia Raynor and talk about what’s been happening at the State House.

**South End — Tuesday, February 12, 4:45-6:45PM, South End Community Health Center, 1601 Washington Street.** Description: Join Sen. Chang-Díaz and Legislative Director Ernesto Reyes Hernández to discuss local issues and the upcoming legislation.

** Roxbury — Thursday, February 14, 5:30-7:30PM, Cory Johnson Program for Post-Traumatic Healing at RPC Social Impact Center, 725 Warren Street.** Description: Learn about post-traumatic healing and catch up with Legislative Aide Maia Raynor for all the latest updates.

Those who cannot attend these office hours can contact Sen. Chang-Díaz’s office at 617-722-1673, email Sonia.Chang-Diaz@masenate.gov, or stop by her State House office located in Room 111 on the first floor of the State House for assistance.

Any questions regarding the Senator’s office hours can be directed to her Communications Director, Joshua Wolfson, at 617-722-1673 or Joshuawolfson@masenate.gov.

February is Career Education Month

**Come Celebrate at Madison Park Technical Vocational High School**

**SUBMITTED BY MPTVHS**

Boston Public Schools will be celebrating Career Technical Education Month, Madison Park Technical Vocational High School (MPTVHS) is the only Vocational High School in Boston and offers nineteen specialized Vocational Programs under one roof to Boston Public Schools students. We will be opening our doors to the community and celebrating our students’ achievements on Monday, February 4 through Friday, February 8, 2019 from 5-8 p.m.

With over nine major development projects transforming Boston landscapes, MPTVHS is working to prepare students for careers across the City of Boston and beyond. Our classroom laboratories are state-of-the-art with the latest and most relevant equipment and software. Students experience hands-on, project based learning opportunities that help prepare them for career and college opportunities.

Kevin McCaskill, the Executive Director says, “We are building Boston’s workforce. Our students will be a part of transforming the city and the neighborhoods they reside in.”

Over the past three years more than 100 students have graduated from five of MPTVHS’s Career Technical Programs (Metal Fabrication, Plumbing, Carpentry, Electricity and Facility and Property Management). MPTVHS continues to be a force with creating a pipeline for young people to have sustainable careers.

Madison Park’s mission is to provide our diverse student body with the opportunity to acquire an integrated career and academic education. Individualized instruction, project based learning and work site experience prepare all students to succeed in technologically advanced careers, as well as post-secondary education. Students who meet all graduation requirements may receive both a BPS Diploma and a Certificate of Competency in their technical program.
TWO SOUTH END LOCATIONS

House of Siam

Open for Lunch & Dinner
Come Experience our Beautiful Dining Room and the Freshest Thai Cuisine in Boston

592 Tremont St. (near Dartmouth Street)
Take out is available from 11:30 a.m. to 11:00 p.m. daily
617.267.7426

542 Columbus Avenue
617.267.1755
Blackstone
Continued from page 1

schools get more. Some schools, like charter schools, are getting a second building, while we lose swimmers. Others schools are learning in updated classrooms, when most of us are learning in classrooms that don’t have walls or doors. We are losing teachers, mentors, and resources. What is next? Taking money away from our school needs to stop.

Parent Rafael Polanco described her first day at the school, newly arrived from the Dominican Republic with her young son. Neither of them spoke English and her son was afraid to be left alone. But staff took care of them. Soon, her son began telling her how they were teaching him English, and how one particular staff member “makes me feel I am important here at school.”

With staff cuts looming, Polanco said, “I’m wondering, how many parents are going to arrive at the Blackstone School with my story? Perhaps we’re no longer going to have that incredible and wonderful body of teachers that we have here today.”

The planned reductions at the Blackstone are especially concentrated in special education for students with disabilities, with a loss of four positions.

According to state statistics, 24 percent of Blackstone students have disabilities; 47 percent are English learners, and 76 percent come from low-income families.

“Blackstone has become a refuge for high needs students who have been pushed out and marginalized by nearby ‘level one’ schools,” said teacher Crystal Collier. “We are busting at the seams to treat them and help them. We’re at capacity. We’re doing the best we can to give them 21st century education.”

“Last year,” said teacher Alex Sullivan, “we received hundreds of English language learners with one ESL teacher. Next year, thanks to a lawsuit from the Department of Justice, we will have over six ESL teachers. What a disgrace that it took a lawsuit to bring these resources to our students.”

“So I ask you, with one [special education] resource teacher next year, down from five this year, are we just waiting for a lawsuit that protects our students with special needs, so that we might meet their needs?”

Events

Black History Month

Black History Month Marketplace
February 11 - February 14
11:00 AM - 6:00 PM
Community Support is at the Core of our Black History Marketplace! This vendor fair brings some of Boston’s most respected small business owners and artisans together, on campus, each year. Attendees will find jewelry, clothing, handcrafted knits, scents, soaps and oils, and many other gifts for yourself and your loved ones!

We invite you to enjoy a fun experience shopping where you can find unique one of a kind gifts while connecting with crafters and artisans. Visit daily 11:00 AM - 6:00 PM from February 11 2019 through February 14th.
Roslyn Community College, 1234 Columbus Avenue, Building 1, Student Commons, Roslyn Crossing

Untold American Stories: Black History Month
February School Vacation Week Programming
Tuesday, February 19 to Friday, February 22
10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Join us for a fun-filled week of educational programming, as we explore true and inspiring stories of achievement. In collaboration with Sweet Blackberry® and local artists, the Library will offer morning and afternoon activities centered on aviation, invention, dance, and artmaking. These will complement short film screenings. And don’t forget to explore the Mapparium® – it’s free all day for everyone 17 and younger!

Continued on page 5
Advice on Pets, Life, Love

By Monica Collins

Dear Dog Lady,

Help! After having found a wonderful dog, we moved in together along with my standard poodle and his two Maltese. His boys had never been housebroken, even. They also had never been socialized. We discussed hiring a pro to train us and the dogs.

When we moved here I made it clear I would not live in a house where dogs peed and marked at will—not to mention their incessant barking at all hours. I asked and he never made the effort to find a trainer. So I found one. He paid up front and never followed through on any of the lessons. Fast forward two years later. The dogs are now neutered and not allowed to run free, but they still bark and, if I am not home, he doesn’t watch them. I come home to find pee on furniture and wood floors that now have ugly permanent stains.

I love this man dearly, but I don’t know how long I can actually endure this behavior from him. What is up? Why has his reluctance to provide structure and rules for his dogs? He is absolutely nuts about dogs. What gives?

—Desperate in Paradise

Dear Desperate in Paradise,

Is he really nuts about dogs? Or just nuts? If he truly loved and honored his hounds, he would have found a good trainer who could help him with the audience that night. There will be room to add your name to the list the day of.

M.C.: Julia Mejia

Artistic: Ashley Rose

Other Artists: maybe you?

We want to make this an engaging night filled with powerful words, people, and thought. How do we make a poem share it. Tell your friends and family to come out.

Community Space in Jamaica Plain, 576 Centre Street, Boston

Celebrating Black History: Entrepreneurship, Authenticity, Self-Care

February 14

5:00 PM – 6:00 PM

In collaboration with Wework, Consciously Exposed Present:

Celebrating Black History: Entrepreneurship, Authenticity, Self-Care

“America is currently forgetting an estimated 1.1 million businesses owned by people of color because of past and present discrimination,” writes Almoner Alonzo, author of this new report from the Center for Global Policy Solutions.

Businesses owned by people of color are playing an important part in restoring the health of the American economy after the Great Recession. —The Colored Entrepreneurs: Why The Racial Gap Among Firms Costs The U.S. Billions

WeWork, 51 Saint James Avenue, 6th Floor, Boston

Can’t Wait until Thursday

For the next Issue of the South End News?

Head Over to

SouthEndNews.com

Get local and advertise your property in the South End News.

Call Jeff at (617) 464-7280 ext. 202 or email: sales@southendnews.com

February 7, 2018 | South End News | Page 3

This weird and annoying quirk began about a year ago and is getting progressively worse. Any ideas?

—Janine

Dear Janine,

Ooh, the poor guy. At nine years, yours truly is becoming a senior member of the pack. As dogs become older, things change in their bodies and minds. You should first go to your veterinarian for an examination. Ask your vet to examine your dog’s ears. Tell her (or him) what is happening, how your little guy is more sensitive to certain sounds. This could be a biological issue. On the other hand, if the vet believes the cause is behavioral, seek a referral to a dog behavioral trainer who could help you. Maybe some modification coaching would be good for both of you so you could become more aware of the sounds bothering your dog and your dog could become less bothered.

Write askdoglady@gmail.com

Black Student Union’s Black and White Affair

February 22, 8:00 PM

Come and Celebrate Black History Month with Suffolk’s BSU. Dress to the nines and enjoy your Friday Night with us. It is Semi Formal (preferably Black and White Attire) and we are giving away prizes for Best Dressed.

Hyatt Regency Boston, 1 Avenue de Lafayette, Boston
Meetings

**Alexandra Hotel**

Thursday, February 7, 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM

The Proponent proposes to retain and restore the façade of the existing Hotel Alexandra, and construct a new, approximately 150 room, twelve story boutique hotel with ground floor restaurant and café space, and a rooftop level bar/restaurant.

St. Augustine’s and St. Martin’s Church
29-33 Lenox Street

**Sale of Harriet Tubman House**

Monday, February 25, 6:30 PM

United South End Settlements invite you to a community meeting to learn about the sale of the Harriet Tubman House.

48 Rutland Street

**FOSEL**

Continued from page 1

Seating arrangements that might work better. Now all we need is warmer weather to bring out color and fragrances of spring.

Local Focus

In the next week or so, we will be installing a display and video screen about a beloved Boston institution, now located in the South End, the Boston Center for Adult Education. When the BCAE was established in 1933, founder Dorothy Hewitt envisioned a place where people could come to learn, discuss, and create for the sheer pleasure of it. More than 85 years later, the BCACE enriches lives and creates community in a dynamic facility located at the heart of Boston that serves more than 10,000 students each year. It offers more than 1,200 exciting classes across a wide range of disciplines, including technology, languages, creative writing, arts, crafts, photography and food & wine. In addition, the BCACE regularly presents exhibits, lectures, and special events that draw new audiences and ensure our organization’s enduring relevance.

The Twelfth Annual Library Park Easter Egg Hunt

Sunday, April 21, 11:00 AM

The Easter bunny will be there with many eggs filled with chocolates, poems and knock-knock jokes.

More information at www.foundersfundthelibrary.org. The South End Branch of the Boston Public Library is located at 685 Tremont Street.
Get local and advertise your property in the South End News.

Call Jeff at (617) 464-7280 ext. 202 or email: sales@southendnews.com.
SAVE THE DATE: APRIL 11

POWER of the PURSE

The 2019 Brookview House Benefit Luncheon to Support Women & Children Experiencing Homelessness

THURSDAY, APRIL 11 | SEAPORT HOTEL

FEATURED SPEAKERS

SHIRLEY LEUNG
Interim Editorial Page Editor at The Boston Globe

CECILE RICHARDS
Author of Make Trouble: Standing Up, Speaking Out and Finding the Courage to Lead

SUSAN WORNICK
Emcee and Auctioneer

To sponsor or purchase tables/tickets visit BrookviewHouse.org. Contact Mercedes Tompkins at 857-891-8983 or mtomkins@BrookviewHouse.org.

Media Sponsor: BOSTON BUSINESS JOURNAL