



September 4, 2019

Dear Friend,

As Labor Day fades into memory attention turns to the start of the school year. From our youngest students, those fortunate enough to secure a coveted K0 seat in Boston Public Schools (BPS), to those arriving and returning to our local higher ed institutions, education defines Boston like no other city in America. Yet, we know that many BPS students and families, *particularly immigrants and students of color*, feel like they are not receiving everything they should from the system. Addressing this begins with BPS leadership. **This is why I am calling for a change to a new, hybrid School Committee with both appointed and elected members.**

Boston's [school committee](#) is completely appointed by the Mayor, unique in Massachusetts. Further, those appointments come from a list created by [yet another committee](#), where the Mayor has more members than anyone – and the City Council has none.

This structure was created in 1991 to remedy a dysfunctional, fully elected school committee that, in the words of many I have spoken with across the city, “made decisions based on politics & ambition, and not the best interests of students.” While this change addressed the immediate problem facing BPS at the time, now, nearly 30 years later, the direct voices of our neighborhoods and communities in the education of our children are absent.

I believe the way forward is a hybrid model that combines elected & appointed seats. My proposal:

- 2 Mayoral appointments (one being the student member, who would remain selected by students)
- 2 City Council appointments: 1 by the Council President and the other being the Education Chair (or their designee)
- 3 Elected: with new School Committee districts combining City Council districts 1-3, 4-6, & 7-9.

This model preserves accountability for the Mayor, adds accountability for the City Council, and, most importantly, provides Bostonians with a direct voice at the table in decisions about the education of our children. Further, by no group having a majority, it creates an incentive to work together in a mature, responsible way and find common ground. While I propose this idea as a candidate, more importantly I believe in its ability to help our students as a BPS parent myself.

I look forward to hearing your feedback on this important issue. Reach out to us on social media using “@VoteHalbert” and at info@davidhalbert.com.

Thank you.

- David