



PUBLIC SCHOOLS of
BROOKLINE



School Committee FY 26 Opening Updates

September 11, 2025



Office of Student Services Update

- **Literacy**

Wilson & Orton Gillingham (OG)

Professional Development, Coaching & Certifications

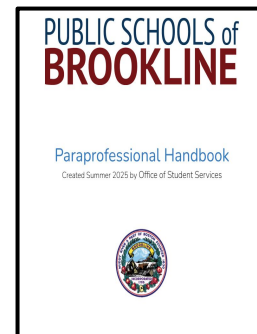
- **MTSS in partnership with OTL**

Partnership with New Teacher Center (NTC)

Universal Design for Learning Professional Development

- **QBS Safety Care Training**

- **Paraprofessional Handbook**



Office of Student Services

- **Equity/Anti-Bias Work**

“Combating Hate in Massachusetts Schools”

- **Unified Sports**

Basketball - Fall

Bocce- Winter

Track- Spring

- **Grants & Contracts**

IDEA Grant Approved

96 % of contracts are executed

Office of Student Services

Substance Abuse Prevention

- Partnership: Department of Public Health (BPD), the Brookline Police Department, and the Brookline Parent Education Network (B-PEN) Brookline Coalition for Wellness & Prevention (B-WELL) & PSB
- Anti-Vaping Campaign Fall 2025
BHS Peer Leaders
- Training in IDecide Curriculum for counselors/clinicians - Tier II
(Drug Education Curriculum: Intervention, Diversion, and Empowerment)
- Health Programming in 7 & 9th grade to include additional lessons from the Stanford Reach Lab on vaping and marijuana use

Substance Abuse Prevention

- Parent Workshops: 10/15 & 4/8 in partnership with Massachusetts Partnerships for Youth (MPY)
- Brookline Youth Health Survey Data: October Parent Panel - DPH & PSB
- Community Wellness Summit in 2026- DPH

Office of Teaching and Learning Update

Interim Deputy Superintendent of OTL Robin Benoit

- **Entry Interviews and Establishing Relationships**
 - Principals and Curriculum Coordinators
 - Senior Leadership
 - OTL Staff
- **Understanding Systems**
 - Interdepartmental Work
 - Homeschool
 - Course Approvals
 - Scheduling and School Systems

Office of Teaching and Learning Update

- **Supporting Curriculum and Professional Learning**
 - Fish Tank Implementation K-5 and Pilot 6-8
 - MTSS in partnership with OSS
 - Understanding 2025-2026 Professional Learning Needs
- **Welcoming Educators**
 - Mentoring
 - New Teacher Orientation
- **Preparing for the Year Ahead**
 - Grant Preparation
 - Evaluation System
 - OTL Collaboration
 - DESE Review
 - Vision of a Graduate

Office of Administration and Finance



New District/Non-Aligned Staff



Transportation



Recruitment and Hiring for FY26



For a Future Meeting: Buildings and Operations

New Staff - Senior Leadership

Bella Wong

Interim Superintendent of
Schools

Robin Benoit

Interim Deputy Superintendent of
Teaching and Learning

Karen Shmukler

Interim Deputy Superintendent of
Student Services

New Staff - Office of Teaching and Learning

Joelle Pedersen

Interim Senior Director of
Teaching and Learning

Kristin Gray

Moved from Interim to Permanent
K-8 ELA Coordinator

Briana Brown

Moved from Interim to Permanent
9-12 Science Coordinator

New Staff - Office of Student Services

Lillian O'Flaherty

Director of Winthrop House

Alexia Thomas

Coordinator of BHS School
Counseling

New Staff - Office of Administration and Finance

Zeigh Perry

Executive Assistant to the
Deputy Superintendent of OAF

Gayathri Natarajan

Registration and Enrollment Specialist

Shaina Auborg

Administrative Assistant;
Operations Department

Michelle Micarelli

Food Service Coordinator &
Trainer

New Staff - School Principals

Sara Yuen

FRR

Saeed Ola

Baker

**Candice
Whitmore**

Pierce

New Staff - Vice Principals

Michelle Crowe

FRR

Mary Gallant

FRR

**Christy
Hernandez**

Pierce

Transportation Overview

- Transportation services are provided based on SC policy (eligibility) and school transportation regulations
- Eligibility
 - K-12 students who live more than 1.5 miles from school
 - Students on IEPs who meet eligibility for Transportation
 - Students on Free and Reduced Lunch
 - Student who qualify per McKinney Vento and Foster Care
- Buses: 65 passenger
- Bus Contractors are have not changed
- All bus drivers are returning Brookline veterans
- FY26 Bus Route Distribution:
 - Pierce at Fisher Hill - 4 Routes (+1 from SY24-25)
 - BHS - 3 Routes (same as FY25)
 - K-8 - 2 Routes (-2 from FY25)

Route Development and Route/Stop Optimization



01

June/July

Registration
Information is
collected



02

Mid-August

Initial route and
stop schedules
set based on
registration



03

Week of 8/25

Dry runs
completed to
confirm routes
and times



04

9/3-9/15

Ridership and
stop data
collected

Modifications are implemented based on data collected from the field

FY26 Challenges

- 1) Bus 2 (K-8) and BHS Morning Late Bus - Running behind schedule
 - a) Closures and Road Maintenance
 - School St. Closure
 - Green Line Closure
 - Construction and lane closures on Rt. 9, Woodland Rd., Chestnut Hill neighborhood
 - Additional congestion due to school openings
 - Cars parked in drop-off zones
- 2) Incomplete data on eligible BHS families in South Brookline

Modifications

Bus Routes

- Added a shuttle on Bus 2 for Lawrence students on 9/10
- Changed the order of school drop-off and pick-ups to minimize crossings of Rt. 9
- Rerouted buses to avoid congestion and road closures
- Modified stop times to more accurately reflect bus arrival
- Moved $\frac{1}{3}$ of the BHS waitlist to their preferred time

Data Collection

- Updated the Aspen data file to include Runkle/Hayes/Baker/Lincoln Buffer Zone
- Worked with Town Planning Department to create a list of addresses in South Brookline that are more than 1.5 miles from BHS
- Responded to all emails and phone calls from concerned parents

Results

Bus 2

Yesterday Morning and afternoon routes ran within 5 minutes of schedule.

Today, morning and afternoon buses ran on schedule

BHS Morning Late Bus (9/10 & 9/11)

Yesterday and today the buses were not late.

Ridership vs. Registration

Ridership vs. Registration										
	K-8 Bus 1		K-8 Bus 2		Bus 2 Shuttle		Fisher Hill		BHS	
		%		%		%		%		%
Registrations	80		65		16		202		221	
AM Ridership	33	41%	17	26%	9	56%	153	76%	97	44%
PM Ridership	39	49%	30	46%	10	63%	177	88%	66	30%

Hiring Update

Open Positions at School Opening		
Position Type	FY25	FY26
AFSCME - Custodial	4	0
AFSCME - Food Services	3	6
AFSCME - BESA	1	1
BEU - Unit A	13	0.8
BEU - Unit B	0	0
BEU - Unit C	26	12
Non-Aligned	3	0
Totals	50	20

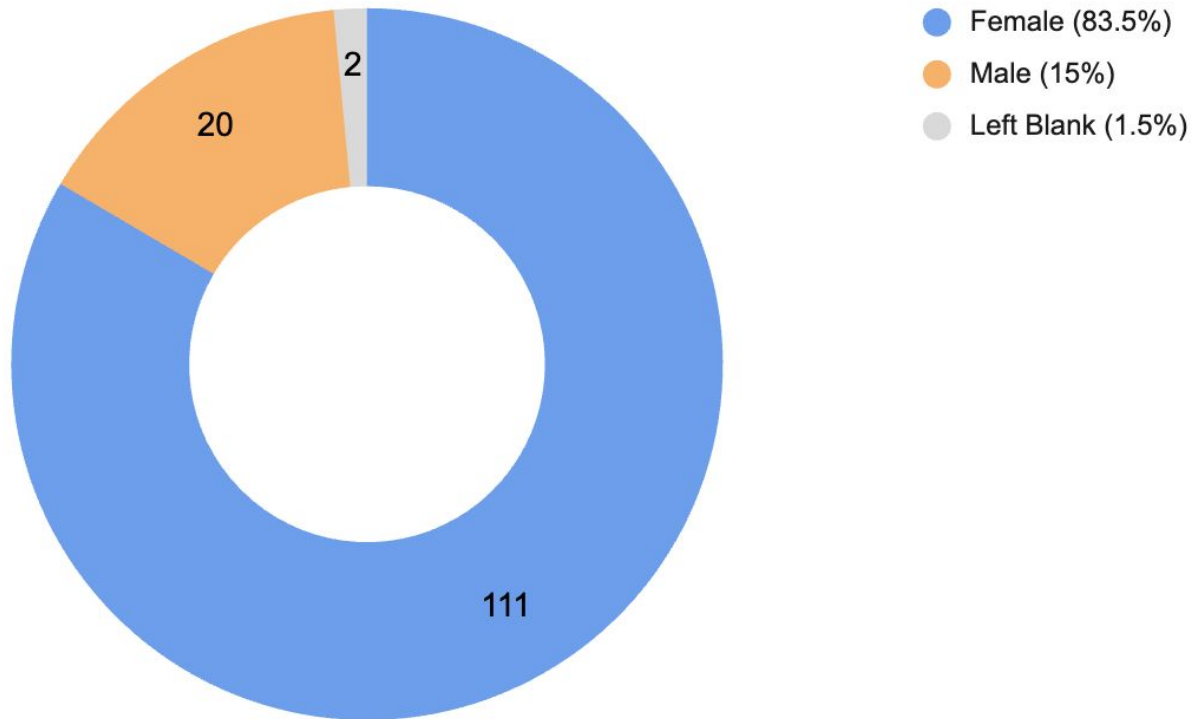
New Hires School Opening	FY25	FY26
AFSCME - Custodial	0	0
AFSCME - Food Service	3	6
AFSCME - BESA	1	3
SUNA - Unit A	67	60
SUNB - Unit B	3	4
SUNC - Unit C	45	51
Non-Aligned	4	9
Total	123	133

FY26 Hiring Results by Group - School Opening

Group	Hired	Open	Total Turnover
AFSCME - Custodial	0	0	0
AFSCME - Food Service	6	6	12
AFSCME - BESA	3	1	4
SUNA - Unit A	60	1	61
SUNB - Unit B	4	0	4
SUNC - Unit Para	51	12	63
Non-Aligned	9	0	9
Totals	133	20	153

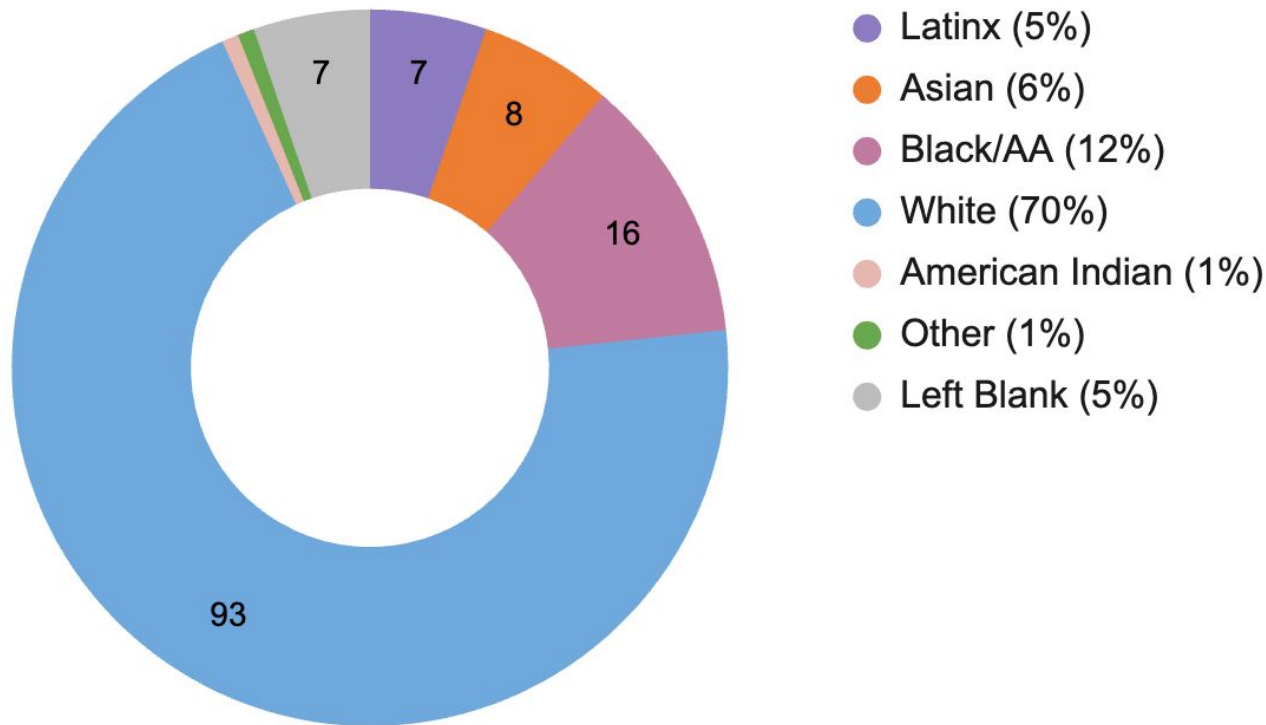
FY26 New Hires by Gender Identity

FY26 New Hires by Gender Identity



FY26 New Hires by Racial Identity

FY26 PSB New Hires by Racial Identity



Interim Superintendent Bella Wong

Major summer objectives:

I. Entry Interviews

Who, When, What, Why

Emerging Themes

II. Engaging with the leadership teams to get to know them and

III. Recentering our attention on working together to achieve central strategic objectives and priorities for the benefit of all students

Completing the Senior Leadership Team

July Leadership Meeting

August Leadership Meeting

Interim Superintendent Bella Wong

Initiated during the summer and ongoing:

Establishing Leadership meeting norms

Integrating the agendas

Communicating expectations for the SIPS and goal setting

Developing and planning to support action plans to achieve our strategic objectives

Preparing for a possible override

Interim Superintendent Bella Wong

Preparing for a possible override:

Understanding the financial context: before, current, future

Understanding the budget drivers salaries and expenses: before, current, future

Understanding the town-wide context

Through the lens of equity:

Understanding the breadth and depth of the educational program: before, current, future

Identifying efficiencies across all departments

Identifying areas for further development

Identifying areas for new development