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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

New Leadership and New Direction Underway for the Boston Plan for Excellence and Boston Teacher Residency

This week, the Board of Trustees of the Boston Plan for Excellence (BPE) voted that Boston Teacher Residency (BTR) head Jesse Solomon will lead BPE in a convergence of the two organizations that promises to break new ground in improving schools in Boston. He will succeed Ellen Guiney as executive director this June. Under Guiney's leadership for the last sixteen years, BPE worked closely with Boston Public Schools (BPS) and helped to establish a clear focus and goals that lead to great progress and to steadily rising MCAS scores. In retiring, Guiney said, "Despite our impressive contributions, it is now time for a new direction and new leadership to meet the challenges that persist for Boston's children."

BPE was founded in 1984 by Bank of America (then, the First National Bank of Boston) to foster improvement in the city's public schools. The bank was accompanied at the outset by Permanent Charities of Boston, now The Boston Foundation, and within a few years, John Hancock, New England Life, Goodwin Proctor & Hoar, and others. With support from the Annenberg Foundation and others, BPE developed a widely replicated classroom-based coaching model for teachers, and has helped school teams use formative assessments and other data to inform instructional decisions and professional development. Since its inception, BPE has raised over \$72 million in private grants to support the learning of Boston's children. Many strategies that BPE has developed have influenced schools across the country.

Chad Gifford, Chairman Emeritus of Bank of America and BPE's Chair of Trustees, said, "The Boston Plan for Excellence and its core partner, Boston Teacher Residency, have made significant contributions to Boston's schools. Teachers and students have learned more thanks to their efforts. The unsolved problems, however, demand more intensified, innovative efforts that break old patterns that are not working. Combining BPE and BTR under Jesse's leadership, and focusing on developing new ways for teachers and leaders to work together with partner organizations, new forms of schools will emerge that could transform the school experience for the next generation of Boston children."

Jesse Solomon, with support from BPS and BPE, founded BTR in 2003 to recruit and prepare teachers for the BPS. He has been named a Barr Foundation Fellow for his leadership, and BTR has become a national model of teacher preparation, with more than a dozen cities replicating its approach.

The newly configured organization will continue to focus on accelerating gains in student learning and supporting teachers and leaders to help students achieve them. The organization plans to open and manage a few schools as teacher preparation academies.

Solomon says of the future direction, "Boston can and should be the first city in the nation to guarantee a quality education for every child. Given the city's resources and talent, we have no excuse. We already know what makes the biggest difference to student learning: great teachers. Effective schools also have powerful leadership, close ties to families and community, high expectations for all involved, a coherent, focused approach, and data to guide their efforts. We look forward to partnering with others to support an ever-growing number of great schools in Boston, schools where families can count on excellent teaching in every classroom."

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