

## Additional Resources on Desegregation and Busing in Boston

### "The Busing Battleground" GBH American Experience documentary

For use in meetings and forums:

- a. **To get the four 2-4 minute clips that GBH made:** <https://mass.pbslearningmedia.org/resource/amex35tbb-soc-brownvboard/when-brown-v-board-of-education-came-to-boston-the-busing-battleground/>
- b. **Preview** of "The Busing Battleground" 11 minutes, <https://www.pbs.org/wgbh/americanexperience/features/busing-battleground-chapter-1/>
- c. **To get to both a link to see the full GBH documentary, "The Busing Battleground", go to this link , which also has a recording of our Boston Desegregation and Busing Initiative's first forum from September 26, 2013**  
[Organizing for Education Equity, 1960-1974, Led by the Black Community: Before Busing | Massachusetts Historical Society](#)
- d. **Transcript of "The Busing Battleground":**  
<https://www.pbs.org/wgbh/americanexperience/films/busing-battleground/#transcript>
- e. **Teaching Materials with GBH "The Busing Battleground"**  
<https://mass.pbslearningmedia.org/resource/amex35tbb-soc-integration/the-long-road-to-school-integration-the-busing-battleground/>

Support Material for Teachers

Support Materials to use with Students

Video of key figures:

<https://www.pbs.org/wgbh/americanexperience/features/busing-battleground-whos-who/>

Video of Boston Celtics basketball star Bill Russell speaking and supporting students in 1964 School Stay Outs where 10,000 students stayed out of school and attended Freedom Schools held in churches and community centers

**From University Archives: Beyond Busing: Boston Desegregation Archival Resources**

<https://bpsdesegregation.library.northeastern.edu/about-the-collaborators/>

Links to all these tremendous collection of photos, organizational records, letters sent to Judge Garrity, Recorded Interviews, etc. from the Archives at Northeastern, UMass Boston, Suffolk, Boston College, City of Boston.

**The Boston Busing/Desegregation Project** (BBDP) led by Donna Bivens, was a project that was developed by the Union of Minority Neighborhoods. BBDP was created to accomplish the following outcomes: increased awareness of Boston's busing and desegregation crisis, an inclusive history of Boston, and a vision that focuses on race and class equity, democratic access, and higher quality institutions. The project began in 2011 with screenings of their film, ***"Can We Talk? – Learning from Boston's Busing/Desegregation Crisis"***. You can view the film and learn more about it [here](#). And additional information at <https://bpsdesegregation.library.northeastern.edu/about-the-boston-busing-desegregation-project>

**Judge Garrity papers at the UMass Boston Archives, including letters to him** <https://openarchives.umb.edu/digital/collection/p15774coll33>

Includes letters from average citizens, from politicians, community leaders, et al. Also has the records of the Citywide Coordinating Committee, an advisory body he picked to monitor the school desegregation plan

**Letter from Louise Day Hicks, leader of the ROAR anti-busing organization to Judge Garrity and his response....**

She starts by citing crime figures in Roxbury and asked 'if he can guarantee the safety of their children'. He replies saying 'no Judge can guarantee that no harm will come to children who comply with court orders of desegregation and many groups are working for peaceful school openings but she can also call the Community Relations section of the Justice Department' ....a very diplomatic answer to her provocative letter.

[Legacy of Courage: Black Changemakers in Massachusetts Past, Present, and Future](#)

[Has some clips of desegregation, the School Stay-Outs of 1964, former Boston Mayor Kim Janey, who was bused to Charlestown as a child.](#)

***Film and Teaching Guide***

**Film: "Busing: A Rough Ride in Southie", 1976 by Sam Kaufman and Ellen Boyce. Profiles 3 families impacted by busing; 2 from Southie and 1 Black woman who was a bus monitor on buses going to Southie**

**Boston School Bus Drivers Union Oral Histories** are accessible at the **UMass Boston Archives**.

**Ruth Batson** was a major leader of the efforts to improve the Boston public schools and end defector segregation in the 1960's and 1970's. She also started METCO to give opportunities to some Black children while they were working to improve the Boston Public Schools.

a. **Ruth Batson's book, The Black Education Movement in Boston: A Sequence of Historical Events, Chronology**, accessible to anyone:

<http://hdl.handle.net/2047/D20234959>

b. Interview with Ruth Batson by Jackie Shearer for Eyes on the Prize II documentary, <http://repository.wustl.edu/concern/videos/w9505434j>

**RECLAIMING THE NARRATIVE: BLACK COMMUNITY ACTIVISM AND BOSTON SCHOOL DESEGREGATION HISTORY 1960-1975** by Lyda Peters, who worked with Ruth Batson for 20 years on campaigning to desegregate the Boston Public Schools.

**"Whitey Bulger, Boston Busing, and Southie's Lost Generation"** by Michael MacDonald, 2014,

Chris Martell, UMass Boston, line to future lesson plans. Will work with teachers to develop <https://blogs.umb.edu/secondaryeducation/busing/>

**"Whitey Bulger, Boston Busing, and Southie's Lost Generation"** by Michael MacDonald, 2014,

**The Boston Teachers Union Collection at UMass** compiled by Nick Juravitch at UMass Boston and Betsy Drinan at the Boston Teachers Union Boston: <https://openarchives.umb.edu/digital/collection/p15774coll27>

- Exploring the Boston Teachers Union Collection (a companion site my students built): <https://blogs.umb.edu/btuhistory/>

- "Black Choices, Black Voices: Navigating the Layoffs of 1981" (this was co-authored by a BTU organizer and a former teacher getting an MA in history, and does a great job of discussing Black educators' experiences across the desegregation era):

<https://blogs.umb.edu/btuhistory/digital-exhibits/black-voices-1981/>

- "Snapshot: Desegregation 1974":

<https://blogs.umb.edu/btuhistory/digital-exhibits/snapshot-desegregation-1974/>

Back in 2014, Jane Becker led the UMass Boston public history students in building a series of digital exhibits for the fortieth anniversary of desegregation. They do a nice job of highlighting the digitized materials at UMB. You can get to these from the Northeastern site, but it takes awhile: <https://bosdesca.omeka.net/>

Ari Branz, former BTU organizer, created this [podcast on the struggle over the desegregation of the teaching corps in BPS leading up to the 1981 layoffs](#)

It makes for a great companion to (and expansion on) the exhibit Ari UMB grad student Eleanor Katari built a couple of years back:

<https://blogs.umb.edu/btuhistory/digital-exhibits/black-voices-1981/>

[Link to the digitized interviews](#) from *Eyes on the Prize* (Part II, which includes the episode on Boston):

Among those interviewed from Boston are Thomas Atkins (NAACP lawyer, Boston City Councilor), Tracy Amalfitano (South Boston resident who supported desegregation), Ruth Batson (Chair of Boston NAACP Education Committee and major leader of 1960's and 1970's organizing, Phyllis Ellison (attended South Boston HS 1974-1975 and later taught there, Jane Duwors (South Boston anti-busing leader in ROAR), Ellen Jackson (leader in desegregation efforts and founded Operation Exodus), Robert Kiley (Deputy Mayor under Mayor Kevin White, Alan Lupo (Boston Globe reports and author of book *Liberty's Chosen Home* on these events, Jean McGuire (first Black woman elected to the Boston School Committee and long time Director of METCO, Evelyn Morash (East Boston leader on education), Kathy Stapleton, Juanita Wade (member of the Boston School Committee and community leader, and Kevin White (Mayor of Boston 1968-1984.

## **Bibliography on Boston Desegregation and Busing**

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- [All Souls: A Family Story from Southie](#) by Michael MacDonald
- [Common Ground](#) by Anthony Lucas,

- Before Busing: A History of Boston's Long Black Freedom Struggle by Zebulon Miletsky,
- A People's History of the New Boston by Jim Vrabel
- Reclaiming the Narrative: Black Community Activism and Boston School Desegregation History 1960-1975 by Lyda Peters, Boston College, 2017. <http://hdl.handle.net/2345/bc-ir:107318>.
- Liberty's Chosen Home by Alan Lupo,
- Boston Against Busing: Race, Class, and Ethnicity in the 1960's and 1970's by Ron Formisano,
- Southie Won't Go: A Teacher's Diary of the Desegregation of South Boston High School by Ione Malloy,
- Why Busing Failed: Race, Media, and the National Resistance to School Desegregation by Matthew Delmont;
- All Souls: A Family Story from Southie by Michael MacDonald,
- Death at an Early Age by Jonathan Kozol,
- Chain of Change: Struggles for Black Community Development by Mel King,
- Village School Downtown by Peter Schrag
- Turmoil and Transition in Boston: A Political Memoir from the Busing Era by Larry DiCara,
- "I Respectfully Disagree With the Judge's Order": The Boston School Desegregation Controversy. by *J. Michael Ross and William M. Berg*,
- Schools on Trial by Robert Dentler and Marvin Scott,
- Small Mercies by Dennis Lehane (fiction)
- Refoming Boston Schools: 1930 to the Present: Overcoming Corruption and Racial Segregation by Joseph Cronin
- Boston Riots: Three Centuries of Social Violence by Jack Tager
- The Soiling of Old Glory: The Story of the Photograph that Shocked America by Louis Masor
- The Education of a White Parent by Susan Naimark
- The Racist Offensive Against Busing; Lessons of Boston, How to Fight Back by Willie Mae Reid
- Desegregation in Boston and Buffalo: The Influence of Local Leaders by Steven Taylor

- From Common Schools to Magnet Schools: Selected Essays on the History of Boston Public Schools, Sam Barnes, James Fraser, Henry Allen, Editors

## Listings at Suffolk University, Moakley Archive and Institute

[https://www.suffolk.edu/-/media/suffolk/documents/academics/libraries/moakley-archive/research-tools/businginbostonresearchguide\\_2015\\_pdf.txt.pdf?la=en&hash=485CB07AC31E3B4E7EE38C0B878D5B260866F64D](https://www.suffolk.edu/-/media/suffolk/documents/academics/libraries/moakley-archive/research-tools/businginbostonresearchguide_2015_pdf.txt.pdf?la=en&hash=485CB07AC31E3B4E7EE38C0B878D5B260866F64D)

## Books

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- \*Bullard, Pamela, and Judith Stoia, *The Hardest Lesson: Personal Accounts of a School Desegregation Crisis*. Boston: Little, Brown, and Company, 1980.
- \*Dentler, Robert A., *Schools on Trial: An Inside Account of the Boston Desegregation Case*. Cambridge, Mass.: Abt Books, 1981.
- \*Eaton, Susan E., *The Other Boston Busing Story: What's Won and Lost Across the Boundary Line*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 2001.
- \*Formisano, Ronald P., *Boston Against Busing: Race, Class, and Ethnicity in the 1960s and 1970s*. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2004.
- \*Jones, Leon, *From Brown to Boston: Desegregation in Education, 1954-1974*. Metuchen, NJ: Scarecrow Press, 1979.
- \*Kozol, Jonathan, *Death at an Early Age: The Destruction of the Hearts and Minds of Negro children in the Boston Public Schools*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1967.
- \*Lukas, J. Anthony, *Common Ground: A Turbulent Decade in the Lives of Three American Families*. New York: Knopf, 1985.
- \*Lupo, Alan. *Liberty's Chosen Home: The Politics of Violence in Boston*. Boston: Little, Brown and Company, 1977.
- \*Metcalf, George R., *From Little Rock to Boston: The History of School Desegregation*. Westport, Conn.: Greenwood Press, 1983.
- \*Malloy, Ione, *Southie Won't Go: A Teacher's Diary of the Desegregation of South Boston High School*. Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 1986.
- Reid, Willie Mae, *The Racist Offensive Against Busing: The Lessons Against Busing: How to Fight Back*, New York: Pathfinder Press, 1974.
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- Sheehan, J. Brian, *The Boston School Integration Dispute: Social Change and Legal Maneuvers*. New York: Columbia University Press, 1984.
- \*Taylor, D. Garth, *Public Opinion and Collective Action: The Boston School Desegregation Conflict*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1986.
- Teele, James E., *Evaluating School Busing: Case Study of Boston's Operation Exodus*. New York: Praeger, 1973.

## Journal articles

- Anrig, Gregory R., "Boston and the South: Differences and Similarities in School Desegregation," Consortium Currents 2, no. 1 (Fall 1975): 11-13.
- Casey, George W., "Busing in Boston: Weighing the Values," America 133, no. 6 (Sept. 13, 1975): 111-112.
- Chancy, Joette and Brenda Franklin, "Report from Boston: The Struggle for Desegregation," Black School 7, no. 4 (Dec. 1975): 19-27.
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- Richer, M., "Busing's Boston Massacre: A federal judge's experiment in social engineering has unraveled neighborhoods and frustrated black achievement," Policy Review, no. 92 (1998): 42-47.
- Stack, John F., Jr., "Ethnicity, Racism, and Busing in Boston: The Boston Irish and School Desegregation," Ethnicity 6, no. 1 (March 1979): 21-28.
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- Wren, C., "Indelible Images: Stanley Forman's photograph of a brutal skirmish in downtown Boston 30 years ago encapsulated the city's tensions over court-ordered busing," Smithsonian 37, no. 1 (2006): 21-25.

## Online Resources

- Long Road to Justice: The African American Experience in the Massachusetts Courts; "Education: Morgan v. Hennigan;" produced by the Massachusetts Historical Society. <http://www.masshist.org/longroad/02education/morgan.htm>
- Eyes on the Prize: American's Civil Rights Movement 1954-1985; "The Story of the Movement – School Desegregation in Boston;" produced by PBS as part of its American Experiences series. [http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/amex/eyesontheprize/story/21\\_boston.html](http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/amex/eyesontheprize/story/21_boston.html)
- The Boston Busing/Desegregation Project, a project of the Union of Minority Neighborhoods: <http://bbdproject.org/> Boston School Desegregation / Boston Busing Crisis: a bibliography by the Boston Public Library: <http://www.bpl.org/govinfo/guides-resources/boston-school-desegregation-boston-busing-crisis/>
- Digitized primary sources on busing from various Massachusetts repositories are available through Digital Commonwealth under the subject "Busing for school integration." View items here: [https://www.digitalcommonwealth.org/search?utf8=%E2%9C%93&search\\_field=subject&q=Busing+for+school+integration](https://www.digitalcommonwealth.org/search?utf8=%E2%9C%93&search_field=subject&q=Busing+for+school+integration)
- Archival and Library Resources on the Garrity Decision and the Boston Busing Crisis, a LibGuide by the Mildred F. Sawyer Library, Suffolk University: [http://suffolk.libguides.com/garrity\\_decision](http://suffolk.libguides.com/garrity_decision)



- As part of their ongoing work to incorporate the history of desegregation into their tours, visitor information, and online presence, the National Parks Service has created an interactive map and series of short articles (with images and links) about how and where the history of school desegregation intersects with the sites they manage as part of Boston National Historical Park:

<https://www.nps.gov/articles/000/desegregation-in-the-cradle-of-liberty.htm>

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