

Citywide Parent Council (CPC) Meeting Minutes

23 February 2016, 6-8pm

- I. **Welcome and introductions.** The meeting was facilitated by Sapna Padte. She summarized:
- who the CPC is,
 - that the meeting was being transmitted by Periscope, and that it is....
 - an open meeting: out of politeness, please let participants know if you plan to film/take pictures;

Sapna asked the participants to describe a bright spot at their school. Comments included:

- A group of students who will be honored for their participation in the Boston v. bullies campaign (Murphy). For more see <http://www.bostonvsbullies.org/>
- A recent neighborhood music performance at the Quincy School
- A group of students who qualified for AWC at the O'Donnell
- Summer programs for students at the Dearborn
- An interim principal parents really love at the Winship: we hope she stays!
- A successful school wide spelling bee at the Winship; students had fun and felt good about the competition
- New parents getting involved at the Curley involvement
- Students at the EMK traveling to Washington DC to learn about civics and law and meeting Cory Booker

The Superintendent and his team were introduced. This meeting is one of four quarterly meetings the Superintendent attends.

- II. **Nominations & Elections.** **Nominees were identified for the following seats: one CPC Co-Chair, one CPC rep on School Site Council Steering Committee, one CPC rep for Title I Representative.**

- The following were nominated:
 - CPC co-chair:** Nicol Riley (Sumner), Karen Kast-McBride (BAA)
 - Title I rep:** Kenny Jervis
 - SSC Steering Com:** Maria Domingues Gray, Maria E. Farrell
- Nominees provided background; Angie offered c.v. for Maria Domingues Gray; Maria Farrell called in
- Moved and seconded to suspend Robert's Rules to permit CPC members not present to run and be voted on;
- After a paper ballot was distributed, collected and counted results were:
 - CPC Co- Chair: Karen Kast McBride

- Site Council Steering Committee: Maria Domigues-Gray
- Title I Representative: Kenny Jarvis

II. Q & A with Supt. Chang. The Superintendent responded to questions from the CPC representatives, as follows:

The following questions were submitted before the meeting, via email:

My 2nd grader tells me their lunch monitor sometimes takes away 5-10 minutes of recess time because they're "being too loud in the hall." I've learned that this happens in some other schools across the district as well. Given that the American Academy of Pediatrics specifically states recess should not be taken away as a punishment, how can we help lunch monitors and other school staff find alternate means of discipline that don't deprive students of physical activity? Secondly, how can we make it policy that there are at least 2 recess periods for all K1 and K2 kids across the district? Evidence shows better performance and increased knowledge with more unstructured movement time. (Meredith Coley, Lyndon K-8, West Roxbury)

Kim Rice, Assistant Superintendent of Operations:

- It is BPS policy that K-8 schools have access to recess; staff cannot withhold recess as punishment or require physical activity;
- We have guidelines and a wellness policy; a circular on physical activity was distributed;
- Jill Carter is the Director of Health and Wellness and a good person to contact with questions like this one
- For this specific question, Kim and/or Jill will follow up with the school (Lyndon);
- Kim will research the amount of time policy requires for K1 and K2; also 20 minute nap period in K1 and K2 (or quiet time) which sometimes turns into activity time

What are you doing about the city's budget cut? Will less money be given to the charter schools then? (Jessica Prou, P.A.Shaw KO - 1 , Dorchester)

Dr. Chang:

- We are in the middle of the budget process; the School Committee needs to approve by March 30.
- He is making the rounds with City Council to discuss;
- Today School Committee Chairman O'Neill attended the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education meeting and spoke about budget; the Superintendent will share the Chairman's testimony;
- The Superintendent is still doing a lot of advocacy with the city; very optimistic; by March 30 we will have greater clarity.

I would love to hear more details about the status of AWC and the AWC pilot program. The 3rd grade families from the Mendell who received AWC invitations are eager to learn what is happening with AWC next year. We did hear the budget hearing that some of the budget reserve account is earmarked for AWC reforms. (Kris Johnson, Mendell K1-5, Roxbury)

Dr. Chang: Correspondence is going out to all principals and then to parents: the goal is to make sure all students have access to rigorous curriculum. There are three options being considered:

- 1) schools with AWC can expand to all students; will be funds to pay for the additional enrichment, universal design for learning
- 2) schools without AWC can do “rigor for all” expeditionary learning; professional development;
- 3) keep current arrangement (status quo)

Follow up question: What about 5th grade?

Dr. Chang: will continue as is and add on next year

What are the systematic steps BPS is taking to address the issues of racism raised by the Black at BLS campaign? (CPC Executive Committee)

Dr. Chang:

- For those not aware, #BlackatBLS was started by students. There has been a report and investigation which found problems with how one incident was resolved; the BLS headmaster is sending out a letter expressing her sorrow at what has happened;
- The Superintendent has heard that the reporting process for racial incidents is a concern: current policy allows for any student, parent or staff to report the incident to the Office of Equity; it does not need to go through principal. Many people are not aware of this and it needs to be better advertised throughout the system.
- The District is working to plan and develop training and race dialogues; deep work will happen at BLS and within other parts of the system to ensure that no student experiences discrimination on race, gender, sexual orientation, ethnicity, etc.

Can you give us an update on the next version of MCAS? (CPC Executive Committee)

Donna Muncey, Deputy Superintendent of Strategy: District gave schools choice about whether to take PARCC on paper or computer; some schools opted to go back to paper after trying the computer because scores were higher on paper; the District is continuing to analyze whether there is a paper v. computer discrepancy; will be

three years until it counts.

Is there any plan to help the extended day agenda be smoother for the schools and parents and communities? (Jessica Prou, P.A. Shaw KO - 1 , Dorchester)

Donna Muncey: BPS will not be adding schools this year as I said last time; the problem has been the 9:30am start time but can't change that; BPS is committed to providing support for schools that have Extended Day to help make it smoother next year;

It appears that the high school budget cuts are based purely on a metric of operational cost: i.e. high schools that are smaller, and serve higher needs populations, are being hit harder than larger schools. But Boston has an extremely diverse range of high schools, including many smaller ones dating back to the Gates Foundation short-lived investments of a decade ago that encouraged the diversification of high schools to serve a range of needs. Many of these high schools are serving the City's diverse high school population extremely well. Shouldn't there be a consideration beyond operational efficiency in making these cuts? (CPC Executive Committee)

Dr. Chang and BPS Budget Director David Bloom: Most high schools are experiencing cuts in three different ways; 1) across the board cuts in all high schools assuming an equivalent level of efficiency (seven period versus six period); 2) special education cuts because class size for autism and emotional impairment went up by 1 (9-10): this impacts the weighted student formula, and 3) many schools are losing enrollment.

David Bloom clarified that the first point resulted in across-the-board cuts to all schools due to the way budget was calculated.

OPEN QUESTION PERIOD. Attendees provided written questions. The following were discussed within the available time:

If we have a problem with a building what do we do to get it fixed? What is the process for seeking changes for our buildings?

Barbara Deane-Williams, Senior Deputy Superintendent: BPS is working on a facilities master plan; every physical location is being looked at; the plan will be done about eight months from now; parents can contribute through the engagement team; will be seeing more about that in the future;

Margaret Wood (CPC rep): parent reps participating in the process include Harneen Chernow, Heshan Berents Weeramuni, Gloria West, Latoya Gayle, Andre Dorsainvil, Joel Thompson, Nick Kraman, Mary Lewis Pierce and Victor Castro.

If a student does not get into an exam school in 7th grade what happens?

Dr. Chang: Feed into the middle school/stay at K-8; but we are looking at grade configurations. Karen Kast-McBride noted that it is important to keep the stand-alone middle schools but they have not been financially supported by the District in the past.

What about funding for charter schools?

Dr. Chang: The state gives money to charters and is supposed to reimburse district but state has not funded reimbursements;

How do you propose to support for low performing schools?

Dr. Chang: BPS will reconsider student weighted funding; schools who have improved are losing their SRG grants (federal) for level for schools;

Donna Muncey: A point of extra investment is to help improve level 4 schools; in the past when schools have exited level 4 schools have fallen off a financial cliff; BPS is looking at an 80/60/40 funding formula to help schools exiting so they stay at level 3 and don't fall back;

See attached for the complete set of questions submitted. The Superintendent indicated before leaving the meeting that BPS would respond in writing if the CPC would provide document the questions.

IV. Approval of Jan 2016 CPC Meeting Minutes

- One correction; add Danubia Silva (Alighieri) to attendees
- Regina moved to accept minutes; Heshan seconded:
- A voice vote was taken to approve with corrections;
- For future the list of representatives will be provided for people to sign and only guests will sign in.

V. Announcements

- Dina Cundiff: There is a safety meeting Feb. 29 meeting at Bolling, 6-8 pm; was shooting today outside the Trotter school
- Kenny Jervis: It is important to come out for budget hearings; if this budget gets implemented the whole is so deep and will impact our kids; Kenny will email list of upcoming budget meetings;
- Angie Camacho: Could we hand out the flyers for budget meeting Saturday at parent leadership meeting?

- Netta Brownell: I am circulating a form with all the committees listed: please write down what committee you are on so we can get a list and get better organized.
- Chris Lindstrom: The Office of Engagement has put together survey about “customer service”: please push to CPC members/parents; send out to your parent list serves and try to get as many parents as possible to answer
- Margaret Wood: I want to thank everyone who came out to BLS High School Town Hall to testify to City Councilors about the impact of the budget cuts on their schools
- Naeemah Kennedy: A group of parents has formed a group called Phenomenal Moms who are interested in supporting quality schools; They are meeting Thursdays from 6-8 at Bolling: child care will be provided.
- Angie Camacho: Office of Engagement/CPC parent leadership conference is this Saturday; if you have not registered please do. 109 registrants, great workshops and speakers, please come out.
- Heshan Berents-Weeramuni: the City Council Ed Committee is sponsoring 10 hearings around Boston: please come!
- Danubia Silva: There is a upcoming panel discussion in East Boston on the budget cuts and the impact of charter schools reimbursements with BEJA/BTU; the event is March 22, 6-8 East Boston High School.
- Anne DeGeorge: please consider allowing non-CPC reps to participate on the Google list. Others concurred. Dina also noted that there are four representative from the Henderson on this listserv so the policy is being applied inconsistently.
- Regina McClary: What are the alternate plans for the budget? Heshan indicated that the Budget Committee is looking at this.

VI. Closing; parents gave feedback on the meeting, including scoring it from 1-10.

- Kim: a 10 - finished only 7 minutes late!
- Angie: a 7 - need to make sure everyone is heard;
- Odette: an 8 - thank you for emailing the agenda; worked well with questions with Dr. Chang;

Shannon moved to close the meeting; a voice vote was taken: based on the response the meeting adjourned at 8:07 pm!

CPC Representatives attending:

Baldwin ELC	Anna Davis
Bates	Patrick Manasse-Latham
BAA	Karen Kast-McBride
BCLA	Gloria West
BLA	Mary Battenfield, Beth Nolan, Heshan Berents Weeramuni
BLS	Eileen McMahan, Margaret Wood
BTU	Nicole d’Avis

Channing	Dave Clarke
Clap	Kenny Jervis
Curley	Sara Warren, Ann DeGeorge, Heshan Berents-Weeramuni
Dante Alighieri	Danubia Silva
EMKennedy	Regina McClay
Haley	Nina Kallen
Henderson	Lisa Bernard, Yvonne Pope, Maria Roges, Ken Hawkes
Hennigan	Malikka Wells, Karen Pfefferle
Hurley	Angelina Camacho
Lee	Naeemah Williams
Lyndon	Sapna Padte
Mason	Naeemah Kennedy, Latoya Gayle
Mattahunt	Dalida Rocha
Mendell	Kristin Johnson
Murphy	Kim Harris
O'Bryant	Shari Perry-Wallace
Philbrick	Bob Damon
Roosevelt	Shannon Parker
Snowden	Vina Harvey
Sumner	Nicol Riley
TechBoston	Carolyn Lomax
Timilty	Barbara Rosa
Trotter	Dina Cundiff
West Rox Academy	Andre Dorsainvil
Winship	Marc Goldstein, Paula Fleming, Leila Hayes
Young Achievers	Gloria West

Guests:

BPS	Superintendent Chang (part)
	Senior Deputy Superintendent Barbara Deane-Williams (part)
	Chief of Staff Makeeba McCreary (part)
	Donna Muncey, Deputy Superintendent of Strategy (part)
	Kim Rice, Assistant Superintendent of Operations (part)
	David Bloom, Budget Director (part)
	Lori Greenwood, Office of Family Engagement

Dr. Tommy Chang
Superintendent, Boston Public Schools
Bolling Building
Boston, MA

Re: Follow up to February meeting with Citywide Parent Council

Dr. Chang:

Thank you for attending the CPC meeting this week, bringing members of your team and answering questions for us. We see these meetings, which are a requirement of the by-laws, as an opportunity to connect parents with you and your administration and to identify issues of common concern and paths to resolution.

As promised here are the questions that were submitted by parents: thank you for your offer to provide written responses. We have grouped them together by category.

Budget

- Please clarify your answer to question 1 regarding charter schools and money owed to BPS.
- We have been hearing a lot about the BPS budget as an expression of our values. Can you speak to the values/educational rationale for the reduction of weights for special education students, students with autism, etc. (our most needy and vulnerable students)
- The high schools have been cut across the board. If classroom size is increased and student weighted formula is decreased this may be equal, but not equitable in schools who are lacking in staff support or at level 3 school: how is this moving the equity gap?
- I heard the Mayor say he is just trimming the budget but the Curtis Guild is getting a \$155,000 cut!
- What's the deal with librarians? It seems like you eliminating them?

Diversity and racism

- What is BPS leadership doing to promote individuals of color (faculty) to take higher level leadership roles or obtain leadership educational training?
- Schools and principals do not do enrollment. Ironically, schools like the Murphy maintain a level no less than level 2: their enrollment is +/- 45% Asian, +/- 40% Caucasian and +/- 15% other, which includes African American. How does this happen?

AWC

- If a principal desires to add AWC to their schools, how is it considered? Does it need to have space for an extra classroom? Would there be one class of AWC and one not? Would an AWC teacher be provided by the district?
- When the new AWC/Rigor for Life schools are decided, will new students (3rd graders now) be able to reapply if its already after the first lottery?
- AWC enrollment is higher than a regular ed class without a second teacher in most cases. How will the new purpose plan of AWC affect enrollment and class size?
- What is the timing for schools to decide on 2nd option (Rigor for All). If I am deciding whether to move my 3rd grader to an AWC school, how will I know if he can stay at his own school and get AWC within the selection timeline?

- With the purpose to expand AWC to all students (Rigor for All) how will you handle the disparity in the capacity or capability among students? What if all students aren't prepared or capable of a higher level of rigor as their peers? Will it compromise the level of rigor for those who are capable or more prepared?
- When Superintendent Chang says that the principals will decide about the options for AXD: what is the mechanism for that decision? Is that an School Site Council role/decision, or the principal's decision?

Food

- Research clearly shows that being well-nourished is a common thread underlying academic performance (defined as class grades, standardized tests and graduation rates) and education behavior (attendance, drop out rates and behavioral problems at school); a significant investment/commitment in healthy and palatable school food is a tangible step toward achieving equity." In that context:
 - How would you describe BPS's commitment to feeding students the food that they deserve and that will begin to bridge some of these overarching disparities? Financial commitment?
 - What is the process to ensure parent involvement in selection of the new BPS food director? What is the timeline and who is our contact?
 - As our desire is for a central kitchen to cook food from scratch, we would like to participate in the Facilities Master Plan process. Which committee or part of this process is most closely tied to this and how will parents participate?
- Can we remove chocolate milk from our schools? The Curley K8 has completely removed chocolate milk for this school year. Data indicates NO difference in participation of milk consumption between the Curley K8 (900+ kids) and other schools who offer chocolate milk. (P.S.: it would also save \$15,000 in the Food & Nutrition Services Budget.)

Transportation

- What will BPS be doing to rectify the T-Pass lock issues?
- Looking forward to the 2016/17 academic year, how are we preparing for all the students on MBTA?

Recess and lunch monitors

- Schools/teachers take away recess constantly: sometimes for entire classes because a few kids are misbehaving. What will you do about the fact that the recess policy is being ignored?
- Middle schools (6-8, 7-12) do not have recess ever, or any place to have outdoor recess. What are you going to do about the fact that policy is being ignored.

Discipline, the Code of Conduct and responding to bullying

- Can we please provide ANY training to lunch monitors? Kids often face bullying, feeling excluded and verbal abuse by other kids during recess. When younger kids seek help in lunch monitors, they are often punished for any "complaining" they do. This is important for ALL school aged kids.
- When a school has been sanctioned by the Office of Equity, how will the perpetrator be handled? Racism is like bullying: it is often not see and goes unpunished. Example: Courtney Shepbeck at the Murphy.
- If we have a complaint about a principal what is the procedure?

- I think the application of the Code of Conduct should take into consideration a student's IEP. Do you agree?

Achievement Gap

- I know that this is a complex question with a complex solution but do you have a clear vision of how Boston is going to once and for all close the academic achievement gap? What can we all do to ensure the realization of the vision?

High Schools

- If a student does not get into exam school what happens to 7th grade?

Safety

- Please describe the District's intention/plan to provide training/planning to BPS communities/specific schools regarding "Safe Mode", including: age appropriate plans and language, space appropriate plans, support for teachers, and addressing facility safety issues.

Pathways

- What is the plan for East Boston's middle school students, keeping in mind that we also have a Montessori School whose students have different and unique needs that differs from conventional school teaching methods?

Inclusion

- How will you change the inclusion model? There is not enough support for inclusion kids: should be a two teacher model.
- Do full inclusion and advanced work programs work against each other, especially while each program is being introduced? (Kenny)

Facilities

- What is the process for seeking improvements to school building, such as a gym/multi-purpose room?