

Citywide Parent Council (CPC) Meeting Minutes

20 January 2015, 6-8pm

Meeting Goals: Updates from committees with parent representation

Attendance: 24 parents from 20 BPS schools, Michele Brooks from the Office of Family & Student Engagement (OFSE), three guests

Next Meetings: 2/24, 3/24, 4/28, 5/19, 6/16. All meetings are from 6-8pm at the Title 1 Training Center (BLA High School), 445 Warren Street, Dorchester, 02121

Action items:

Further comments on the Superintendent search can be sent to Regina Robinson at robinson.regina@gmail.com

Warm Up Question

Each person introduced themselves, the school(s) their student(s) attend and identified a hero. Responses included family members, those who have stood up against discrimination, including participants in recent demonstrations, historic events within the USE such as Selma, and historic global figures such as Gandhi.

Report on Boston Foundation's Common Core and PARCC. Mary Battenfield attended this event on January 14th. The panel participants uniformly supported PARCC (no parents were on the panel). Mary thought the presentation was disturbing given the lack of capacity in BPS to institute this new approach. Michelle noted that the Office of Family Engagement is putting together a tool-kit for parents. You can watch the event here: <http://www.tbf.org/videos/2015/january/common-core>

QUEST (Quality Education for Every Student) Update. On February 8th, from 3-5, QUEST is planning a workshop for parents on the budget process and how to lobby. The location is still being settled. QUEST is asking if CPC would be co-sponsor (put name on flyer, spread the word amongst parents). The CPC voted to co-sponsor the event. For more updates, you can follow QUEST on Facebook.

Nutrition Services update. Nancy gave an update on the recent meeting of CPC parents with BPS Food and Nutrition Services. There is a large group, including consultants and employees of the School Department, working on this. The focus on fresh healthy food was universal: the question was how to deliver. Parents asked about the partnering with local businesses such as City Fresh, which serve some of the charter schools.

Mass PTA update. Debbie Brendemuehl will distribute by e-mail an update on the recent MassPTA meeting.

School Committee update. Angie Camacho noted that there is an open seat on the School Committee. Angie is on the Selection Committee in the BPON seat. Beverly Mitchell will be filling the CPC seat on

the Selection Committee. The deadline for applications was today. There is a 13 member nominating panel, including 4 parent reps: one each from SpedPac, CPC, Boston Parent Organizing Network (BPON) and the Master PAC.

Office of Family & Student Engagement (OFSE) Conference update. Michele noted that OFSE is sponsoring a proposed conference which will provide parent workshops to help them understand the role of parent and site councils, and to help build leadership skills. The event will be held Saturday March 14th, 8:30-12 at the new BPS building: it will be the first event at the new building. The plan to have two workshops between 1-1.5 hours. Translation services will be provided.

Update on Superintendent Search Committee. BPS Parents Laura Perille and Regina Robinson are both on the Search Committee and gave an update on the process. The School Committee hires the Superintendent and he/she reports to the School Committee, but the Mayor has a very important role in the selection process. There is a twelve member search Committee which began work last spring. At that time, the Committee hired a search firm and undertook a robust community outreach process. The public aspect of the search process has been delayed to align with a typical hiring schedule: during the delay, the search firm has continued recruitment and John McDonough has been the acting Superintendent. The process has so far respected the confidentiality of the applicants but once the candidates have been narrowed to three their names will be made public. The names of the Committee members are on the BPS website. The following comments were made during the Q&A:

- Heshan noted that he was disappointed that the CPC was told there was not space on the Committee for representatives of the CPC, and then two members of the Search Committee changed. He also expressed disappointment that there was no student representative on the Committee. Heshan stated that he hoped the new Superintendent was working for the BPS, not for the charter schools or for METCO.
- Nancy noted that she would like to see less turnover in the principals: at the Perry there have been five principals in six years.
- Margaret spoke about the need for a Superintendent with a long term commitment and a sense of vision as the City prepares to undertake a 10 year facilities master plan.
- Beth expressed concerns about the last Superintendent search, the first round of which ended abortively with the selected superintendent (Manuel Ramirez) first accepting and then turning down, the job. She also reiterated the Heshan's comment about the importance of the CPC's role.
- Kenny thanked Laura for the manner in which the Committee's last community meeting was held.
- Caroline spoke about her concerns with the continued segregation of Boston and the churn caused by budget and turnover. She stated that Boston could not continue to operate in this manner because it is letting kids down.
- Angie spoke about her frustration with bullying in the schools that is not being addressed.
- Kenny also commented on the disconnect between decentralizing leadership by empowering principals, while shifting principals around constantly, as well as the problems with the results of the weighted student funding. Insight into what has worked for urban kids would be appreciated, as well as having a superintendent ready to take a stand on matters that are not popular.

- Sonal expressed frustration with the outdated course materials, lack of technology and other resources to support education.

Regina asked for comments on what will make strong principals. Comments included:

- Angie said that there should not be a one-size-fits-all approach to selecting principals: attention should be paid to the fit for the particular school.
- Heshan commented on the short duration of the principals and asked if anyone has looked closely at why principals leave.
- Beth noted that she feels there are principals who are in training to be superintendents, and not committed to be principals.
- Marie said she wished the district would stop looking for the rock star principals, and be more flexible in allowing the principals to have skill sets on their team which collaboratively manage the school.
- Margaret noted the need to both support and pay attention to the performance of principals, who do not appear to receive much of either scrutiny or support from the district, particularly around bullying issues.
- Sarah commented on the limited funds available for discretionary activities.
- Mary said that the good principals see the kids as kids, and wished that there was less pressure on all of the other administrative pressures.
- Shari wants to see principals who encourage parent participation.
- John commented that it is important that the CPC participate in the public process. It is important to look at what people have actually done. What do parents in the Superintendent's current community think of he/her?

Additional information on the Superintendent search process is attached to these minutes.

Laura and Regina thanked the CPC and commented that CPC will have an important role in getting the word out about future community meetings. Regina provided her e-mail for further communication: robinson.regina@gmail.com.

Extended Learning Time (ELT). The City and the BTU have recently come to a tentative agreement to expand ELT throughout the district. Ultimately, this will add 40 minutes of time to the length of the day at most BPS schools. Following is a link to the January 14th School Committee presentation: <http://www.bostonpublicschools.org/cms/lib07/MA01906464/Centricity/Domain/162/ELT%20Proposal Slides.pdf> The Extra Learning Time initiative includes a provision that a 7 member Joint Task Force be formed to oversee the program: 3 members to be chosen by the Superintendent, 3 to be chosen by the BTU President, and 1 to be chosen jointly. Heshan put a motion on the table that CPC request that one seat designated by the Superintendent and one designated by the BTU President for CPC parent reps, and that the jointly designated member be a BPS student. The CPC voted to support this motion.

School Budgets. At the close of the meeting, the CPC began to collect information on the current 2015-16 school budgets. The CPC is collecting this information in the Google doc at https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1k-WkRSC5mlySyCdmBsiGeA1kXVU4ORoz_GY06gilVEo/edit#gid=0. Heshan asked that parents add the

data for their school. BPS does not have a central location for this data that parents can view. Following are brief comments made on individual school budgets:

- Roger Clapp: Budget is staying constant but costs are increasing as the increasing pay scale of teachers is impacting budget.
- Orchard Gardens: down \$830K and losing 10 positions
- Curley: budget is going up, but the school is losing 3 positions and the SEI program.
- Bradley: didn't lose any money. Gained 4th grade inclusion.
- Mather: up a little (over \$300K). Retaining in SEI program, WSF.
- JFK: up a little
- Holmes: up a little, moving to full inclusion model. Receiving more children with emotional needs, but don't yet have capacity.

Agenda items carried over to the next meeting include the following Sub-Committee reports:

- School Quality: Krista Magnuson
- School Equity: Kenny Jervis
- School Culture and Climate: Karen Shine, Carolyn Lomax, Debbie Brendemuehl
- Facilities: Sarah Barnat
- CPC Organization: Mary Pierce, Sarah Barnat, Heshan Berents-Weeramuni, Nancy Minucci

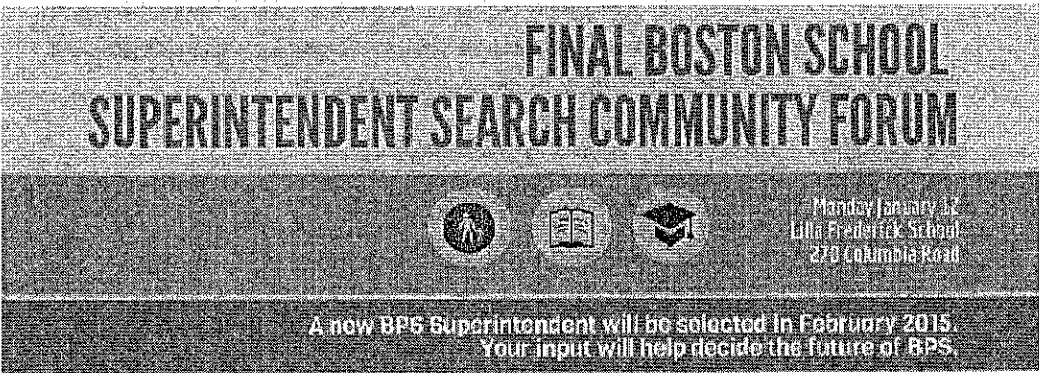
Attending:	Alighieri Montessori	Sarah Barnat
	BLA	Beth Nolan
		Mary Battenfield
	BLS	Laura Perille (part)
		Margaret Wood (Co-Secretary)
	Bradley	Magdalena Ayed
	Curley	Heshan Berents-Weeramuni
	JFK Innovation	Krista Magnuson
	Hale and Snowden	Barbara Rosa
	Hernandez	Angie Camacho
	Holmes	Carolyn Lomax
	Lyndon	Sapna Padte (facilitator)
	Madison Park	Roni Goffigan
	Manning	Louisa Dowal
	Mather	Marie Zemler Wu
	Mattahunt	Megan Doherty
	O'Bryant	Shari Perry-Wallace
	Orchard Gardens	Nikkishi Thompson
	Perry	Nancy Minucci
		Annissa Essaibi-George
	Quincy Elementary	Sonal Patel
	Roger Clapp	Kenny Jervis
	Roosevelt	Regina Robinson (part)
		Shannon Parker
	OFSE	Michele Brooks

Community
Guest

John Mudd, formerly of MassAdvocates for Children
Hattie McKinnis

Distribution: CPC Google Group
OFSE
Community
Guest

Michele Brooks
John Mudd, formerly of MassAdvocates for Children
Hattie McKinnis




**FINAL BOSTON SCHOOL
SUPERINTENDENT SEARCH COMMUNITY FORUM**

Manday January 12
Lilla Frederick School
270 Columbia Road

A new BPS Superintendent will be selected in February 2015.
Your input will help decide the future of BPS.

BPS SUPERINTENDENT SEARCH: PROGRESS TO DATE



Total Participants Who Provided Input:

7 Public Forums	400+ Participants
4 Full Days of Focus Groups	630+ Participants
Online Survey	419 Participants

BPS SUPERINTENDENT SEARCH: WHAT WE HEARD FROM PARTICIPANTS



CHARACTERISTICS OF NEXT BPS SUPERINTENDENT:

- Commitment to Excellence and Equity
- Success in Closing Achievement and Opportunity Gaps
- Cultural Competence
- Academic, Emotional, Physical, and Social Development
- Relationships with Key Stakeholders
- Effective and Efficient Leader
- Use Data to Make Decisions
- Diverse Workforce
- Collaborative Culture
- Effective Partnerships with the Community
- Garner Support for Facilities
- Collaborate with All Schools, Including Charter and Parochial
- Engage with Students
- Inclusive and Decisive
- Risk-Taking
- Active Engagement with Schools and Community
- Integrity, Drive, Intellectual Curiosity, Humility, Flexibility, Sense of Humor
- Students First

BPS SUPERINTENDENT SEARCH: NEXT STEPS



1. HYA Will Recommend 5 -8 Candidates This Week;
2. The Search Committee Will Interview Preferred Candidates in Late January;
3. Final 3 Candidates Will Be Presented to School Committee & Mayor Walsh;
4. Final 3 Candidates Will Be Interviewed in Early February;
5. School Committee Will Host Public Forums for Each Finalist; and
6. A New Superintendent Will Be Selected By Late February.

Boston Public Schools

Superintendent of Schools

Desired Characteristics

After seeking input from the Boston Public Schools (BPS) School Committee members, faculty, parents, staff, students, and community via focus groups, interviews, public forums, and an online survey, the Superintendent Search Committee for the BPS seeks a strong educational leader who will lead the BPS toward excellence for all its students and who:

Has demonstrated:

- A systemic commitment to excellence and equity and an urgency for improving educational opportunities and attainment for all students, along with successful execution of systemic and systematic reforms to address these needs.
- Success in closing the achievement and opportunity gaps while improving educational outcomes for all students from early childhood to college and career readiness.
- Cultural competence in addressing the myriad realities associated with meeting the needs of all students in a diverse urban setting, including culture, disability, equity, gender, language acquisition, poverty, prejudice, race/ethnicity, sexual orientation, and success as adults in a diverse global society.
- Commitment to the academic, emotional, physical and social development of the whole child.
- Successful and respectful working relationships with key stakeholders to include, but not be limited to, students, parents, families, teachers, school leaders, staff, bargaining units, community, advocates, foundations, partner organizations, media, elected officials, the School Committee, and the Mayor.

Understands the need to and has the ability to:

- Effectively and efficiently lead a system of schools operating under a variety of structures with varying degrees of autonomy and flexibility in local decision-making.
- Rely on hard data when making decisions and in the development and implementation of a comprehensive monitoring and accountability systems for the academic, personnel, and fiscal operations of the District.
- Recruit, develop, evaluate, collaborate with, and retain outstanding administrators, teachers, and staff members at all levels that are representative of the diversity which Boston embraces.
- Create a collaborative culture among administrators and teachers that focuses on supporting the work of teaching and learning in the classroom and throughout the school.
- Work collaboratively with the School Committee and appropriate stakeholders in the development, refinement and/or periodic review of the District's mission, vision, and comprehensive strategic plan to ensure that they provide the District focus and guidance in short and long-term planning and decision-making.

(over please)

- Develop effective and efficient partnerships with the many community organizations, parent and family groups, not-for-profit agencies, businesses, foundations, institutions of higher learning, faith-based communities, public officials and other groups that have a strong track record in ensuring every school is led by a capable, qualified school leader.
- Succeed in ensuring students are attending schools in facilities that are state-of-the-art by garnering the requisite community and political support to reach this goal.
- Collaborate with other Boston schools for the benefit of all children within the city, including by continuing the ongoing engagement with charter and parochial schools through the Boston Compact.

Possesses:

- A commitment to engage in regular, direct conversation and dialogue with students and to consider students first when every decision is made.
- Effective interpersonal and communication skills (verbal, written, and listening), including the demonstrated ability to communicate with key stakeholders in a variety of public and private forums.
- A collaborative leadership style that is both inclusive and decisive.
- Tolerance for risk-taking, when appropriate, to better meet the needs of students and/or the District.
- Track record of being visible and actively engaged in the schools and community.
- The skills to lead the nation's oldest district, including marshaling staff in central office and 127 schools to promote a culture of excellence in every school and provide leaders at every level the support needed to do so.
- Integrity, drive, intellectual curiosity, humility, flexibility, and sense of humor.
- Deep interest and expertise about best practices in K1-12 instruction, school-based transformation, garnering public support for expansion of early childhood and updating facilities.
- Courage to always put the needs of students first in the face of conflict and criticism.

For additional information or to apply online, individuals interested in the position should go to www.hyasearch.com. To learn more about the Boston Public Schools, go to www.bostonpublicschools.org.

To discuss the position with one of the consultants assigned to the search, please contact:

Hazard, Young, Attea & Associates

847-318-0072

Bill Attea – 847-910-0384

John Connolly – 781-789-9648

Diana McCauley – 336-202-0304

Thelma Melendez de Santa Ana – 909-518-8929