

CPC Meeting (March 24, 2015, Title 1 Center, BLA)

Attending:

Cyntoria Grant: BPS Office of Engagement
 Mary Battenfeld: BLA (Secretary/Minutes)
 Liza White: Ellison-Rosa Parks
 Karen Powell: Mission Hill K-8
 Connie Forbes: McKinley Elementary
 Louisa Dowal: Manning Elementary
 Beth Nolan: BLA
 Krista Magnuson: JFK Innovation Elementary
 Karen Oil: Mission Hill K-8
 Sapna Padte: Lyndon K-8
 Carolyn Lomax: Holmes Elementary
 Shari Perry-Wallace: O'Bryant
 Nancy Minucci: Perry
 Barbara Rosa: Hale/Snowden
 Mary Pierce: BTU School
 Maria Edsale-Farrell: Roosevelt

- ***Introductions and Warm up Question:***

What is a word that describes how you feel about the new superintendent?

A range of responses from positive (hopeful and progressive) to negative (scared and apprehensive) to neutral (cautiously optimistic-) and “practical (Boston” politics, need a contractor); concerns about charters, experience, but hope moving forward.

Discussion of location for future meetings: Should we move to the Bolling building? Some parents expressed concerns about parking availability. Cyntoria said parking is available across the street (free after 6) and on street. Decision to meet from now on in Bolling Building.

- ***Approval of March 2, 2015 minutes:*** Heshan moves to approve, seconded, approved unanimously

- ***Updates/Old Business***

- 1) *Parent Leadership Conference:* Thank you Centoria for helping to organize Parent Leadership conference Saturday (3/21). Success, lots of great energy and new parents came;
- 2) *Gift from Sidney Topol* for start up money (\$10,000) for CPC work, and Councilor Tito Jackson for helping. Sarah B. and Barbara R. (treasurers) will work with Tito Jackson’s office to set up 501c3. Great step to help all schools.

Questions on gift from Sidney Topol:

--Is there a time limit? (no)

--How will it be used? Not sure yet. Mr. Topol thought would be used for to hire a parent staff person/organizer. Heshan says wide open. Could be to do more fundraising, set us up at 501c3. CPC will discuss and make decision.

- 3) *Extra Learning Time* CPC member will join ELT Steering Committee: One CPC member and alternate will be added. Kristin Johnson will be representative, and Maria Esdale-Farrell alternate.
- 4) *SSC Joint Steering Committee*: This hasn't existed in several years. Supposed to be 5 members each from BTU and CPC and 2 high school students. We have five members from CPC: Maria Esdale Farrell, Nancy Minucci, Karen Shine, Carolyn Lomax, Joel Thompson. Also two student members. Waiting for BTU reps. Will meet soon.
- 5) *Meeting with Rahn Dorsey*. Report on meeting with CPC Executive Committee (Heshan, Sapna, Angie, Kenny, Mary B., Sarah B. attended), March 20.
Overview: Good conversation, tone, start of longer conversations.

Topics discussed at the meeting with Rahn Dorsey: (minutes/notes will be posted/sent)

a) 18 month planning facilities *planning process for BPS facilities master plan*; meeting March 30 to discuss the three proposals; broader look not just buildings (high schools, feeder patterns, AWC etc.); said they would do a survey at each school;

--Questions: Karen: how will the non-facilities piece be addressed? (surveys more community process)

How does the work they are doing with high schools fit in? (both part of the 18 month process and separate; started now partly in response to West Rox Academy and high school closures etc.

--we pushed idea of CPS reps for this process/committee

--Motion: to ask Mayor's office for 6 CPC representatives on Facilities Master Plan committee/group. Passed unanimously

b) Principal evaluation; discussed that there is not enough and ways to get more parent input;

Questions/comments:

--Can we add more questions to the parent climate survey on principal?

--How can we get a better survey and more parents to respond? (Suggestion: CPC write its own survey and distribute; comment (Sapna); even in our involved

parent community at the Lyndon the school climate survey is not very much on the radar)

--Can we get information response rate at each school; results; (Centoria will get; some information on the BPS website for individual schools)

c) also discussed budget;

--loss of money for Orchard Gardens and other schools;

--impact of using federal entitlement program data on calculating poverty cutting off students who are undocumented or haven't been in country for five years;

--school closures;

- ***New Business:***

Budget:

a) school closures: Maria E-F reports on Greenwood, Rogers, discussion with Councilor McCarthy and Superintendent, argued for keeping it open at least for a year; meeting at Green with families; they were very upset but don't have a strong parent council; will see how the vote and hearing goes; need to organize and mobilize our parent councils;

b) Heshan: can CPC take a stand on this as a group; put a hold on closures until the Superintendent is in place?

Q: Liza: can CPC take this stance?

Comment: Carolyn: Greenwood problems comes in part of out of earlier plan under Superintendent Johnson to close schools; Greenwood community fought back but didn't get support

Comment: (Nancy M.): BPS determines and their decisions impact who goes to the school; one side of Perry's one mile radius is water; 9:30 start time; both impact enrollment;

c) Statement from CPC on closures: (will vote on this now, and consider other issues later)

--BPS should halt closures until new superintendent and master plan; ---- transparency around enrollment, assignment and school profiles;

--Maria and Heshan will write up: CPC agrees to send resolution on the closures and transparency in assignment, and read that statement at School Committee tomorrow night in public comment; Barbara agrees to read;

Vote: Kristin (JFK) makes motion, Beth seconds; unanimous vote to draft resolution and read at BSC tomorrow night/enter into testimony; also CPC members who can come should come;

Other issues, to be considered/put in statement later:

--7th grade transportation; are we in agreement with this issue? demand alternatives; better and more efficient plan;

Question: (?) can we make suggestions for budget saving? (for example, materials) solutions?

Sapna: Before we make the solutions need to understand the problems; there is a budget issue we have to address it;

--*poverty index and weighted student funding*; issue is that BPS doesn't collect data anymore on free and reduced lunch. Replacing with TANF/SNAP, entitlement benefit programs and those undercount undocumented and other recent immigrants who don't apply. This impacts Weighted Student Funding. Discussion: how can we get the information? Ideas named include linking to poverty index of a neighborhood (does this work? issue of community/zipcode income v. family income); asking families (can't); ELL cross check? Can we ask the

---*nutrition*; due to time, did not discuss this; next meeting will continue

- **Budget meetings in communities:** (Mary Pierce);

I need people to represent different districts; idea is to get every single district have a meeting at a school about the budget; working with City Councilors to have these meetings in preparation for City Council vote; connect to Mary Pierce about; Mary P. will send email to group with more information;

- **Summary and Evaluation:**(Sapna): please report this information back to your School Parent Councils; How would you rate this meeting? Parents gave 7s and 8s; feel energized and learned a lot; great to be connected via google group but better to be together live.

Agenda items discussed at this meeting for possible carry over to next meeting:

Statement and advocacy on remaining budget issues; meeting with Superintendent Chang; follow up on request to join Master Facilities Plan; school climate survey

*Next Meeting: **Tuesday, April 28, 6-8 pm, Bolling building, Dudley Square*