

Citywide Parent Council (CPC) Meeting Minutes

16 June 2015, 6-8pm

Meeting Goals: Summarize and reflect on accomplishments, begin discussion of next steps

Attendance: Parents from 30 schools attended the meeting. Distribution of minutes through the CPC Google group is going to parents representing 82 schools.

Next meetings: The summer meeting will be held August 18th at the Bolling Building. For the 2015/16 academic year meetings will be held the last Tuesday of each month. Dates are: September 29th, October 27th, November 24th, [no December meeting], January 26th, February 23rd, March 29th, April 26th, May 31st and June 28th.

Meeting minutes: After introductions, the minutes of the last meeting were reviewed and unanimously approved. Minutes are posted on the CPC website at www.CitywideParentCouncil.org

Boston Student Advisory Council (BSAC): Heshan made a motion to support BSAC's request for full voting rights on the Boston School Committee (they are currently represented but do not have voting rights). The motion was voted on and passed unanimously.

Recapping the past year: Attendees reviewed the CPC accomplishments of the past year: see attached summary and feel proud!

Attendees summarized positives and negatives of the past year, as well as recommendations:

Positives:

New friends, awareness of issues across district
Sense of community empowerment
Strategic work on important issues
Civic duty in action
Collaboration with elected officials
Consolidated power, liaison for parents
Not feeling alone!
Alignment with new administration
Excited and honored to be part of team
Building institutional power for parents
Think Tank for the schools
Building respect for parents
Unified voice around difficult issues (like budget)
Diversity of representatives

Negatives/Challenges:

Scheduling of meetings versus life
No knowledge at my school about CPC
Communicating CPC issues with my school
Location tough for some people
No rep on Superintendent Search
Sub-committees didn't get off the ground
Small group representing a large group
Cynicism
Not following protocol of CPC Bylaws/OFSE

Recommendations

Organization: OFSE to notify school leaders that no SPC/SSCs to be scheduled on 4th Tuesdays

Office of Engagement to engage principals to engage with CPC
Develop handout for school elections
Clearly identify goals and explore how to manage realistically

Engaging parents: CPC to send letter to all principals/SPC/SSC's explaining CPC and its mission
Figure out how to target schools that aren't here
CPC slide to be circulated monthly to all schools
Get accurate parent e-mails: paper to those who don't have e-mails
Send e-mail to Principal and Parent Council every month
Circulate School Committee agenda
Updates on website: tap into most used/viewed communication vehicles
Distribution through mailing list

Increasing participation: Schools to elect alternates to representatives to ensure participation
Create more of a virtual component
Use accomplishments of '14-15 to market CPC
Move location of meeting? Rotate time of meeting?

Accomplishing more: Set aside time in meetings for sub-committee meetings
Revisit sub-committees idea: working in time in the weekly meetings?
Subcommittee work virtual between monthly meetings

Teacher of the Year

Kenny introduced Massachusetts Teacher of the Year Audrey Jackson. Audrey teaches in an inclusive classroom at the Manning. She spoke about her commitment to social justice in our educational system. She noted that it takes a very committed principal to make inclusion work: inclusion requires more than just shoving kids together. Audrey feels that not every school can or should serve every type of student: the kids with social and emotional needs are the most sensitive and challenging population to serve. Inclusion has to happen over a space of time, with a real philosophical commitment. Having best practices for teachers, as well as training to understand the science behind the behavior is really useful. Quality of para-professionals has been a huge problem and the school leadership appears to have no recourse. She asked the CPC to ask parents and teachers to correspond with her and to respond to her blog (<http://www.impatientoptimists.org/Authors/H/Audrey-Herzig-Jackson>) or e-mail her at aherzig@bostonpublicschools.org or audreyjacksonma@gmail.com

Updates on other activities:

School Budget. City Council to vote Wednesday June 24th on budget: CPC is aiming for funding restoration for lunch and three truancy officers. City Councilors see size of budget but not what reaches a classroom. We need to remind them of how much is going towards transportation and assessments. Heshan will draft an e-mail for everyone to send.

High School Redesign. Everyone should look at the website: <http://highschoolredesign-boston.org/>. This project, which is led by Rahn Dorsey, the Mayor's Education Advisor, offers a new model for

community engagement for individuals and groups to organize their own discussions and provide input on re-imagining our high schools and the skills/knowledge with which students should graduate. Individuals who expressed interest in working on coordinating a CPC event were Vasny, Joanne, Nancy, Caroline, Shari and Lauren. The CPC may also want to get the word out about this opportunity to school communities and students.

Extended Learning Time (ELT) Joint Task Force. [The following update is from Kristin Johnson, who is serving on the Task Force and was provided by e-mail after the meeting] The original ELT agreement did not include increased funding for specialists; BPS has added \$832,998 for specialists in Cohort A schools. This is about 9.5 additional specialists, citing: "Superintendent John McDonough has agreed that we must commit to the success of ELT and ensure that schools can implement high-quality plans". The ELT agreement creates a 40 minute block of teacher directed collaborative time. Each school will have one Teacher-Facilitator per 5 teachers to help direct this collaboration, totaling ~110 facilitators in cohort A. ELT JTF is responsible for planning the training for these new teacher-facilitators this summer. We are working with Paul Tritter from the BTU to make this happen. ELT agreement funds \$1000 stipend for each teacher-facilitator, but doesn't identify funding source for training. The ELT JTF reviewed Cohort A schools' implementation plans. Schools are revising after receiving feedback from the JTF and will submit their final plan by 6/29. Discussions continue about pairing Cohort A schools with outside interested partners. Discussions continue about future of ELT rollout after Shandra Goldfinger's internship ends and new BTU contract is negotiated in ~September 2015.

Nutrition and Food Committee Update. [The following was provided by Anne Sousa in an e-mail after the meeting] The Sub-Committee is asking that a 3rd party provide technical assistance to the district for long-term planning, including an architectural assessment and feasibility study for a central kitchen. As an immediate objective, we would like to review the following:

- All (current and previous) menu options at both satellite and cafeteria schools, including ingredients and nutritional information
- Vendor offerings
- Pricing lists/cost structure
- Contracts

We are requesting to work with BPS to establish the definition of "healthy food".

Parent Representatives in attendance

Bates	Lauren Margarita
Boston Green Academy	Linda Freeman
Boston Latin Academy	Heshan Berents-Weearmuni, Beth Nolan, Lauren Margarita
Boston Latin School	Margaret Wood
Boston Teacher's Union School	Mary Lewis Pierce
Brighton High School	Vasny Torres
Lyndon	Sapna Padte
Clapp	Kenny Jervis
Comm. Acad. of Health & Science	Linda Freeman
Curley	Heshan Berents-Weearmuni

Hale
Haley
Higginson
Holmes
Irving
JFK
Kilmer
Mason
Mattahunt
Murphy
Mendell
O'Bryant
Ohrenberger
Perry
Philbrick
Quincy Upper
Snowden
Sumner Elementary
Tech Boston
West Roxbury Academy

Barbara Rosa
Karen Zerby Buzzelle
Andre Dorsainvil (member of Mass Parents Association)
Carolyn Lomax
Margaret Wood
Krista Magnuson
Monica Wheeler
Latoya Gayle
Meghan Doran
Kim Harris
Kristin Johnson
Shari Perry-Wallace, Carolyn Lomax
Harneen Chernow
Nancy Minucci
Lauren Margarita
Joanne McKenna
Barbara Rosa
Nicole Riley
Carolyn Lomax
Kelvin Brooks

Guests in attendance

Audrey Jackson
Cruz Sanabria
Paul Tritter
Farah Stockman

State Teacher of the Year, Teacher at the Manning
Teacher at the Ellis
BTU Director of Professional Learning (ptritter@btu.org)
Journalist, Boston Globe



CITYWIDE PARENT COUNCIL - SY 2014/15

Sept.	<p>Sept. meeting date set - 6 schools</p> <p>First Meeting - 11 schools</p>
Oct.	<p>Oct. Meeting - more schools joining...</p>
Nov.	<p>Nov. Meeting - 4 co-chairs, 2 Secretaries, 2 Treasurers, 5 SSC Steering Committee Reps elected, 5 working subcommittees created</p>
Dec.	<p>Dec. Meeting - more schools joining...</p>
Jan.	<p>1 CPC member as part of Nominating Panel of Boston School Committee</p> <p>Jan. Meeting - Attended by Regina Robinson and Laura Perille, two members of the Superintendent Search Committee</p>
Feb.	<p>2 CPC reps and other parents create Budget Video for all BPS parents</p> <p>Co-sponsored Budget Workshop with QUEST</p> <p>2 CPC co-chairs invited to be panelists to interview 4 Superintendent candidates</p>
March	<p>CPC on Twitter - @CPC_BPS</p> <p>Rescheduled Feb. Meeting due to snow</p> <p>Boston philanthropist Sidney Topol donates \$10,000 to CPC through the hard work of Councilor Jackson</p> <p>New CPC logo</p> <p>Co-Sponsors Parent Leadership Conference with Office of Engagement/Co-Teaches Budget Workshop</p> <p>CPC Exec Board Meeting with Rahn Dorsey</p> <p>March Meeting</p> <p>CPC formal statement to BSC on budget and school closings</p> <p>2 CPC members appointed to Extra Learning Time Initiative Steering Committee</p> <p>Multiple CPC Rep. testimonies to BSC, City Council, and State Foundation Budget Review Commission</p> <p>Community Dialog with Councilor Jackson</p> <p>5 CPC members meet with Superint. McDonough and Richard Stutman for SSC Steering Committee</p> <p>April Meeting attended by Rahn Dorsey - formally ask for representation on Facilities Plan</p> <p>Community Dialog with Councilor O'Malley</p> <p>1 CPC co-chair invited to be one of Superintendent Chang's Transition Team</p> <p>New CPC website</p> <p>Community Dialog with Councilor McCarthy / Food Subcommittee testimony at City Council</p> <p>Community Dialog with Councilor McCarthy</p> <p>Community Dialog with Councilor McCarthy</p> <p>May Meeting attended by Dr. Tommy Chang</p> <p>Advocated successfully to Senate for \$1M more McKinney-Vento, \$4.5M Charter Reimbursements</p> <p>Community Dialog with Councilor Baker</p> <p>Community Dialog with Councilor Zakim</p> <p>Community Dialog with Councilor Yancey / New CPC Facebook Page</p> <p>Community Dialog with Councilor Ciommo</p> <p>Community Dialog with Councilor Linehan</p> <p>Office of Engagement submits new Engagement Plan to BSC with CPC as umbrella of all SPCs</p> <p>CPC organizes Listen and Learn Event at Bolling with Office of Engagement</p> <p>CPC hits 104 reps from 77 schools</p> <p>June Meeting</p> <p>CPC Budget Letter to Mayor and City Council</p>
April	
May	
June	