

CPC Special Meeting with Tommy Chang and cabinet (Sept. 1, 2015, 6-7:30, Bolling)

Present: Attending, CPC Representatives:

Mary Battenfeld: (BLA, Secretary/Minutes)
Sapna Padte: (Facilitator, Lyndon K-8)
Heshan Berents-Weeramuni (Co-chair, Curley)
Angelina Camacho (co-chair, Hernandez)
Kenny Jervis (co-chair, Roger Clapp)
Barbara Rosa: (co-chair, Hale/Snowden)
Debra Brendemuehl (Lyndon)
Kelvin Brooks (WRA)
Harneen Chernow (Beethoven-Ohrenberger)
Teofilo Colombo (East Boston High)
Dina Cundiff (Trotter)
Androfil Dorsanivil (Higginson-Lewis)
Maria Edsale-Farrell: (Roosevelt, O'Bryant)
Linda Freeman (Boston Green Academy/CASH)
Connie Forbes: (McKinley Elementary)
Latoya Gayle (Mason)
Annisa George (Perry)
Marc Goldstein (Winship)
Joanna Jenkins (Holmes)
Kristen Johnson (Mendell)
Naeemah Kennedy (Mason)
Mary Lewis- Pierce: (BTU School)
Carolyn Lomax: (Holmes Elementary, O'Bryant)
Krista Magnuson: (JFK Innovation Elementary)
Mariel Martinez (King)
Natasha Maughan (Ellis)
Nancy Minucci (Perry)
Katie Muse-Fisher (Sumner)
Beth Nolan: (BLA)
Nicole O'Brien (Condon)
Shannon Parker (Roosevelt)
Nicol Riley (Sumner)
Maria Roges (BLS, Henderson)
Vasny Torres (Brighton High)
Gloria West (BCLA/Young Achievers)
Monica Wheeler (Kilmer)
Liza Marie White (Ellison/Rosa Parks)

Invited guests:

Tommy Chang, Superintendent
Rahn Dorsey, Mayor's Office
Karla Estrada, Dept. Super of Student Support
Carolyn MacNeil, ombudsperson
Makeeba McCreary, Chief of Staff
Donna Muncey, Dept. Super of Strategy
Kim Rice, Asst. Super of Operations
Monica Roberts, Engagement
Doannie Tran, Asst. Super of Professional Learning
Ross Wilson, Managing Partner, Innovation

Other visitors:

Mossik Hacobian, Higher Ground, Julia Mejia, Codman Academy,

And thanks to Kristen Johnson, we are live on Periscope!

Intro: Heshan:

Dr. Chang: (meeting follows his/BPS agenda)

1) Intro, welcome;

--Thank you for coming out;

--If we want to be authentic partners we want to be sure parent leaders are informed;

--Introductions of BPS education cabinet: including new ombudsperson, Carolyn MacNeill

2) Handouts/General information: In keeping with informing parent leaders, CPC members given a folder with:

- Organizational chart
- Sample menus
- Transportation waivers (opt in and opt out) and other materials, including coloring book
- ?? etc.

Please post or let parents at your school know this information. Links to material when available are included.

3) Improving communication with families (Kim Rice);

--have built in functionality with parent portal (SIS); but some schools haven't been active; offering trainings for school leaders;

--school bus app

--introduce Carolyn MacNeill; ombudsperson (came from Boston Police Dept., been here about 6 weeks)

Carolyn M.: I see role my as advocacy; helping parents with lots of different issues; role that has been unfilled for almost 3 years; important that parents have someone to answer questions; try to be very responsive; all about collaboration and relationship building;

Heshan: can you give:

--phone and email; *Answer:* cell phone; 857-891-1363; cmacneill@bostonpublicschools.org

--issues you have been most asked about: *Answer:* wait lists and assignments? issue of district setting reasonable expectations;

4) Food services; (Kim Rice)

--healthier menus (included in packet are sample menus)

--we now have a food advisory committee (Heshan notes is subcommittee of CPC; Ann Sousa)

--chef program at Fenway High to create meals and pilot;

--water (ours is best in country!) looking at hybrid fountains where you get water bottle function too; not eliminating bottled water until we get

--are doing national search for director or food services

QUESTIONS about food services:

--will there be CPC reps on that search committee? *Answer:* YES

-- are working with Councilor O'Malley? *A:* yes we are

-- how about vending machines? *Answer:* are looking at that;

-- putting together plan to work on bubblers? *A:* part of capital plan

--restrictions on using kitchens? could that change? *Answer:* that's a bigger question; part of facilities master plan; if used for food prep can't have other uses; varies by school

-- how is BPS monitoring food quality (milk spoiled, etc.) and making sure things are right from the start; *Answer:* will defer question to food service coordinator; Deb Ventrecelli

5)Transportation: (Kim)

- got info out earlier than usual; families may get more than one letter;
- alternative transportation; issues and seeking to address
- new fleet of buses; propane replaced all the diesel ones with wheel chair lifts so there is no exhaust;
- MBTA services ; we are offering family rides
- 6th graders; not on buses; was miscommunication at the Dearborn meeting;

Questions about Transportation:

? How is it that some schools went to 6th grade without asking families? *Answer:* there are only 3 schools, and school agreed;

? How about money and not affording it? *Answer:* no change in policy; still distance limits on who can get a pass;

? Danger of traveling to and from home; students have to miss out on after school activities because they don't have safe means of transportation; *Answer:* we are not reinstating late buses; decision has been made

? changes in eligibility for transportation; distance has changed in terms who is eligible; *Answer:* technology has advanced so now we use GIS; that made some families not eligible; Carolyn response/ follow up: families take safest and not shortest route; should count alternative routes/shootings and danger; is a significant difference in the eligibility; Kim; I can sit down with you specifically if there is some calculation that is off;

? parents have asked to be on transportation subcommittee (would love to have parents on it and fold into names) *Answer:* (Rahn): Mayor's transportation task force asked to look at implementation for middle school students; but there are a number of outstanding recommendations; one is to reconstitute group; get data; parental input; *Follow up question: timetable?* Rahn: ASAP; will work to identify key players;

? : how many schools with 6th graders are opting in: (*Kim/Answer:* Orchard Gardens, Jackson Mann and?); follow up: how was it decided? should be SSC; shouldn't be just administrators assigned;

? ; opted out but have received bus assignments; *Kim/Answer;* aggressively going after RSVPs; is a strategy that we make sure we take families who opt out off the bus; looking at our citywide schools; looking for efficiency; still in zone plan as well as home based; new east/west transport; running dual transportation systems/grandfathering;

?.: sexual harassment is not being taken seriously; head of MBTA police quoted as saying he hadn't heard of that; *Kim/Answer:* I take that near and dear; have a woman on staff focused on middle schools females and as walkers; Councilor Pressley is active; want to expand survey and get authentic experiences; came up as issue that underreported;

? : issue of MBTA passes locking; kids arrested because passes didn't work; *Kim/Answer:* functionality in the system; are addressing that schools charge replacement fees;

Tommy Chang (replies to several issues):

- give a shout out to Kim; food services, transportation, assignment, shares and knows a lot of information; also knows there is a lot of change management that needs to happen;
- facilities master plan; super critical to look at governance structure of the facility master plan
- waitlist; want to be super clear; most are students who stay on a wait list v. unassigned; going to be a massive effort for more funding for K0 and K1;

--two things will keep me up at night; 1) temperature (heat and cold later); 2) buses; bus drivers have their routes; in negotiation; optimistic will come to resolution;
--"culture of we;" about all kids; we are committed to every single student achieving at a high level; working with any parent; hold us accountable if we aren't doing that; work in progress but we are moving in right direction;
--share a "not so bright spot; angry/inappropriate note from parent leaders at a school; there are people who are representing themselves as parent leaders who are not acting in that way; will respect this group (CPC) as parent leaders

?; high school students being charged to replace M7 cards; called 15 schools; highest charging \$45; lowest \$10; schools should set a policy and communicate to parents;

TC: can we broaden conversation about safety;

?: comment/suggestion; a lot of things parents are fighting for are the same; how can we work with parent engagement around solution focus? groups of student who walk together; bikes? how to promote unity and work together so that all of kids are getting to school safely; *Answer: (Rahn):* Safe routes to schools grant; group has done organizing in Chelsea and Revere; hope we can organize parents to do that;

?how much information (including about transportation) is going into the hands of parents? (orientation? how do we use it better)

? transportation: is it possible to know the stop before and after your stop? parents know better; *Answer (Ross)* Will take your information and will get it

TC: if no legal problem should give the route;

?: master plan? problems with receiving services; IEPs and not getting services;

Carolyn MacNeill: want to take those individual questions; v. Kim systemic ones;

TC: have to leave; I will be involved; I will be engaged;

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6) General Q & A

Sapna: Overview: think about big picture issues; role of CPC way to take issues around the city; new reps/elections should be coming up;

?: is there a way to look at bus assignments for K-8; is there a way to filter in who is opting out and giving seats to older kids; *Answer: (Donna M):* home based in work in process; Rahn: do not know the status of the equity analysis; has been mandated and is being worked on;

?: start times are out of whack (Perry, 9:30); and early morning start times for high schools; Another parent echoed that in a different way (Trotter given 7:30-3 weeks before school started; switched over from 9 am);

?is there a projected time for the safe school walk? son has to walk through gang; what are the safe zones? has to be more systematic; *Answer Rahn:* I will take responsibility for getting it going; will coordinate to work with;

?; Lyndon organized and called Safe Routes to Schools; parents laid out the plan; they helped directly if as parents you want to organize;

?: how can we help to empower parents? Are empowered because you know safe routes to schools;

Comment: CPC has plans to make sure schools were educated and know what roles are; versus when BPS people are trained and sent to school different because that person is paid by BPS;

?: financial situation? waste and redundant purchasing? schools are throwing away things and schools are throwing away?

?: what is the projected savings? (\$9.5 million); I am fortunate enough have peer leaders who work at my school; money should go towards putting extra bodies (police officers) around neighborhoods for safe travels; think about trauma and education; *Response: Carolyn MacNeill*: street workers from 4-midnight; police dept. should have officers there; *Rahn*: savings haven't happened yet; might have to put the savings elsewhere;

?: would like to understand the chart and how is happening; what is the feedback loop?

?: what about the transportation? MBTA police? at what point is everyone going to come together; Kim coordinates calls with agencies?

Rahn: meeting: high school headmasters are meeting with school police; would suggest;

?: where is the way parents can have impact on systemic change v. responding to individual complaints? For example, parents are saying don't want middle schoolers on buses yet is happening; *Answer Rahn*: some parents opting in; and we are going to have a meeting with parents and BPD; also we have waiver forms; can still waiver out;

?: need to make a systematic change in a system that is very different depending on where you are act;

?: East Boston; lost yellow buses from Maverick to Eastie; since then have had increased in tardiness; have to walk; delays in T, etc.

?: can you have meetings to talk about transportation and middle school to high schools;

7) *Wrap up*: (*Sapna*): rate meeting? 7-8; thanks to BPS for coming out; and see what CPC has accomplished;