

Citywide Parent Council (CPC) Meeting Minutes

18 August 2015, 6-8pm

Meeting Goals: Discuss goals for this year.

Attendance: Parents from 32 schools attended the meeting. Distribution of minutes through the CPC Google group is going to parents representing 82 schools.

Next meetings: For the 2015/16 academic year meetings will be held the last Tuesday of each month. Dates are: September 29th, October 27th, November 24th, December 15th (third Tuesday rather than 4th), January 26th, February 23rd, March 29th, April 26th, May 31st and June 21st (fourth Tuesday). It was agreed that the meetings for the coming year would be held at the Bolling Building.

The Superintendent is required to meet with the CPC quarterly new Parent Engagement Policy the BPS' School Committee adopted in July. It was proposed, voted and approved that the co-chairs request that the Superintendent participate in the following meetings. September 1st, November 24th, February 23rd, June 21st.

Warm-up Exercise: Parents volunteered the lens through which they are looking, which included:

- My kids
- Facilities
- Transportation
- BPS culture
- Enrollment
- My school's culture
- Unity/all schools in Boston
- Family Engagement
- Strengthening pathways for non-exam schools

Several core definitions of the CPC were discussed, including:

Who are we?

The CPC is the legally sanctioned organization within the City of Boston that represents parents.

What do we have in common?

Every parent participating has shared the experience of advocating for their school communities. Every parent shares the impacts of budget cuts.

How can we take action?

We are a really big group. How do we organize ourselves? What is our overall vision? Where is our access to power? Last year's sub-committees included: Budget, Equity, School Culture & Climate, School Quality, Facilities

What are our goals for this year?

- Ensure that every school has a functioning School Parent Council (SPC). Identify schools where principals are not encouraging or facilitating engagement.
- Engage High school Redesign process, particularly around the discussion of SPED pathways
- Make better use of social media
- Improve transportation equity: highlight impacts of poor busing performance, especially for special needs
- Be a Think Tank: become the place where new ideas emerge from the parent community
- Share Best Practices.
- Host forums valuable to parents

Committee Updates:

ELT report by Kristin Johnson. Locations for ELT was driven by schools with highest needs: 16 schools in total. CPC voted to support focus on schools with highest needs.

Healthy Food for Boston Public Schools Action Network from Anne Sousa (read to the group). This group is working with BPS Food and Nutrition Services with the goal of establishing the definition of "healthy food" and to eliminate certain high sugar menu items such as juice, sugar cereals, chocolate milk and jelly (ask for soy/peanut butter or cream cheese instead). They are 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, they want 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

Boston Education Justice Alliance (BEJA). BEJA is focused on fighting the Charter initiative to raise the existing cap on charter seats. If there are more charter school seats, district schools will be financially impacted. If you want to participate Mary Lewis Pierce is contact. There will be a hearing on the charter cap on October 13th.

Mass Education Justice Initiative (MEJI) is looking for support for testing moratorium. They would come in September.

Facilities. Margaret briefly described the BPS Facilities Master Plan project. She is working for the Mayor's office coordinating the project. It will be a year and a half long public process. She anticipates there will be a number of opportunities for direct CPC engagement.

Health & Wellness. Volunteers were solicited to participate in a health and wellness focus group.

YWCA Race Dialogues. Angie: Presented a proposal to approach YWCA's race dialogue team to have them explore a session with the CPC and with BPS schools - voted on and approved.

Next steps.

- Schools need to elect parent representatives, if they haven't already. Meetings are open to all.
- Push functioning SPCs.
- Strike balance between Think Tank and acting.

Attendees

Bates	Lauren Margarita
BCLA	Gloria West
BLA	Beth Nolan, Lauren Margarita, Heshan Weeramuni, Mary Battenfield
BLS	Margaret Wood, Kenny Jervis
BTU School	Joel Thompson, Mary Lewis Pierce
Clapp	Kenny Jervis
CASH	Linda Freeman
Curley	Heshan Berents-Weeramuni
East Boston HS	Annissa George
Ellis	Natasha Maughan
Ellison/Parks EEC	Liza White
Freeman	Boston Green Academy
Hale	Barbara Rosa
Hernandez	Angie Camacho
Higginson-Lewis	Cathleen Brown
Holmes	Carolyn Lomax
JFK	Krista Magnuson
KIPP	Liza White
Lyndon	Sapna Padte
Manning	Louisa Dowal
Mason Pilot	Naeemah Kennedy, Latoya Gayle
Mendell	Kristin Johnson
Perry	Annissa George
Philbrick	Lauren Margarita
Snowden	Barbara Rosa
Sumner	Katie Muse-Fisher, Nicol Riley
Tech Boston	Carolyn Lomax
Timilty	Barbara Rosa
Trotter	Dina Cundiff
Young Achievers	Gloria West
West Rox Academy	Kelvin Brooks

Other attendees

Higher Ground	Mossik Hacobian
Mass Charter School Association	Julie Meijja