**Citywide Parent Council**

**Meeting Minutes**

**December 19, 2017**

**6:00-8:00 pm**

**Bolling Building**

1. Welcome, Group Norms Review, Agenda Overview (Presenter: Ric)
2. School Start Times Discussion (Presenter: Lucas)
	1. Reactions that Executive Committee has heard so far were overviewed
	2. Current BPS plans
	3. Favorable reaction (Julie from the Curley and Boston Latin Academy)
		1. The Curley didn’t change (8:30 am), but many teachers were hoping the start time would move earlier
		2. Attended a meeting with Monica Roberts
			1. Felt they were really considering the research around start times for high school students
			2. 7:15 am was never mentioned as an option at these meetings
		3. Many high school students are not happy about having to start later
		4. Doesn’t mind her younger child having to start earlier, especially since she attends a school in her neighborhood
		5. Understands the pressures this early time puts on many families
		6. Suggests that need to put off for a year and work with the community; okay to push start times for elementary schools a bit that earlier, but not necessarily that early
	4. Bruce from Dearborn
		1. Older students aren’t awake during the early periods of the day when middle/high school students start earlier
	5. Unfavorable reaction (Lucas from the Hernandez)
		1. Moving from 8:30 am to 7:15 am
		2. Agree with the research about high schools and glad that change is happening
		3. Skepticism about why elementary schools need to change about this
		4. Feels the cost is being transferred to families (after school, etc.) in exchange for savings in transportation costs
		5. Complaint: process. BPS has engaged with community for 18 months but specific start times wasn’t ever on the table for discussion; was released as a completed decision.
		6. Understand that district has the kids in their best interest, but that they might have some blind spots (language barriers, email barriers)
		7. Recommends delaying implementation to discuss with families and to create buy-in
	6. Megan from Sumner (moving from 9:30 to 7:30 start time)
		1. High school start times research and transportation savings are two separate things
		2. Savings from home based system supposed to take 5-10 years but aren’t there yet due to siblings grandfathered into schools for several years
		3. Feels that it’s not all or nothing with the cost savings
	7. Tammy from Haynes
		1. Attended the transportation meeting before this meeting
		2. Buses do three runs each morning, which may have caused the 7:15 am start time
		3. If more kids went to neighborhood schools, we’d save on transportation costs
		4. 7:15 am start time came out of wanting to get more kids to school on time
	8. Mission Hill mom
		1. BPS is also responsible for charter schools, who cooperate with BPS on their times, and parochial schools, who don’t cooperate with BPS on their times
		2. Their school doesn’t support the start times
	9. Kathleen from Kilmer
		1. Time did not move from 9:30 am
		2. Last year, mobilized parents, held focus groups, surveys with teachers and had superintendent’s office come in; impact statement on after school and kids who needed special services; nothing came of this; was told the main driver was the bus schedule
	10. Reporting Back from Small Group Discussion
		1. Agree generally with the policy of later for HS students
		2. Needs to be more time given to the implementation process, buy-in, logistics
		3. Shouldn’t be 7:15 am start times for elementary schools
		4. Prefer higher cost over 7:15 am start times
		5. Haven’t seen savings from no buses for 7-8 and home based, so how can we trust will be savings here
		6. Before/after school – availability, quality
		7. 7:15 am not known as an option
		8. Transparency (algorithm, why decisions being made) – BPS explain to each school why their time was shifted
		9. Support HS research
		10. Split on times for younger children
		11. More information and more time needed to figure this out, buy-in
		12. If all schools were equal, everyone would choose the school near home
		13. City and state should help reduce the costs to BPS
		14. Timing and implementation
		15. Should be more time before it’s implemented
		16. What should the CPC’s role be in this? How can the CPC be able to reach out to more parents to be a liaison to be one more place where parents can get information? If not all parents have the information, how good a job can we do to advocate for parents citywide.
		17. BPS is a system where you really have to go out and get the information yourself, so there may be a very large group of parents who aren’t up to date, might not know this is happening, might not have information about their own school, etc.
		18. Statement from CPC: reject the process and call for a moratorium until the process is transparent and fully participatory (teachers and parents); need to be focused on equity
		19. School configuration changes; to have kids change many times is very hard; if there will be school configuration changes, then the time changes should happen at the same time
		20. Present the points of consensus and ask BPS to address these points before going forward
		21. Complaint from mom from Eliot School (pilot and innovation schools not required to change their times?)
		22. Does the algorithm factor in traffic patterns, amount of time special needs kids have to be on buses/in school (did they just use Google Maps)
		23. 1:15 pm is too early of an end time
		24. Special needs students are not always able to participate in after school programs
		25. Sometimes there aren’t enough after school program slots
		26. Chang said we can’t be taking schools’ individual choices because that wouldn’t be equitable; parent suggested that perhaps some schools have special situations
		27. NAACP has come out against BPS’s equity report; this bad policy will have an inequitable effect on communities of color; NAACP says equality is not equity
		28. SPEDPAC argues that the effects on special needs students is an infringements on their needs/rights; SPEDPAC is working with Office of Engagement and John Hanlon to review all schools with special needs buses to ensure it’s equitable and fair for each school; they met last week
			1. A parent suggested only exceptions should be schools with large populations of special needs or medically fragile students or are citywide
		29. Pilot schools say it’s an infringement to their rights to dictate start times
		30. After school programs are expensive, low capacity, and only take kids ages 5 and up in some locations (another parent said that some YMCA after school programs are taking 4-year-olds while others don’t, which is confusing; equity issue)
		31. 1 year moratorium; one parent said that we shouldn’t say this as a group because of all the good it’s doing for middle schools and high schools
3. CPC Priorities for 2017-2018 (Lucas)
	1. Handed out the list of all the ideas that were generated at our last meeting
	2. Our goal today is to boil this list down to a few items to focus on this year
	3. Parent suggestion: need to ensure that people are actually willing to work on it, not just that it’s a priority
	4. Highest vote getters
		1. Internal CPC
		2. Facilities
		3. Access to quality schools
		4. Instructional quality
		5. Health and wellness
	5. Asked everyone to pick the one they are most interested in and meet with the others interested in that topic and come up with action items
	6. Wrap up: one action from each group
		1. School quality: don’t know where to begin; talked about 20 different issues
		2. Instructional quality: may have some overlap with school quality; ELT/extended day
		3. Health and wellness: recess; technology and safety; gender issues; before/after care
		4. CPC: how to be seen as knowledgeable experts; onboarding process (how to get information – suggested QUEST); relationship with Office of Engagement
		5. Facilities: didn’t present
4. Next Meeting: Tuesday, January 30, 2018, 6:00-8:00 pm, Bolling Building