**Citywide Parent Council**

**Meeting Minutes**

**April 24, 2018**

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

**Bolling Building, 6th Floor**

1. Welcome
2. Guest Speaker: Michael Loconto, Chair, Boston School Committee
   1. School Committee taking a more active role in school finance reform to advocate for more funds for our schools. Distributed letters re: advocating for legislation (these will be posted to the Google Group)
      1. First letter:
         1. Adopting Senate bill 223 alone won’t do much for Boston
         2. Want to discuss how to change funding formula to increase funding to Boston (because Municipal Revenue Growth Factor [MRGF] puts us on par with Wellesley which doesn’t reflect the socioeconomic realities of the families in our district)
      2. Other letter advocates for three bills:
         1. Fully funding of charter school reimbursement line item (underfunded by $9 million in the current draft budget from the House this year)
         2. Bill 3759 – take $16.5 million in annual revenues intended for expanding the convention center (which isn’t happening) and redirect to BPS (to fund universal pre-K) – has been voted favorably out of committee
      3. Call your legislators and ask them to support the bills in the letters
   2. Questions from CPC Members
      1. Budget
         1. School Committee just finished the budget for 2018-2019 ($1.1 billion)
         2. What has affected funding: declining state funding, flat lined federal funding, grants and private funding changes
         3. Student enrollment is static
         4. Trying to find efficiencies (e.g., school lunches [My Way Café, hub-and-spoke model], transportation, BuildBPS)
         5. Question: The budget process pits schools against each other for the available dollars. How does this square with the desire for equity? Weighted student funding formula and Opportunity Index
         6. Question: How do we go after some of the back taxes from the local colleges and universities and hospitals? These institutions are federally tax exempt and thus there’s nothing the city can do to force them to pay the city any money. But we can use soft power. PILOT (payment in lieu of taxes) was introduced as a way to approximate what the institution would be paid in taxes to cover services. Never approach the amount tax would have been. These institutions also provide in-kind services
         7. Question: Weighted student funding: If every classroom in the school isn’t full, it doesn’t work well for the school. What is the solution for that? Changing the grade configurations will help with this, e.g., in K-8 schools, grades 7 and 8 tend to be under enrolled compared to the lower grades. And simplifying the grade configurations will clarify the path for students through the grades and may reduce students leaving the district for charters
         8. Question: How to ensure positive outcomes for all students in BPS? This isn’t focused on enough since the input factors are more pressing. Not all parents have agencies and not all kids come to school ready to learn. The School Committee has gone through a Strategic Visioning Process
      2. School Start Times / Transportation
         1. Nothing is planned for next year
         2. Lessons learned: more engagement, more listening
         3. Silver lining: this is an issue people are now aware of
         4. The School Committee was heartened by the letter the CPC sent regarding start times
         5. Should be considered in conjunction with changes in grade configurations, buildings, and AWC/Excellence for All
         6. Want to give people more lead time so they can plan accordingly
         7. How to help going forward: don’t react to a new proposal by telling us how it sucks, tell us how we can make it better
      3. School Committee Agenda
         1. Haven’t been going publicizing the agenda in advance but will be doing better going forward
         2. Want to be able to meet the expectations of the public, manage the district’s workflow, and give the committee more notice on upcoming agenda items
         3. Will try to finalize the template in June
         4. Suggestion: regularly contact CPC with information on how the CPC can help the committee and advocate for the district
3. District Committee Representative Reports
   1. Wellness Committee – will be distributed separately
4. Announcements
   1. How to use remaining meetings?
      1. Putting together an engagement plan for going forward
      2. How to reduce time lost to executive committee elections at the beginning of the school year (including bylaws revisions)
      3. Have BPS reps from the different district committees attend the meeting to meet with the different focus groups
      4. Discuss equity and wellness
      5. Have each school elect their CPC reps before the end of the school year for the following school year
      6. At the end of each meeting, have each rep go back to their schools to collect info / make an ask
   2. Parent University – May 5
   3. Please encourage parents to complete the School Climate Survey
5. Remaining 2018 Meeting Dates:
   1. May 22 – School Committee Chamber, 2nd Floor, Bolling Building, 2300 Washington Street, Roxbury
   2. June 19 – School Committee Chamber, 2nd Floor, Bolling Building, 2300 Washington Street, Roxbury