

## Citywide Parent Council Meeting Minutes

January 22nd, 2019

### 1. Happy New Year!!! Introductions and check-in

Issue your school is facing:

- Aimee, Manning. Trying to add a 6th grade and figure out how to support current 5th grade students with the inclusion model
- Phil, Philbrick. Also trying to add a 6th grade but facing budget cuts. Wondering where to make cuts or if they can negotiate some of their partnership costs down
- Shari, O'Bryant. Increased the freshman population by 400, inadvertently? Roland Hayes will no longer fund their music partnership
- Kristin, Mendell and BTU. BTU losing \$180K
- Jen, Condon. No known budget cuts
- William, Channing. Music coming back to the school. Budget looks ok
- Lauren, Haley. Don't know how if budget has been impacted. Like many schools, Haley currently has a bubble class, currently for 6th grade. Figuring out what grade configurations will look like in the future
- Matt, Eliot. Unsure if the budget has been impacted
- Nicol, Sumner. \$255K budget cut. Estimated to have 60 fewer students than last year
- Jen, Hale, by email after meeting. Learned that the Hale is also facing deep budget cuts
- 2 BEJA reps in attendance reported drastic cuts at the Blackstone, Mather, Henderson and Shaw. Bobby Robert Jenkins from BEJA also sits on the SSC for Madison. They just got their budget
- Gloria reminded CPC that a parent from each school's SSC must sign off on the initial budget!

### 2. Guest -Kristin Johnson, BPS parent. BPS Budget presentation and discussion

- See separate PDF attachment
- Currently in "School Level" which is Phase 1 of Budget Cycle
- Weighted Student Funding (WSF) is the primary funding source for BPS schools. WSF uses the estimated number of students who BPS predicts will enroll at each school for the upcoming year, and multiplies it by the dollar amount budgeted for each student. Some populations, e.g. special education students, receive additional funding
- 2018-2019 was the first year BPS used the Opportunity Index Score to distribute a different kind of funding. It was more equitable but there was not enough money in this pool
- "Principal autonomy" is a misnomer. State laws and BTU contracts mandate number of students per grade, number of teachers etc.
- For many reasons, every year, many schools end up with "compliance budgets," where they can only fund the bare minimum. This makes the school less attractive to incoming families, enrollment declines, and the school can often fall into an underfunding cycle or eventually close

- Touched on BEJA's work around PILOT (Payment In Lieu Of Taxes)
- Chapter 70 state funding formula (FBRC). State funds less and less of the BPS budget
- Chapter 46 is supposed to reimburse BPS for budget losses to charters but this mandate is never fully funded
- Sonia Chang-Diaz introduced a bill last year which made it through the MA House and Senate but for reasons that aren't totally clear, it failed in Joint Committee. Chang-Diaz introduced a new bill this year which includes the Education PROMISE Act to update the state's outdated school funding formula and meet the recommendations of the Foundation Budget Review Commission (FBRC)
- School Committee can vote "no" on the BPS Budget but it doesn't really have an impact. City Council can also vote "no" but the Mayor can still pass the budget per the City of Boston charter
- Want to sign the Fund Our Future petition?  
<https://actionnetwork.org/petitions/fofpetition>

### 3. BEJA- Who they are & what do they do?

- Boston Education Justice Alliance
- Ruby Reyes and Bobby Robert Jenkins presented
- Part of the MEJA (MA Education Justice Alliance)
- Also part of AROS (Alliance to Reclaim Our Schools)
- Parent 2 Parent conference is this Saturday 01/26/19
- BEJA has been reaching out to school communities around the country to find out who BPS should not hire as a Superintendent
- 3 areas of focus for BEJA are: (1) Advocate for BPS to be fully funded and to prioritize educating urban kids, (2) Creating Hub or Community School Models and (3) PILOT work. Also looking for other funding revenues for BPS
- Work with reporters and ask that they cover stories that are critical to BPS e.g. Regina Robinson not being reappointed to School Committee after abstaining on the closure of WRA
- Also involved with BPS Superintendent Search

### 4. Next month Build BPS would like to come to speak to CPC? Thoughts?

- Sounds like more detail has been added to the Build BPS plan. Based on this, attendees decided they should come to next meeting.

### Other Items

- Question for CPC from Shari Perry-Wallace, OBryant parent. Does your school utilize a conferencing tool during their SSC and/or SPC meetings? If so, what is it and do you think it could work for CPC meetings?
- We still have one opening on the CPC Executive Committee for a parent who identifies their race as Asian, Latino or a race other than Caucasian or African-American. If you are already a CPC rep and would like to be considered, please let Lauren know ([lmargharita@gmail.com](mailto:lmargharita@gmail.com)). CPC reps, please notify your SPCs that we still need a rep who fits this description.

- Upcoming Compact Meeting , open to the public, 02/07/19 10-12. Would be good for BPS parents to stay informed about this organization. More information about this organization and meeting minutes can be found here: <http://www.bostoncompact.org/>



The graphic features a stylized logo on the left composed of colorful geometric shapes (triangles, circles) in shades of blue, yellow, and orange. To the right, the text reads: **Boston Compact Public Engagement Session**, 10a-12p | February 7, 2019, Boston Prep Charter School | 885 River St, Boston. Below this is a yellow box with an invitation to participate in a cross-sector conversation. To the right of the yellow box is a photograph of several people sitting around a table in a meeting. At the bottom right, a white box with a blue border contains the contact information: **Please let us know if you plan to attend by emailing [info@bostoncompact.org](mailto:info@bostoncompact.org).**

**Boston Compact  
Public Engagement  
Session**

10a-12p | February 7, 2019  
Boston Prep Charter School | 885 River St, Boston

The Boston Compact is pleased to invite members of the public to participate in a cross-sector conversation about Boston schools. Please join us to hear about the Boston Compact's work and engage with our Steering Committee on issues important to the success of all Boston students. We look forward to hearing your ideas and feedback!

Please let us know if you plan to attend by emailing [info@bostoncompact.org](mailto:info@bostoncompact.org).

**Next CPC Meeting Dates:**

02/25/19 CPC with DELAC, SPEDPAC and Superintendent, Bolling Building

02/26/19 CPC Meeting, Bolling Building.

03/26/19 Bolling Building

04/23/19 Location TBD

05/28/19 Location TBD

06/25/19 Location TBD

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