

Citywide Parent Council Meeting Minutes
10/22/19

Attendees

Erick Lopez
Jason Carp
Cristal Scott
Susan Bird
Ann Malone
Joanne Freeman
Blanca Mesa
Paul Fleming
Bridget Hester Fatini
Kris Karas
Eileen Kirk
Deb Shea
Steve Lewis
Anne Gately
Kent Sands
Christie Gibson
Sam Warren
Matt Savage
Ashley Mahanama
Lauren Margarita
Monica Hall-Porter
Neathery Brenzel
Gloria West
William Tabb

School

BTU School
BTU School
Mattahunt
Grew
Boston Latin School
Boston Arts Academy
Alighieri Montessori
Lyon K-8
Manning
Philbrick
Kilmer
Shaw
Lyndon
Condon
Harvard Kent
Josiah Quincy
Hernandez
Eliot
Eliot
Boston Latin Academy
Hale
Mission K-8
Young Achievers
Channing

Office of Engagement
Mattahunt (Role Unknown)
Higher Ground
Boston Education Justice Alliance (BEJA)
Educators for Excellence
Educators for Excellence/BPS Substitute Teacher
Office of Food Access/Kenny School

1. Office of Engagement – Monica Roberts and staff

- Change of title to “Family and Community Advancement.” Office is now made up of 6 departments:

Community Outreach

Family Engagement - Cyntoria Grant

- Parent University is part of this office. Provides training and support to parents and families so that they understand what their students should know at every grade level
- Launched professional development workshops for 22 school leaders. Training them to understand that they set the culture and tone for welcoming families into their schools as partners in their child’s education. Goal is to help schools move the lever on school culture and climate so that everyone is included
- Oversee School Parent Council elections. Worked with schools to get literature into schools to promote engagement
- Hold age appropriate STEM workshops for students and families including reading clubs in 6 schools
- High impact strategies. Help parents understand hopes and dreams of students and that “agency” should happen with the student included
- Evaluator - evaluates programs. This upcoming Monday BPS will release an RFP for the next equity analysis of the home-based assignment system. Also plan to have a focus group to gather feedback about the assignment process

Partnerships and Development - Miriam Rubin

- Engage community partners to work with schools and ask what the impacts are of the partners’ work?

Welcome Services - Devon McCarley

- Oversee registration and assignment at the 4 Welcome Centers
- Oct to Dec is “school choice” season
- Organize School previews and the Citywide School Showcase
- Promote school choice in preparation for registration which starts in January
- Registration is broken into 3 rounds. Student has best chance of getting top choice school if family registers in their priority round
- Exam school admission falls under Welcome Services. This year, 6th graders will take ISEE in school, but weekend testing will also still occur
- Countdown to Kindergarten - Director Sonia Gomez Banrey
- Work with families and community partners so that they know about the school options, promote school registration, then focus on registration
- Promote and run “Play to Learn” playgroups. Provide preschool type services, help families and kids connect, facilitate community building. Tracked kids who participated in the “Play to Learn” playgroups and found they outperform peers who didn’t participate
- Free programs are run in East Boston, JP and Dorchester
- Also run pre-literacy programs

BSAC - Student Engagement Manager Maria Estrada

- This year will roll out Student Advisory Cabinet that will mirror the Superintendent Executive Team

- Ramping up student voice in the district. Planning workshops to help with student advocacy and public speaking

Build BPS

- Now falls under Family and Community Advancement. Plan to keep existing pathways that were previously agreed on, but also need to align Build BPS with the Superintendent's academic vision

- Questions about weight lists and concerns that schools now have empty seats. Monica Roberts explained that families used to be able to have a child on as many weight lists as they liked. On most occasions when OOE called, the family no longer wanted the seat. Found that the majority of movement happened during the assignment rounds and that weight lists were less likely to move after school had started. Now, a child can be on multiple waitlists until June; after June, can only be on one list. Large disconnect about where students are waitlisted but doesn't align with where there are seats in the district. The district is looking at how they can educate families about the process.
- Feedback from parent who would like his biracial child to have access to a school with a Chinese language program.

2. Evan Stone and Denise Manning - E4E (Educators for Excellence)

- Promoting their "Disrupting the School to Prison Pipeline" by promoting restorative justice. Emphasized how critical it is that every school have a program in place. More information here: <https://e4e.org/take-action/get-involved/educators-want-students-thrive-not-just-survive>
- Came into Boston during the No on 2 campaign and did not take a stand on Question 2

3. Shannon Timlin - Mayor's Office of Food Access

- Foodcorp is an Americorp program based in City Hall
- Shannon is currently serving at the Kenny School
- Foodcorp is a BPS partner. They educate kids about food and nutrition among other things
- #bosfoodlove is a program that promotes and supports school lunch programs

4. Discussed Nov 5th meeting with Superintendent. Some questions we want to ask:

- Will she commit to meeting with CPC 4 times/year?
- Student Handbook states sexual assault is not necessarily an expellable offense?
- What is meant by making all policy decisions with an "equity lense?"
- What is the appropriate mix of programming at every level?
- Looking ahead to the budget: what does she think about schools need the most?

5. Discussed electing additional co-chairs. This will be Matt's last meeting

Job Titles - from the updated By Laws

Leadership Team. The Leadership Team of the CPC shall include seven Leadership Team Co-Chairs and shall be composed of the following:

1. Facilitation Co-Chair
 2. Administrative Co-Chair
 3. Finance Co-Chair
 4. Communications Co-Chair
 5. Diversity & Inclusion Co-Chair
 6. Assistant Diversity & Inclusion Co-Chair
 7. Assistant Diversity & Inclusion Co-Chair
6. Ann Malone - Meeting with Annissa Essaibi-George on Boston School Committee structure
- Ann attended the meeting on behalf of CPC
 - Councilor Essaibi-George convened a meeting to gauge parent support around a change in School Committee governance
 - Councilor supports a School Committee that is half appointed by the mayor and half appointed by the community
 - Essaibi-George said at the meeting she does not think there is an appetite among constituents to re-open the discussion on an elected School Committee