

Boston Public Schools
Citywide Parent Council Minutes
07/28/20 - 6-8pm - ZOOM

Present:

Gloria West (Young Achievers/Henderson)
Christie Gibson (JQES)
Anna White (Henderson Upper)
Nicol Riley (Sumner)
Haruna Hosokawa (Umana)
Steve Lewis (Lyndon)
Heather Wilson (EB ECC)
Lauren Margharita (BLA)
Dairith Gonzalez (MPTVHS, Lila Frederick)
Julie Smith-Bartoloni (Curley)
Ann Malone (BLS)
Ashley Mahanama (Eliot)
Danielle (Greenwood)
Joanne Freeman (BAA)
Jill Collins (Condon)
J. Eric Hankwitz (?)
Neatherly Brenzel (Mission Hill School)
Lisa Green (BLS)
Dionyssios Mintsopoulos (EB EEC)
Erin Miller (Channing)

Agenda:

1. Welcome
2. Statement of Norms:
 - a. Group Norms
 - b. Virtual Norms
3. Introductions & Goals: Can every CPC rep share a goal for the CPC for the coming year place in chat. We will collect and add to minutes.
 - a. Reinvigorate working groups and subcommittees
 - b. Getting at least one person engaged from every school in the district (lots of people said this)
 - c. Translation services through zoom meetings

- d. Getting both overall CPC and Exec Board to reflect BPS demographics/be in line with bylaws
 - e. Using virtual meetings as a springboard to increasing participation
 - f. CPC becoming a venue for parent advocacy and holding BPS accountable
 - g. For CPC to become THE representative parent body for the district, with reps included in all decision-making processes, and viewed by families as a trusted source of information
4. External Committees that need/want CPC representation - will be trying to put together document with details about meetings, responsibilities, etc so that by next meeting we can select reps
- a. Karen Silver - BPS Early Learning - starting parent advisory council, looking for parents to sit on it, K0-2, all ethnicities, recruiting now, hoping to start once we go back into buildings, do not need to be CPC reps, but hopefully sharing info with CPC
 - b. Boston School Committee Citizen's Nominating Panel: need 1 rep and 1 alternate for 3-4 meetings Oct-Jan Announcement
 - c. School Quality Working Group
 - d. Health & Wellness (Ann Malone)
 - e. Joint Steering Committee & Community Engagement Advisory Council – with Supt and Deputy for Advancement (Cassellius & Monica Roberts)
 - f. BuildBPS (2 seats)
 - g. Transportation Task Force – starting up in Sept
 - h. Attendance Advisory Council – morning meetings with truancy officers (2 seats)
 - i. BPS Title I Committee (2 seats)
 - j. Inclusion Committee (2 seats)
 - k. Boston Compact (2 seats)
 - l. School Climate/Opportunity and Achievement Gaps (2 seats) (Ann Malone)
 - m. Code of Conduct Advisory Council ~ 1X/year (Danielle – Greenwood)
 - n. --> Check with Natalie – any additional committees for us to sit on?
 - i. Reopening Working Group?!
 - o. What is responsibility when sitting on an external committee?
 - i. Mostly bringing back information to larger group and sharing info about what is going in in-district
 - ii. School Committee Nominating Panel might be more “representative”

- iii. How long to serve? Generally 1 year; good to have one rep and one alternate
5. Discussion/review of Press Enquiry form/procedures
6. Reopening Discussion
- a. Review of current proposal
 - i. 2 days on, 3 days off; Wed & Sat cleaning days
 - ii. Just started discussions with BTU
 - iii. See letter from this afternoon
 - iv. Principals don't seem to have a lot of information or meaningful way to start planning
 - b. Questions
 - i. How close is contact w/ epidemiologists?
 - ii. What happens if kids are starting to get sick?
 - iii. Proactive testing? Pooled testing? (getting swabs not very nice!)
 - iv. What happens with meals? What if they are home schooling?
 - v. Questions around equity, losing school time
 - vi. What is plan for 3 days of remote learning? For before & after school?
 - vii. Anything that looks at "which families need childcare because there is no one at home to watch them?"
 - c. Impressions from district meeting:
 - i. 10% of staff and teachers saying they won't come back if it is hopscotch
 - ii. impression that state is making them come up with all three types of plans, but that hopscotch is not really workable and will all be remote
 - iii. a lot of talk about community partners and spaces for kids who needed a place to go; going to a community center with chromebook – place safe, with meals and supervised
 - d. Concerns:
 - i. Feels like it is late to be soliciting feedback from the community
 - ii. Needs of some families to have some space for families to bring their kids
 - iii. Model of teachers teaching in person and on zoom simultaneously seems totally unworkable
 - 1. Teacher assuming a zoom audience, not taking advantage of being in person
 - 2. Kids at home watching zoom feed for 6 hours??

3. Need for teachers to split up in-class and remote time
- iv. Lots of community concern about health and testing, how to protect teachers – wasn't included in Tammy Pust's presentation to the School Committee at all
- v. Lack of trust in schools to be clean now when they were never clean before; especially these fears in Latinx community
- vi. Separation of conversations around education and childcare
- vii. Drastic differences in which model different racial groups want (from survey)
- viii. City Council Meetings more open in terms of hearing people's concerns instead of asking leading questions – heard things that hadn't been talked about in BPS community meetings
 1. Michelle Wu and Anissa Essaibi-George being strong advocates as BPS parents
 2. Invite them to August meeting? And Lydia Edwards? Julia Mejia?
- ix. Do parents feel like their children should be leaving the house? MBTA transportation for older students?
- x. People not responding – maybe people who work 2-3 jobs; concerned about looking at a higher rate of homelessness;
- xi. Some schools reaching out to their families, others not; some asking for input, others just sharing info, or lack thereof
 1. Each school within the district can't act independently, even if families have creative ideas – need to share ideas with district
- xii. With school being pushed back 10 days, if case numbers start rising, and have to go back to phase 1, what is district's plan for that?
- xiii. Parents don't know how to teach math, reading; concerned about having resources, supplies being limited; art teachers giving assignments would have to give assignments for things that come from around the house. What if families don't have those supplies?
- xiv. BPS going to spend a ton of money on deep cleans instead of on PPE, air purifiers, having school time outside – would like to see breakdown of how mitigation budget will be spent
- xv. BCYF staff not on until 1 or 3pm; Y has been doing things virtually
- xvi. Schools not providing PPE
- xvii. 10-Day delay from state: PD is important, but at least half should be spent on meeting individually with families (virtually/phone) to get to

know each other and each family's specific situation – parents wanting to hear directly from teachers and school staff about safety plan

- xviii. Need to convince parents and teachers not to be afraid of being in school; need to be on the state for funding mitigation needs
- xix. Greenwood only has one bathroom in the basement – how all kids going to wash their hands multiple times/day?!
- xx. Hard to understand how schools will both a) Teach and b) Keep kids safe, given the physical plant – why have no modifications to buildings already been done? Should have been happening all summer
- xxi. Needing to acknowledge that risk will never be Zero; moderating families different risk budgets
- xxii. Physical plant:
 - 1. Installing new sinks, windows, hand sanitizers – have seen this on slides, but has it actually been happening?
 - 2. HVAC: matter of resources, only 1 in 3 have HVAC systems installed; not always rated for cleaning the air; need enough airflow to disperse the virus; want to have windows and doors open to add air circulation; identifying rooms where this can't happen that will not be used for instruction; how will this play out in rainy/cold weather?
 - 3. Filters? HEPA? UV-C?
 - 4. Installing new HVAC systems for every school seems unlikely
- xxiii. Strengthen Remote Learning: don't seem to have a robust plan for this!
 - 1. Not all zoom
 - 2. Mailing packets – more formalized at-home materials
 - 3. Providing supplies
 - 4. Books?
 - 5. Parents (volunteers) serving as tutors?

Potential Agenda Items for August Meeting:

- 1) Decision-making on External Committee Reps
- 2) Assigning reps to contact other schools that don't have reps
- 3) Inviting Councilors Wu and Essaibi-George

4) Exam school test and how students will be admitted for 2021 – any CPC representation on that working group? Commitment to developing some kind of interim process for coming year by Sept. because implementing test will be challenging

a) Exam School Initiative, started in July, NOT all sixth graders have been given seats as was promised by Cassellius; test prep portion in August; now ½ hour of math/half hour of English

5) Neenah Estrella Luna as possible guest re: racism

6) Possibly having Office of Advancement reps attend to share more specific info about how SPC/CPC elections are supposed to work, how we can more effectively interact with them to make sure that we have all the info from elections in a timely way

a) Gloria will invite them to August meeting

b) Christie will put together list of schools that haven't had CPC reps

c) Specific Questions:

- What is date for each SPC election for each school, and

- Who is appointed to upload SPC info? Usually CFC if there is one, but not all schools have one, so if not them, who? Sometimes FCOOC

- Procedures for coming year, since won't be in person

- Any guidelines that have changed that we might not be aware of?

- Asking them to translate their materials re: SPC

- How does BPS see CPC/SpEdPAC/DELAC relating to each other?

→ Remind people with zoom invitation that it will be recorded and shared on web site and social media