

## Citywide Parent Council Meeting Minutes

25 August 2020 ZOOM

### 1. Welcome, Check-in

Ashley Mahanama	Eliot - Rep
Anna White	Henderson - Rep
Deb Shea	Shaw - Rep
Lisa Green	BLS - Rep
Heather Wilson	East Boston EEC
Nicol Riley	Sumner - Alt
Sasha Abby VanDerzee	Mendell Elementary - Rep
Marcie Carmody	Eliot School
Gloria West	BPS Parent - Facilitation Co-Chair
Kuan Ju	Grew - Alt
Erin Miller	Channing - Alt
Joanne Freeman-Fanfan	Boston Arts Academy - Rep
Steve Lewis	Lyndon K-8 - Rep
Heather Wilson	East Boston EEC - Alt
Jill Collins	Condon
Netta Brownell	Guild - Rep
Geju Brown	JQES - Alt
Patty Camilleri	Otis
Dionyssis Mintzopoulos	East Boston EEC
Sara Smith	JFK School - Rep
Lauren Margharita	Boston Latin Academy – Rep
Nicol Favorito	
Nathalie Louis	OFSCA
Cyntoria Grant	OFSCA

1. Started meeting with a reminder from Ashley Mahanama that the current CPC Executive Committee is not in compliance with our commitment to racial diversity per the CPC Bylaws
2. Check in - How are reps feeling?
  - The general theme from reps was feeling overwhelmed and anxious about school re-opening

- Many reps still didn't think that they had the information they needed to feel good about school re-opening
3. Office of School and Community Advancement (OFSCA)
- Nathalie and Cyntoria from the Office of School and Community Advancement (OFSCA) attended to share information about how SPC/CPC elections are supposed to work:
- Q. What is the date for SPC elections for schools?
- A. Each school needs to let OFSCA know when their elections will be held. Flexibility with the Oct 15th deadline will be given, school by school, case by case. Some schools have already held elections and OFSCA acknowledges that there is a lot to juggle this year. OFSCA pledges to be as supportive as possible
- Q. Who is appointed to upload SPC info at each school?
- A. Usually the Family Coordinator - if the school has one - otherwise a school admin; often the Principal. Schools will be given a sheet of instructions explaining how to upload elected reps to the OFSCA site
- Q. What will the procedures be for the upcoming year, since SPC meetings won't be held in person?
- A. OFSCA will share a toolkit with schools
- Q. Are there any guidelines that have changed that we might not be aware of?
- A. Asking schools to translate their written materials about SPC into BPS languages. Every school has access to translation (of written materials) and can also assist with interpretation (live interpreting) into languages other than the one being spoken at the meetings. Need 2-3 weeks' notice to offer this service. OFSCA offers SPC and SSC trainings, which will be virtual this year. Tentatively planned for October
- Q. What do SPCs that don't have access to a Zoom account do? How do they hold meetings?
- A. OFSAC mentioned that each school principal can share their Zoom account with the SPC. Discussion followed that SPC is supposed to run independently of the school administration. Some reps reported that they have a BPS teacher who is also a parent attend their meetings and so they often use their Zoom accounts
4. Sonia Chang-Diaz's Pandemic-EBT Initiative - Maia Raynor, Legislative Director
- Sonia Chang-Diaz is the state Senator for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Suffolk District here in MA, and also serves as the Chair of the Joint Committee on Children, Families and Persons with Disabilities
  - Pandemic EBT card has only been authorized for the 2019-2020 school year

- Push to make sure that families are activating the card. *Must be activated by Sept 30th or funds will expire*
- Hoping to put the word out on social media, through partners etc.
- Will also publish information about how to share the funds if families want to do that
- About 20,000 cards issued and roughly about \$5,000 in funds still not activated
- Some CPC reps shared that they and families they know did not receive the cards. Very long wait times on the hotline phone number. Maia said the cards are manufactured in MI but the DTA (Dept of Transitional Assistance) in MA recently became able to produce the cards
- Can the deadline be extended beyond Sept 30th so families who have not even received a card can use their benefits? No. Federal USDA controls the deadline so it's not something MA can control
- State legislature can help advocate for families who have not received their cards
- DTA can accept sharing of cards if there is a written notification authorizing who can use the card
- Maia can help facilitate people authorizing others to use the cards. Govt Affairs official in DTA can accept an email. Maia should be copied on the email to say they authorize the transfer to another family DTA contact:  
[christopher.c.power@state.ma.us](mailto:christopher.c.power@state.ma.us)
- Funds are good for a year, but only if the card is activated by Sept 30th
- Families who no longer have their cards (threw them away) should also email the DTA contact [christopher.c.power@state.ma.us](mailto:christopher.c.power@state.ma.us)
- Discussed getting the flyer info condensed into a one-pager and translated into other languages. Flyer here:  
[https://www.canva.com/design/DAEFz9Hdf4c/RytwewyiAkVpJsBn0dL\\_cg/view?utm\\_content=DAEFz9Hdf4c&utm\\_campaign=designshare&utm\\_medium=link&utm\\_source=publishsharelink](https://www.canva.com/design/DAEFz9Hdf4c/RytwewyiAkVpJsBn0dL_cg/view?utm_content=DAEFz9Hdf4c&utm_campaign=designshare&utm_medium=link&utm_source=publishsharelink)

5. Reports from any reps currently serving on an external committee – N/A

- Need to elect a rep to serve on the Citizens Nominating Panel. The panel interviews applicants applying to for open positions on the Boston School Committee. More information about the Citizens Nominating Panel can be found here on the BPS website: <https://www.bostonpublicschools.org/Page/255>

6. Discussion of most pressing BPS Re-Opening concerns

- Choice forms - how many reps have filled out the survey? Most did but several high schools are not holding their school meetings until later this week and next week

- Some reps are frustrated with the Governor mandating flu shots. Not all families are open to immunizations for religious and other reasons. Creates mistrust within school communities being concerned about sending child to school with students who are not immunized
- Concerns around HVAC and outfitting schools with air filtration
- If we send students back and students test positive, that indicates exposure has likely happened weeks or days before the outbreak. Once a student is diagnosed and the school community informed, others may already be infected
- Concerns that Special Ed kids will only be able to get the in-person services they need after schools have determined if there is space in schools. Why were students with the most need not given priority?
- Teachers frustrated that they are expected to bring their own children into classrooms

7. Discussion of how best to utilize Facebook now that we have access

- People mentioned after the meeting ended that there can be multiple admins on an account
- Only Lauren has Editor access which is not the same as Admin access
- Only Admins can add other Admins
- Will reach out to Angie again to see if more Admins can be added