

Citywide Parent Council Meeting Minutes

24 November 2020 6-8pm ZOOM

Highlights:

- Very brief overview of CPC for newcomers, and invitation to a more extended separate orientation session
- Reports from Committees, including the Boston School Committee Citizens' Nominating Committee
- Time to discuss reopening/remote learning issues
- Time for Working Group breakouts

Zoom Roles:

Facilitator: Steve

Screensharing: Gloria

Note Taking: Christie

Monitoring Waiting Room: Ashley

Monitoring Chat: Nicol

Monitoring Raised Hands: Joanne

Present:

Christie Gibson, JQES

Gloria West, Henderson Upper

Wenling Ma, BLS

Joanne Freeman, BAA

Ashley Mahanama, Eliot

Steve Lewis, Lyndon

Betsy Yoshimura, Umana

Lauren Margharita, BLA

Suleika Soto, Blackstone

Angelice - Lyon K-8

Anna White - Henderson

Nicol Riley, Sumner

Emily Antonelli - Hale

Sarah Henderson - Lyndon

Sasha Abby VanDerzee - Mendell

Bethany, Perry K-8

Chris Martell, Kenny

Dionyssios Mintsopoulos, EBEEC

Kathy Schraffa, Adams

Erin DiCarlo - Adams
Katrina - Manning
Jun Xie
Jen Douglas - JFK
Jack Keleher, Warren-Prescott
Rafaela Polanco, Blackstone
Meghan Wingate
Kathleen Adams
Nicole DiMaggio, Perry
Sossegueda
Elizabeth Meagher, Umana

1. Welcome, Check-in (~6:00-6:10)
 - a. Especially new reps!
 - b. Introduce orientation resources, new rep orientation session Sat. Dec. 5
 - c. Introduce digital sign-in sheet
2. Statement of Norms: (6:10-6:15)
 - a. Group Norms
 - i. Be Respectful: Listen to and be open to the ideas of others; create a safe space to share
 - ii. Be Mindful: Monitor airtime to ensure everyone has an opportunity to share
 - iii. Be Engaged: Speak, share your experiences and let your voice be heard
 - b. Virtual Norms
 - i. Mute yourself when not speaking
 - ii. Use the “rename” function to add your school next to your name in the participants section
 - iii. Use the “Raise your hand” feature under “participants”
 - iv. This meeting will be recorded and possibly shared on web site and social media
3. Presentations
 - a. No presentations this month
4. Old Business: (~6:15-6:45pm)
 - a. By-Laws announcement and statement of elections
 - i. Representation out of balance
 - ii. Election for Finance Co-Chair

1. Nominations:
 - a. Suleika Soto - Blackstone parent
 - b. Wenling Ma - Boston Latin School
 2. Election: Suleika Soto
 - b. Volunteering for External Committee Representation - no new volunteers at this time, but Wenling Ma volunteered for SQWG later
 - c. Volunteering to connect with schools without a CPC rep - no new volunteers
 - d. Review [Agenda Requests](#) for full-body Supt meeting Dec. 7 (were due Nov. 13)
 - e. MCAS discussion - working on statement from parent point of view around testing this year
 - f. Announcement about P-EBP benefits (need to be used by end of year) and Staples card (need to be used by end of Nov.)
 - g. Committee reports:
 - i. [External Committee](#) Reports
 1. BSC Nominating Committee - will be meeting Nov. 30; 11 applicants so far; concerns about some applicants were brought to committee around biases of applicants; push for diversity and parents; Interest in making the student rep a voting member of the Committee
 2. Wellness Committee - no meetings
 3. BuildBPS - no meeting yet
 4. CEAC - canceled meeting, has new dates for info sessions about exam school admissions process
 5. SQWG - needs new rep - Wenling Ma
 - ii. Internal Committee Reports
 1. Health and Wellness - no news
 2. BuildBPS - no news
 3. Diversity and Inclusion - no news
 4. Communications
 - a. Have circulated CPC directory
 - b. Coordinating with DELACs and language-specific ELACs - making sure all groups get all info from BPS
5. New Business:
 - a. Full-group Reopening/Remote Learning Discussion (6:45-7:15)
 - i. MCAS statement - Leadership Team met with rep from heads of school association (mostly high schools)

- ii. Dec. 2 protest being planned? A lot of parents upset that schools haven't reopened and trying to organize protest
 - iii. Dec. 12 - silent protest who feel there should be more kids with high needs in schools
 - iv. Cameras: most teachers requiring that students keep their cameras on? Uneven, but have to participate either on video or in chat
 - 1. Mixed feelings, lots of hours, burnout, but also demoralizing for teachers to talk to black boxes
 - 2. Feels like another layer of disciplining students, circumstances different and people might want privacy for home life
 - 3. Chromebooks can't have virtual backgrounds
 - 4. Document from district policy that teachers can't force students to have cameras on - lots of issues have come up, including unintentional nudity; Gloria will share document
 - v. Looking to make remote learning better; keeping kids on task, even if they are home alone
 - vi. Nervous both about full remote and hybrid - teacher capacities for juggling in-person and on-camera
 - vii. What is plan for high needs students?
 - viii. Feels like really big divisions between parents, the BTU,
 - ix. → Looking to raise questions about parental controls on chromebooks with Superintendent
 - x. Are teachers still having PD throughout the year? Support groups?
 - xi. Concern around students returning to classroom but still being on chromebook
 - xii. Logistics of having in-person and remote students include less class time
 - xiii. Sudden schedule changes hard for high-needs students
 - xiv. 27 teachers in Canton in one school had to be out on one day - what happens when the teachers are out for two weeks? No subs for that many
- b. Committee Breakout (~7:15-7:40pm)
- i. Communications/Recruitment/Diversity and Inclusion
 - 1. Possible topics for Information Sessions (ie, Transportation, Budget, High School admissions, etc)
 - a. How many per year?
 - b. Times of day/week?
 - c. High School Admissions!!

2. MCAS statement review
 - a. How would this affect Adams scholarship?
 3. Exam school admissions
 - a. Does the CPC want to specifically support a permanent moratorium on standardized test for exam school? Depression, anxiety; anger that some families pay for tutoring; December 12th protest; Does the CPC want to specifically support a permanent moratorium on standardized tests?
 - b. → Adding to Superintendent discussion
 4. Equity Roundtables - sometimes characterized as town halls; trying to get more student representation; some principals have been doing it as part of the School Site Council; Lyndon has specifically a closed group for African-American/Black families; Blackstone has been having their roundtables
- ii. Health and Wellness
1. Discussion of current school environments, preparations
 2. Issues around accessing the internet/connectivity - apply pressure to improve equity through Comcast
 3. District should provide summer sessions
 4. More autonomy for schools to talk to parents, with guidance from district
 5. Need for movement to be incorporated in remote school days
 6. Food distribution - EBT cards
 7. Mental Health check ins - don't seem to be seeing a lot of this in schools; how to deal with increased stress from remote learning?
 8. Overarching need to think out of the box!
- iii. BuildBPS - no meetings, so didn't include this time
- iv. Budget Analysis
1. How to support School Site Councils in their budget processes
 2. Need to know more about budgets and process!
 3. Supplies - not a lot, Staples cards; are EBT cards enough?
 4. Blackstone - only had supplies for K0-2nd grade

5. Enrollment levels - having gone down due to covid; how will that impact budgets for schools? A lot of students have been temporarily lost
6. Dates from Gloria:
 - a. District Dates Dec. 19th Principals get budget; projected enrollment numbers went out in November
 - b. Enrollment Projections - Target Date: November 19
 - c. Budgets Released - Target Date: December 14th
 - d. Pre-Probable Org Meetings - Between November 30th - December 18th
 - e. Budget Collab & Probable Org Meetings (autonomous schools) - Between January 7th - February 1st
 - f. Budget Collab & Probable Org Meetings (traditional schools) - Between January 7th - February 7th
- c. Report Back from committees (~7:40-8:00pm)

file:///C:/Users/Suleika/Downloads/Strength%20in%20Unity%20Budget%20Town%20Hall%20Dec%202020.pdf

Things to post at top of chat:

- Change name to include school
- One-sheet link
- Digital Sign-in link
- Group Norms and virtual norms in full
- Announcement about recording