

Citywide Parent Council Meeting Minutes

22 December 2020 6-8pm ZOOM

Zoom Roles:

Facilitator: Gloria

Screensharing: Ashley

Note Taking: Christie

Monitoring Waiting Room: Steve

Monitoring Chat: Joanne

Monitoring Raised Hands: Suleika

Attendance:

Gloria West - Henderson

Ashley Mahanama - Eliot

Joanne Freeman - BAA

Christie Gibson - JQES

Steve Lewis - Lyndon

Suleika Soto - Blackstone

Ann Malone - BLS

Betsy Yoshimura - Umana

Rafaela Polanco - Blackstone

Wenling Ma - BLS

Netta Brownell - Guild

Annette Diaz - Otis/Umana

Anna White - Henderson

Marioska Medina - Hurley

Sonia Medina - Orchard Gardens

Randolph Dominguez - Spanish Interpreter

Amanda - Blackstone

Amy Helburn - BTU

Aron Boros - Curley

Claritza - Condon

Dionyssios Mintzopoulos - EB ECC

Emily Antonelli - Nathan Hale

Erin DiCarlo - Adams

Estephany

Geju Brown - JQES

Katie Campbell Simons - Kilmer

Katrina Henry - Manning

Lauren Margharita - BLA

Lisa Green - BLS

Marta

Melina - Curley

Melissa Rivera - Bates
Mohammed Yousuf - O'Bryant
Patty Camilleri - Otis
Rachael Manasseh
Santos Vigil
Sarah Henderson/Lyndon
Sonia Medina - Orchard Gardens
Lissi Guerrero
Maria Flores

Minutes

1. Welcome, Check-in (~6:00-6:10)
2. Statement of Norms: (6:10-6:15)
3. Presentations (6:15-6:30)
 - a. Cyntoria:
 - i. Learning opportunities for parents every month, will send it out to us as it is ready
 - ii. School Leader Hiring process underway for Madison, BLA, McCormick
 - iii. STEM: program that supports kids to understand how these subjects relate to specific careers
 - iv. Have had a lot of SPC training session requests - series of them happening over Christmas break to make sure parents understand how to start an SPC and hold meetings - Three part series in January --> follow up with Cyntoria
 - v. Will be sending out exam school letters (or email?) to parents in the next week or two
4. Old Business: (~6:30-6:45pm)
 - a. By-Laws announcement and statement of elections
 - i. Representation out of balance
 - b. Announcement about P-EBT benefits
 - i. Extended into 2021
 - ii. → Does Nicol know more about this? cpcpebt@gmail.com
 - iii. Not replacing lost cards
 - c. Staples Cards:
 - i. Can a new family access one? Schools don't seem to have a mechanism for this, but the Gallivan Blvd. location had box of Staples gift cards
 - ii. Margaret Farmer mfarmer@bostonpublicschools.org
 - d. Committee reports:

- i. [External Committee](#) Reports
 - 1. [BSC Nominating Committee](#) - Joanne
 - a. 8 Applicants out of 14 were submitted to the Mayor for consideration - listed in the [Committee Minutes](#)
 - b. A List - O'Neill's seat/full term; B List - replacement for Loconto/short term
 - c. One applicant they really liked said she hadn't actually applied/someone submitted the application on her behalf
 - 2. Wellness Committee - Ann
 - a. Bought thousands of air purifiers
 - b. Health education curriculum is in policy, but only 60% of elementary schools are getting it, less at high school level; substance use, healthy relationships, communications skills and access to health services
 - c. Would like to push for them to hire staff to fulfill this and have CPC make noise about this
 - d. Should Health and Wellness Committee craft letter in support of health curriculum/staffing?
 - e. Also, having informational meeting
 - f. Questions about Screen Time, Physical Activity, Health Check-ins
 - 3. BuildBPS - Steve - nothing to report yet
 - 4. CEAC - Lauren - Nicol attended
 - 5. SQWG - Wenling
 - a. Discussion of how BPS is working on a school measurement system with state accountability and BPS strategic plan
 - b. NAEYC - accreditation - Wenling will ask for their powerpoint so can send out to big group
 - c. Talked about other measurement systems (currently Tiers 1-4)
 - d. How to move low performance schools to high performance?
- ii. [Internal Committee](#) Reports
 - 1. Health and Wellness - would like to organize one of our marketed info sessions on this
 - 2. BuildBPS - tabled until new year
 - 3. Budget Analysis

- a. School Site Councils should have been meeting, but for example at her school it was canceled because of snow day; is concerned they won't get a time to comment on their budget
 - b. YA having predictable budget process
 - c. Bates had budget meeting
 - d. Guild hasn't seen school budget
 - e. Lyndon - budget doesn't look like it has changed much, but K-8 school, seventh and eighth graders might be more crowded
 - f. Suleika to find out how the budget from the mayor has changed for the year
 - g. December 19th all principals got projected enrollment numbers
 - 4. Diversity and Inclusion - pass
 - 5. Communications
 - a. Coordinating with DELACs and language-specific ELACs - making sure all groups get all info from BPS
- 5. New Business: (~6:45-7:15)
 - a. Christie announcement about need for new Communications Co-Chair
 - b. New Subcommittee re: TPS support? Betsy Yoshimura present
 - i. Umana school in East Boston has been having bi-weekly family call with the school; 88% hispanic/Latinx community; a parent was very concerned that his TPS status was going to be revoked in Jan; wanted school to send his daughter's report card so he could share it with school in El Salvador;
 - ii. Looking to create a subcommittee to support these families
 - iii. Point-person from district? OEL has a web site on this; Cyntoria is sending an email to team and will try to put together a workshop for January
 - iv. SIM - student immigrant movement; have given testimony at School Committee around sharing info with ICE
 - v. Also, Lawyers for Civil Rights
 - c. Big group discussion of things going extra well or extra poorly at individual schools (1-2 minutes/person, depending on how many people on meeting)
 - i. Netta/Guild: a lot of controversy right now between teachers and parents around reopening; parents and teachers need to figure out a way to manage communication process; parents need to be more gracious, teachers need to be more patient; hoping to have just one platform for communicating between parents and teachers -

streamlining; principals need to work with teachers to streamline and make it as easy as possible for parents, but then parents need to be a little more flexible and patient with teachers learning to teach in a whole new way

- ii. Suleika/Blackston: agree with Netta; worried about vote of No Confidence from BTU; needs to be more parent participation in decision-making; parents not mentioned in MOU on reopening schools; kids having access to all sorts of web sites while on zoom; pretending to be on class but goofing off when parent not in room; need restrictions on chromebooks
- iii. Sarah Henderson/Lyndon: SpEd evaluation requested last Feb - a lot of it was lost in fray; in the first few weeks when teachers were seeing students they were able to do evaluation quickly; concerned about fidelity with substitute teachers; have been told the school was short-staffed; teachers who were tested or in quarantine who feel like they can't take the day off because not enough substitutes
- iv. Emily/Hale: teachers making great adjustments; scheduled movement breaks have been well-integrated; concerns include restrictions on chromebooks, amount of homework, consistency around whether cameras should be on or off
- v. Rafaela/Blackstone: concerned about air quality and inadequacy of filters; how do we know if it is adequate? There will be a parent forum on 12/29 - parent syndicate (??); need to be more united she will send Suleika the information to distribute; opportunity for parents to tell teachers how they feel; BTU and SpEdPAC organizing it
- vi. Lauren/BLA: Trying to keep kids off youtube is really hard!!!; Want to make sure parents are aware that BPS is only reporting covid cases on dashboard if there are 5 or more at a school; might also be doing contact tracing, but should be public; Other districts have had a permanent virtual school for students for whom it makes sense - would this ever make sense in BPS?
- vii. Sonia/Orchard Gardens: her children doing fine; breaks are hard because kids go back to youtube! Teachers should be able to have control over this; Why don't students all turn on their cameras? How would the teacher know if the kids are sitting and working if the camera is off? Believes there should be rules that everyone should have them on during synchronous time; Teachers should be meeting with parents of students who are on IEPs - my teacher hasn't contacted me, even though student is on IEP

- viii. Anna White - Henderson is doing very well; would like remote school to continue through at least May!
- ix. Wenling Ma/BLS - December 9 organized seminar on navigating college application process; BLS has requirement that kids be on and so far it is going well; some concerns from parents who want kids back in classrooms
- x. Netta: clarification, BPS IT is looking into options for teachers to use besides youtube
- xi. Annette Diaz/Otis - CPC community is going well!
- xii. Steve/Lyndon - food sites have been going well
- xiii. Ashley/Eliot - parents whose children have IEPs are stressed feeling like kids should be in school; concern about what happens when hybrid would go into place; Eliot is a school accepting priority needs - students teaching with mask on to students in person and remote; BPS hasn't surveyed parents about which options they want since the summer and now parents feel like they are not sure if they want to; BPS should survey parents again before actually launching full hybrid set up
- xiv. Gloria - has talked to district officials about feeling that parent voice is after thought; Alexandra Oliver-Dávila as new School Committee chair seems interested in shaking things up and incorporating parents earlier in decision-making processes; agrees with channel proliferation
- xv. Ann Malone/BLS: Just finished teaching all remote through UMASS Boston, agrees that it feels like it would be impossible to simultaneous in-person and remote; other districts are figuring out the staffing so teachers don't have to do both; kids in person not engaging with the people in the room, just having headphones on and be on chromebooks and not leave the room all day
- xvi. Patty Camilleri/Otis; very concerned about plan for hybrid; best to learn from computer at house where parents know safe? Or sending them into school where they are doing the same thing but could come in contact with someone who would be infectious; when we do send kids back, we know BPS has kids with a lot of trauma, schools will likely be under-staffed; wants to hear from BPS how these things will be addressed?
- xvii. Suleika/Blackstone: After No Confidence vote, Marty Walsh said they expect covid numbers to be highest in Jan and Feb, but also wants all the kids back in classrooms in that timeframe, so would

like a clearer plan and reporting of covid cases; would like to talk about budgeting

- xviii. Geju Brown/JQES: son has been doing well with remote learning; a lot of time idly waiting for other classmates to finish a test or assignment; makes it easy to goof off; is he being challenged enough? Has been working with the teacher to make things better; high needs students have been going back in to the school where she works; having a hard time figuring out how to work out going back as a teacher while her son is still fully-remote; some people getting tested but then coming in to work while awaiting testing results, and then it comes back positive; high school district has a week in and a week out and teachers only teach in one mode; if protocol is in place, people shouldn't be saying "don't say anything if you're getting tested"

6. Committee Breakout (~7:15-7:40pm)

- i. Did not get to committee breakouts

Possible January Agenda

- New Office of Advancement Personnel?
- New Rep Orientation Date in January?
- Alexandra Oliver-Dávila in January or February?
- Budget office? Nate Kuder can't promise to come in Jan because he is in probable org with schools (has to be at every meeting); maybe February
- 501(c)3 designation?

Interest in Communications:

santos vigil hecastro79@gmail.com