

Citywide Parent Council Meeting Notes

26 January 2021 6-8pm ZOOM

Prep Questions:

- How is your SSC doing with its budget/do you know what your school's budget is?
- What is projected enrollment loss at your school?

Highlights:

- Election of new Communications Co-Chair
- Discussion of possible return of students after February vacation
- Information about the BPS budgeting process, any changes for this year, and opportunities for advocacy

New Dates:

- Orientation Session: Sat 1/30 10am-11am; Suleika, Nicol, Gloria, Ashley will be on zoom with anyone else who wants a more in-depth intro to the CPC

Zoom Roles:

Facilitator: Ashley

Screensharing: Gloria

Note Taking: Christie

Monitoring Waiting Room: Steve

Monitoring Chat: Nicol

Monitoring Raised Hands: Suleika

Attendance:

Gloria West, Henderson, Co-Chair

Ashley Mahanama, Eliot

Nicol Riley, Sumner

Steve Lewis, Lyndon

Suleika Soto, Blackstone

Aron Boros, Curley

Amy, BTU Pilot

Betsy Yoshimura, Umana

Emily Cavanaugh, Manning and Curley

Erin DiCarlo, Adams

Heather Wilson, EB EEC

Joanne Freeman, BAA

Joe Carr, PJ Kennedy

Amanda Lapham, Manning & BLA

Elaine Meehan, Mary Lyon
John Tyler, Hernandez
Kim Parker, Lee Pilot
Lauren Margharita, BLA
Leslie Martinez, interpretation
Katie Campbell Simons, Kilmer
Maria Martinez,
Megan Quinones, Mayor's Office
Melissa Rivera, Bates
Nathalie Louis, BPS
Sami Osman, West Zone
Sarah Henderson, Lyndon
Sasha Abby Van Derzee, Mendell
Vickie Spiess, BLS & Lyndon
Wenling Ma, BLS
Lissi Guerrero, Umana
Stephany
Tamar Shay Tannas, BLS
Helen Lopez,
Andrea ?
Chris Martell, Kenny
Bethany Rossi, Perry
Alexandra Bermudez
Emily Antonelli, Hale and O'Bryant
Jennifer Rose-Wood
Melina O'Grady, Curley
Daniel Cheguen
Ann Malone, BLS
Zulma
Nilsa Aponte
Kathy Schraffa - Adams
Christiane
Anna White, Henderson
Amy Wyeth, EMK
Katrina Henry, Manning
Toyin
Kathleen Neves
Sami Osman, West Zone ECC

1. Interpretation Set-Up, Leadership Team check-in (5:45)

2. Welcome, Check-in (~6:00-6:10)
 - a. Especially new reps!
 - i. Looking for information on forming SPC-associated 501(c)3
 - ii. Make sure your principal shares budget info with your School Parent Council
 - b. Point new reps to orientation materials
 - c. Introduce digital sign-in sheet
3. Statement of Norms (see below): (6:10-6:15)
4. Presentations (6:15-45)
 - a. Melina O'Grady/Boston Partners in Education/Tutoring Info (6:15-6:20)
(happened later in the meeting)
5. Old Business: (~6:45-7:10pm)
 - a. By-Laws announcement and statement of elections
 - i. Representation out of balance
 1. Discussion about what CPC is doing in terms of outreach and accountability
 - ii. Election of new Communications Co-Chair
 1. Lissi Guerrero (Umana), New Co-Chair
 2. Aron Boros (Curley) on Communications Committee
 - b. Committee reports:
 - i. External Committee Reports
 1. BSC Nominating Committee - Joanne
 - a. Ava Concepcion was appointed but shortly afterward resigned BSC seat, got offer from Attorney General's office
 - b. Applications have been posted again, committee will start interviewing in Feb. Didn't pull from previous pool so could have due process; invited previous applicants to re-apply
 - c. Does the process feel like it was inclusive? Yes!
 - d. Herald Article:
<https://www.bostonherald.com/2021/01/14/renewed-search-to-fill-boston-school-committee-seat-officially-begins-after-finalist-backs-out/>
 2. Wellness Committee - Ann
 - a. Cultural proficieincty
 - b. Health education
 - c. Physical activity and education
 - d. SEL
 - e. Nutrition

- f. Behavioral Health
 - g. Standards for returning to in-person learning
 - 3. BuildBPS - Steve - No meetings yet
 - 4. CEAC (Community Engagement Advisory Council) - Nicol -
 - a. Dr. Silvia Romero-Johnson, new Assistant Superintendent of OEL
 - b. LOOK Act changes for ELL programs
 - c. Making investment in engaging diverse families especially linguistic diversity;
 - d. 44% of students are ELL, overlapping with SpEd, looking to offer more equitable access to opportunities;
 - e. Expanding welcome center offerings; “Effective bilingual programs will be vehemently resisted by dominant group because it targets their dominance”;
 - f. CPC looking for diversity, encouraging BPS to support diversity in all forums;
 - g. Hernandez has been bilingual since the 80s; anyone who is interested can get in touch with Rep John Tyler
 - 5. SQWG - Wenling Ma update
 - a. Next Meeting Feb. 9, nothing to report at this time
 - 6. Volunteering for [External Committee](#) Representation - filling any additional seats: Transportation Committee,
 - a. School Climate/OAG - Gloria will send out info about meeting on Friday
 - 7. HIPP Task Force - Nicol - not present
 - ii. Internal Committee Reports - Tabled
 - 1. Health and Wellness
 - 2. BuildBPS - on hold
 - 3. Diversity and Inclusion - contacting principals/SPC groups at schools where we don't have active reps
 - 4. Communications - update on transition, DESE MCAS statement
 - 5. TPS Support Committee - Betsy (tabled)
 - 6. Budget Analysis - Suleika
6. New Business: (~7:10-8)
 - a. Budget Discussion(7:20-____)
 - i. Discussion of how BPS budgeting works
 - ii. What are current budget stress points? Dropping enrollment, uncertain enrollment, additional costs

- iii. Discussing what “probable org” is
- iv. Distributing [Nate Kuder’s presentation](#) to current CPC reps
- v. Partnership Programs Re-evaluations
- vi. [List of upcoming budget hearings](#)
- vii. Individual schools:
 1. Hernandez seems to be getting additional funds - good news!
 2. Bates was not losing enrollment, looking to add family liaison, budget seemed stable; seemed like if all the hiring positions were filled, there would be a deficit; looking to hire a reading specialist
 3. Lyndon enrollment/budget stable
 4. All Schools will be getting a full-time family liaison next year
 5. Mendell, budget sent to all families; budget down about \$200,000 with a lot of discussion about what to keep/cut, using Equity Roundtables to analyze; also discussed what family council might be able to raise to support the budget
 6. Blackstone lost regular ed, gaining inclusion students, no teacher positions cut
 7. Hale enrollment static, no positions lost, need a new principal, disappointed no PE teacher
 8. Umana losing a few teachers but had budget increase
 9. Worries about 2021-22 being a rollercoaster because enrollments down everywhere this year
 10. Curley had good budget news
 11. School Site Councils don’t have to vote to approve to budget cuts
 12. City Hall Budget Sessions - can sign up for public comment up to two minutes
 13. Suleika will invite Nate Kuder to a CPC meeting to present and answer questions
 14. Next School Committee Meeting tomorrow (no budget discussion); prelim budget Feb 3; Community Meeting with Superintendent on Thurs.
- b. MCAS - action in process around advocating
 - i. Can call DESE to have them come speak to parents
- c. Big group discussion of current concerns, concerns for getting kids back to school after Feb. break (1-2 minutes/person, depending on how many people on meeting) (7:10-7:30)

- i. Anna/Henderson - disappointed not a push to vaccinate high schoolers (16, 17, 18 year olds; trying to get them back into buildings)
 - ii. Tamar/BLS - doesn't want vaccine to be mandated, experimental and don't know how it affects fertility
 - iii. Elaine Meehan - Also thinks teachers should be on vaccination list
 - iv. [Petition](#) going around to include teachers in early vaccination
 - v. Eliot shared info that if you signed up for hybrid model but aren't sure you want kids to go, stay signed up for hybrid, similarly, if you signed up for remote but think you might want to send kids in, sign up for hybrid now; you can always keep them home if you want
 - vi. Mendell - happy with; BLA - happy with transparency of headmaster about what plan is
 - vii. Lyndon - IEP parent; no sub coverage; teachers are sometimes sick and hours upon hours of asynch time; no answers from district; have been down a SpEd teacher since Sept, just hired new one two weeks ago; putting teachers in a bind;
 - viii. Gloria: district problem of shortage of subs
 - ix. Umana - lots of kids having trouble with remote learning, but some who are thriving - what can we learn about those students and their experience? ; Working with teachers to serve both in-person and remote students not teachers teaching both at same time; kids will be changing teachers and teacher-student ratios
 - x. HIPP students start this coming Monday
 - xi. Hernandez - sub coverage can't be securely provided because of zoom credentials; has maxed out their hybrid slots - you should check with your administration; teachers are in a superspreading position
 - xii. Kenny has special zoom link for subs that gets emailed out first thing in the morning
 - xiii. Henderson said their principal said students who chose hybrid could NOT stay home and do remote; some administration says that is not the case - gray area depending on school?
- d. Community Meetings with Superintendent about Reopening - find Nicol's announcement to CPC listserv.
 - e. Elaine/Mary Lyon - Families who choose one of the three exam schools on their high school list and gets in, they lose their spot at a K-8 or K-12
 - f. Kilmer - bank account issue a couple years ago, BPS went nuts; BPS schools are not supposed to have a private account that isn't the BPS student activities account or an official 501(c)3 account - Could BPS

provide an overview about how they want SPCs to manage/bank their fundraised money? [Boston Education Development Fund](#); Nathalie will see if there is someone who can answer these questions

Possible February Agenda

- New Office of Advancement Personnel?
- New Title I Director?
- Changing Name of CPC to “Citywide Family Council” or “Citywide Guardian Council” for inclusivity of non-parent guardians
- Ethnic Studies presentation
- Health and Wellness Presentation: including SEL and Boston Orchestra Project
- Fundraising and spending by parent councils and school associations
- Non-exam school High school admissions
- Continuing Black Lives Matter Week of Action-type activities throughout the year

Possible Communications Ideas:

- Mailchimp newsletter with all the committee updates?
- Working with District to use Superintendent’s emails or robocalls to let people know about CPC meetings

Post at top of chat:

- 1) Welcome to the Citywide Parent Council! Please use the Participants box, the button next to your name to edit your name to include your full name and school affiliation. Then you can use this link to sign in: <https://forms.gle/WAhco8tA3cTD1QFa8>
- 2) Group Norms
 - a) Be Respectful: Listen to and be open to the ideas of others; create a safe space to share
 - b) Be Mindful: Monitor airtime to ensure everyone has an opportunity to share
 - c) Be Engaged: Speak, share your experiences and let your voice be heard
- 3) Virtual Norms
 - a) Mute yourself when not speaking
 - b) Use the “rename” function to add your school next to your name in the participants section
 - c) Use the “Raise your hand” feature under “participants”
 - d) This meeting will be recorded and possibly shared on web site and social media
- 4) Resources for New Reps:
 - a) One Sheet
 - b) Bylaws
 - c) Working Contacts Directory
 - d) Internal Committee List
 - e) External Committee List

