



Boston Compact Steering Committee Meeting
12:15-2:15pm | October 3, 2018
Boston Collegiate Charter School

Presented are minutes from the Boston Compact’s Steering Committee meeting held on October 3, 2018. For more information about any of the items listed below, visit www.BostonCompact.org or email info@BostonCompact.org.

ATTENDANCE

Members present: Ray Dewar (Principal, Cristo Rey High School), Rahn Dorsey (Chief of Education, City of Boston), Ali Dutson (Principal, Mission Grammar), Sharon Lisanckie (ED, Boston Prep Charter School), Makeeba McCreary (Managing Dir. & Sr. Advisor of External Affairs, BPS), Andrew Miller (Dir. of Academics, Catholic Schools Office), Kate Scott (ED, Neighborhood House Charter School), Neil Sullivan (ED, Boston PIC), Shannah Varón (ED, Boston Collegiate Charter School), Lisa Warshafsky (Principal, St. John Paull II, Lower Mills)

Members absent: Rob Consalvo (Chief of Staff, BPS), Kristen Daley (Dir. of SPED Administration, BPS), Monica Roberts (Assist. Supt. of Engagement, BPS), Kevin Taylor (CEO, City on a Hill Charter School), Naia Wilson (Headmaster, New Mission)

Others present: Kevin Andrews (Senior Advisor), Elise Swinford (Compact staff), Rachel Weinstein (Compact staff)

ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIONS

July meeting minutes were approved.

AGENDA ITEMS

Updates

Rachel Weinstein updated the committee on the Compact’s current work. The Compact is planning a school visit focused on youth who are off track. A media story is underway about the school climate survey pilot work. Rachel discussed the fundraising needs of the Compact.

Strategic Goal Setting

Rachel presented draft goals for the coming year, including building capacity around off-track youth, facilitating the Roxbury Network, supporting on-time performance of busses, working on a common definition of quality, and facilitating equitable transportation innovations. Committee members were then asked to reflect on what they thought should be prioritized within or outside of this framework.

Committee members contributed several ideas, including community and family outreach and empowering educators to message the Compact.

Rahn Dorsey requested clarification on the BEC and diversity career fair, which he wants to keep supporting due to their success. **Rachel** notes that the diversity career fair is in good shape and the BEC is still in fundraising mode under the purview of Teach Plus.

Sector-Specific Reflections on Future Goals:

Catholic:

Ali Dutson lauded the Roxbury Special Education Network, reporting that her school is already seeing the benefit of cross-sector work in progress. She noted that we should strive to make sure there is mutual benefit in this and all Compact work, with each sector willing to learn and contribute.

Ray Dewar valued the school visit to Cristo Rey last year, and suggested additional visit opportunities. He also referenced the program Young Man with a Plan, suggesting it could be widely used as a model city wide, along with a similar model for young women.

Lisa Warshafsky noted that it is a growth year for SJP, and would be interested in other school leaders who are dealing with school mergers, expansions, etc. She also advocated for more focus around middle school in conversations about off-track youth.

Andrew Miller advocated for developing more processes and structures for getting back into schools (visits, networks, etc.).

Charter:

Shannah noted that the BCA priorities are 1) working in and with community (Compact helps them do this by being involved in city-wide education initiatives and conversations), and 2) thinking deeply about work with teachers: what is the culture of teaching in the charter world? She elaborated that BCCS is specifically looking at enrollment patterns and achievement.

Kate Scott noted the expansion of their middle school and high school. For the broader group work, she is interested in focusing on both off-track youth and common systems/ protocols for collaboration that are scalable.

BPS:

Makeeba McCreary underlined the “who” of the Compact, which should emphasize school-level leadership.

Rahn Dorsey reiterated Interim Supt. Perille’s stated priorities of 1) improving opportunities for students by focusing on the organizational structure at central office, 2) differentiating school supports for schools, and 3) Build BPS, including building trust for this. He noted that the Compact should take on tough challenges for Boston education, and that school systems should view the collaborative opportunity as a benefit and part of the strategic planning. Specifically, he elevated off-track youth work and bus transportation.

Neil Sullivan noted off-track youth at the high school level as a primary focus, with the Roxbury Network as an area of personal interest.

Kevin Andrews expressed concerns about the time commitment necessary for school leaders to do this work, and urged broader investment in leaders.

Rachel summarized what she heard and said she would email updated goals to the committee for written feedback by a week from Friday.

Makeeba suggested meeting with instructional superintendents, **Ali** suggested engaging with the Lynch Leadership Academy, and **Andrew** expressed interest in consultancies at a larger scale across sectors.

Consultancy

Shannah provided an overview of the new state accountability measures, noting questions about her own school and absenteeism. In following the consultancy protocol, committee members asked clarifying questions, then probing questions. Probing questions and suggestions included reaching out to parents early, starting support groups for students/ families, taking a hard look at student data, engaging teachers in the conversation, and considering how the longer charter year effects these metrics.

Overall, the committee valued the consultancy process and recommended that we begin to record this collective knowledge for broader dissemination, possibly via a password-protected website. The possibility was raised of a series of consultancies for a broader group of school leaders.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Makeeba announced Hub Week beginning on 10/9. She can get Hub week passes to teachers upon request. **Rahn** will be giving the “Future of Learning” talk during this event. He also noted the Mini Maker Faire this weekend.

Lisa asked to send any K1 lead teachers looking for positions her way.

BPS reps noted that an announcement about Build BPS would be make at the 10/17 school committee meeting.

Neil noted that the week of 10/22 is STEM Week.

ACTION ITEMS

Rachel will begin planning a consultancy focusing on school merger.

The committee will provide comments to the revised strategic goals via email.

Meeting In Review

Based on ten completed exit evaluations, this meeting was rated an average of 4.5/5. The positive feedback was largely centered on the value of the consultancy.