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School Climate Survey Committee
10:30a-Noon, Wednesday, June 13, 2018
Bolling Building, Room 5-30

Presented are minutes from the Boston Compact School Climate Survey Committee meeting held on June 13, 2018. For more information about any of the items listed below, visit www.BostonCompact.org or email info@BostonCompact.org.

ATTENDANCE

Members present: **Spencer Blasdale** (Exec. Director, Academy of the Pacific Rim), **Blair Dawkins** (Evaluations & Programs staff, BPS), **Julia Mejia** (Exec. Director, CPLAN), **Monica Roberts** (Assist. Superintendent of Engagement, BPS), **Annie Smith** (Dir. of Data, RCAB), **Alison Tyler** (Dir. of Data, Bridge Boston)

Members absent: **Cassandra Cumberlander** (CPLAN), **Lisa Harvey** (Dep. Dir. of Evaluation & Programs, BPS), **Donna Muncey** (Dep. Superintendent of Strategy, BPS), **Jake Stern** (Office of Data & Accountability, BPS)

Others present: **Dr. Jane Choi** (Mathematica), **Elise Swinford** (Compact staff), **Rachel Weinstein** (Compact staff)

ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIONS

April and May meeting minutes were approved with one minor revision.

UPDATES

Nicole Wagner Lam has moved away and will no longer serve on this committee. Jake Stern from the BPS Office of Data & Accountability continues to serve on the committee.

NEW BUSINESS

Rachel introduced the committee to Dr. Jane Choi of Mathematica, who joined via videoconference. Jane worked in parent engagement programs and education initiatives in college and grad school, and is excited to work with the multiple stakeholders of this survey pilot.

The committee explained some of their goals for survey:

- Analysis of the validity of questions
- General conclusions about sector trends
- Understanding the impact from the different ways survey questions were ordered and displayed, as well as the timing of the survey. Jane added that the more information she has about how the survey was administered, the more she can say about this.
- Julia noted concerns about cultural misunderstandings of the intention of the survey on some parents' part, and would like to be able to address this next year.

- Ideas about how to improve the survey and the process itself. This was echoed across the sectors, and concern was expressed about our ability to make sector-wide claims.
- Interest in a better understanding about English language learning families and their experiences with surveys.

Questions for/from Jane:

- Alison asked if it will be possible to factor in number of families vs. students. Blair thought it wouldn't work in the BPS system due to students from same families being in different schools.
- We have worked under the understanding that a minimum of 30% participation is needed for results to be statistically valid. Can Jane draw conclusions about the sector or school without minimum participation? Jane replied that she can make statistical adjustments such as weighting schools differently. Jane assured the committee that her firm will be able to draw some conclusions and cautious/ realistic statements, and predicted many possible pathways to reach the strongest results
- Jane requested information about the language in which the survey was taken. The availability of this information may vary across sector, but should be available.
- Jane would like copies of the survey measure itself.
- Jane explained that Mathematica cannot accept data before NDAs are received.

Julia summarized CPLAN efforts in outreach, giving the example of the dramatic increase in participation at the Winthrop due to CPLAN work. Julia cited the work CPLAN has done reaching underserved populations, including families of the incarcerated. CPLAN is also focused on changing the culture around surveys. She reported survey fatigue from parents, though parents are excited about hearing about learning the results of the survey.

Alison reported that Bridge gave the survey at parent conference day, which is historically highly attended. They got approximately 55% response rate on the pilot survey. She underscored the survey fatigue concern from parents.

The committee discussed the timeline moving forward: Jane suggested meeting virtually with the smaller committee in late July to share the results, then coming to Boston to share the results with the broader group (including CPLAN parents and interested sector leaders) in mid- to late August. School leaders will then receive the results and will be expected to share them with their parent leadership groups.

ACTION ITEMS

Julia will reach out to Karla to make sure surveys from incarcerated family members are accounted for.

Rachel will provide the BPS template to CSO.