



Serving Students by Bringing Educators Together

STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING

9:30a-Noon, Wednesday, April 12, 2017

BPS, Bolling Building, Room 6-65

Presented are minutes from the Boston Compact Steering Committee meeting held on April 12, 2017. For more information about any of the items listed below, visit www.BostonCompact.org or email info@BostonCompact.org.

ATTENDANCE

Members Present: **Dr. Naia Wilson** (New Mission, BPS), **Dr. Karla Estrada** (BPS), **Kevin Taylor** (KIPP MA, BCA), **Shannah Varón** (Boston Collegiate, BCA), **Ali Dutson** (Mission Grammar, RCAB), **Kate Scott** (Neighborhood House, BCA), **Turahm Dorsey** (City of Boston), **Monica Roberts** (BPS), **Dr. Makeeba McCreary** (BPS)

Members Absent: **Jon Clark** (Edward Brooke, BCA), **Oscar Santos** (Cathedral HS), **Kate Brandley** (Saint John Paul), **Amy Ryan** (RCAB)

Others present: **Kevin Andrews** (Ex-Officio), **Rachel Weinstein** (Boston Compact), **Will Eger** (BPS)

ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIONS

The Committee corrected and unanimously approved the January meeting minutes.

BRIEF INITIATIVE UPDATES

- The Committee reflected on the launch of the Boston Educators Collaborative with enthusiasm, including noting this initiative as an important step for the Compact in making more visible the sharing of instructional practices across sectors.
- The Committee discussed the ideas for school visits and cross-sector participation in BPS' boys group trainings, suggestions that came from the Teaching and Learning Subcommittee. They requested recirculating Donkor Minors' invitation.
- Members resurfaced the question of how to make the Compact's work streams more evident, deciding they want to interact directly with the Melwood Global consultants to discuss.
- The Boston Charter Alliance delegation shared thoughts about the first year of their joint application, noting they would share data at a future unified enrollment meeting.



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- Staff reviewed the FY17 and emerging FY18 budgets. The group noted the need to share the Compact’s more definitive strategic direction with Boston Education Funders and others.

SPECIAL EDUCATION DISCUSSION

- Members reviewed the proposal to work across the three sectors in one neighborhood. In essence, the first step would be common research about where students with special needs live and are enrolled, what types of services they receive at each school and what are the gaps in the neighborhood. Once they establish a common understanding of this landscape as well as the various legal and regulatory requirements for each school, they would co-develop a plan to collectively address the gaps and strengthen inclusionary practices in that neighborhood.
- Members were pleased with the proposal, noting it could be a proof-point for how collaboration can happen. They noted that scaling would always be difficult, though perhaps the strength of being neighborhood-focused could mean we would scale in pockets.
- Members underscored the need for consultants to have deep understanding of partnership, not just special education law. They also wondered if there might be opportunities for taking action during this process (design problems that emerge and could be tackled by students, families, educators... and/or a BEC course in 2018-19). Members recommended making the role of families explicit in the draft proposal.
- The group advised being very clear as to starting with official special education services, so that we are not taking on other large topics at the same time.
- The Committee agreed we should increase our suggested budget to include small stipends for each participating school.

FISCAL SPONSORSHIP

- Staff summarized the question of whether to continue with the Boston Private Industry Council as a comprehensive fiscal sponsor.
- Committee Members expressed a variety of thoughts, ranging from appreciation for the PIC’s full support of the Compact’s mission to questioning whether the organization’s auditing firm might change its mind about what is required.
- The Committee requested a cost/benefit analysis of becoming an independent organization versus having the PIC or another fiscal sponsor.

TRANSPORTATION

- Will Eger, Strategic Project Manager in BPS' Finance Department, presented to the Committee for this portion of the meeting.
- Will explained that we do not currently have a unified set of rules for how transportation works, despite the system being quite interconnected (e.g. one bus serving more than one school/sector). He noted the greatest problem is expenses at peak times.
- The overarching goals for the Compact's new Transportation Committee are to establish a process that (a) makes sense, (b) is reliable and (c) cost-effective.
- BPS is working on draft guidance to discuss with the Transportation Committee around how schools change drop-off/pick-up times, reimbursement from the state, and various other challenges such as how to reduce the 10% of costs from 1% of students or how to reduce the number of "routed non-riders."
- As part of the district's Transportation Challenge, BPS is administering two "surveys" to district schools and requests help administering in charter and Catholic schools. The first is a transportation and school start times survey. The second "survey" is less of a survey and more the steps to creation a web-portal for families to "RSVP" to BPS transportation.
- Will reiterated that there would be no changes to transportation for September 2017.

ACTION ITEMS

- Staff will send the invitation from Donkor to all Members.
- Staff will schedule the Executive Committee to meet with Melwood Global over the summer, and the full Committee in the fall.
- The Executive Committee will meet with the PIC Board to further explore fiscal sponsorship and make a recommendation to the full Committee.
- The Steering Committee will discuss fiscal sponsorship on a May or June conference call that staff schedules.
- The Committee will revisit bylaws for possible updating at an upcoming meeting.