



Serving Students by Bringing Educators Together

School Climate Surveys – Working Team on Family Focus Groups

Noon-1p, August 31, 2017

Bolling Building Room 6-55

Present: Monica Roberts (Assistant Supt. of Engagement, BPS), Julia Mejia (Founder and ED, CPLAN), Rachel Weinstein (Compact staff)

Meeting Objectives:

- Outline process for welcoming family leaders into survey climate work
- Refine questions for broader survey

Quick Business

- Nampeera has taken a new job. For now, copy Lisa Harvey on all scheduling for Monica.
- Julia shared Michele Brooks' enthusiasm for and willingness to help with this work. Michele will be sending models to us.

Family Facilitators and Leaders

The team outlined a proposal for 12 parents to lead focus groups and participate in data analysis/recommendation development. Of the 12, six would be from BPS, three from charter schools and three from Catholic schools. The BPS delegation will include parents/guardians from DELAC, SPED PAC, CPC, alternative education and regular education.

Expectations of Family Leaders

In exchange for a stipend of \$1K each, family leaders will work together to (a) plan focus groups, (b) confer with educators on the Compact's committee, (c) facilitate focus groups, (d) encourage families to complete climate surveys, and (e) reflect on findings and recommendations.

In addition to meeting with their family advocate peers, two or three of the family leaders will participate in four Compact committee meetings in 2017-18 - one to get to know the group and discuss the development of focus groups, one to debrief the focus groups, one to confer about outreach strategies for getting families to complete the actual climate surveys, and one to participate in data analysis and recommendation development.

We estimate that the total time required of family leaders in 2017-18 is roughly 25 hours (1.5 hour for initial recruitment meeting, 2 hours work planning meeting, 2 hours focus group planning, 5 hours setting-up and recruiting for focus groups, 2 hours facilitation of focus group, 5 hours encouraging families at their school to complete climate surveys, 2 hours consulting with the Compact educators on the committee, 4 hours additional internal meetings with family leaders).



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Draft Agenda for Meeting with Family Facilitators

- I. Welcome – Monica and Julia
- II. Introduction to the Boston Compact and goal of the climate survey work – Rachel
- III. Hopes and expectations for family facilitators – Julia
- IV. Small group responses – What excites or concerns parents? What supports from educators would be helpful? What revisions do they suggest to the plan?
- V. Report back – Monica leads
- VI. Next steps – include one meeting with Nicole Wagner-Lam, another for families only to draft focus group plan and agenda, tell Compact partners what supports they need, meet with the committee

Broader Survey

We want to take advantage of the opportunity to be included in the broader survey of families this fall, though we should take care to note the demographics of participants. Here are draft questions we could request be included:

- Aside from test scores, what are some of the ways you measure the quality of your child's school? (To see if teacher quality and safety still rank at the top)
- What do you look for to know if your child feels emotionally and physically safe at school? (Outcome 8 of BPS School Quality Framework in School Quality Domains)
- What are the ways that your school creates/could create opportunities for you to be part of the school community? (Outcomes 10 & 11)
- What do you look for to determine that your child's teacher is effective and caring with your child? (Outcome 4)

Note: these will have to be revised if they aren't doing open-ended questions.

Next Steps

- Monica and Julia will work together to recruit for the BPS delegation of parent leaders.
- Rachel will write-up (a) composition of the family leader group and (b) expectations for family facilitators and send to the full committee with a deadline to comment before the meeting with parents.
- Rachel will type up the draft agenda for the first meeting with the 12 parents.
- Rachel will ask the committee for feedback on the questions for BSF.
- Rachel will draft talking points for first meeting with family facilitators.
- Rachel to work on finding potential times Nicole could meet with the family facilitators.