

Minutes of the Citywide Parent Council, 6/21/16 (taken by Mary Battenfeld)

1) Welcome (Sapna)

-Introductions: Highlight at your school the last week? help and support for Sumner community around playground fire, field days, field trips(Red Sox, , Canobie Lake;Statue of Liberty); graduation/move up days; end of year showcase and BBQ; info for next year; fundraising and grants (bring back dance, technology grant); new principal; parent engagement;

Present: Sapna (Lyndon); Nicol (Sumner playground); Odette, Rebecca McNeely (Hurley); Joel Santos (BAA); Beth Rogers (Eliot); Carolyn Lomax (Tech Boston); Felicia (Condon, Tech Boston); Barbara Rosa (Timilty); Joel (BTU); Mike McCormack (Bates); Andre D. (WRA); Bruce (Dearborn); Chris L (West Zone ELC); Karen K-M (BAA); ? Kenny School; Kristin (Mendell); Joel (Winship); Linda (Green); Netta (Guild);

2) Old Business:

Subcommittees, updates

**Budget: (Kristin, Mendell, Karen K-M);*

--Background: Budget com. had to pivot and respond to influx of money for expanded AWC (get figures later and put in); dual language; partial restorations to ELC; concerned that none except 25% restoration to ELC were at school level; no real restoration of the budget cuts;

--Action/CPC advocacy: CPC chairs and two budget com. members met with Superintendent; worked quickly to write budget letter and respond; testified at Friday am (June 17) to BSC; parents at ELC met with Rahn Dorsey; gave explanation that additional money from state and addition of 4.7 million was allocated to “pain points;” comment; from equity perspective not a fair way to make budget allocations (because definition of pain point linked to what councilors here from constituents)

--Next steps: City Council to vote; CPC reps should get parents to call and ask for more money to go directly to schools; call by noon tomorrow; vote tomorrow and June 29; also note current SPED PAC endorsed budget; comment/suggestion; important to have SPC rep from your school to SPED PAC;

**Water policy/lead; (update, Mary B.):BSC approved new water policy; didn’t have much parents had asked for (asked for 5 ppb; testing sinks; funding and clear responsibilities for bottled water; infrastructure), but positive in sense of parents working together to advocate, testify to BSC;*

**Bylaws (Latoya, Karen K-M); background; CPC established many years ago and bylaws not updated; com. has met and beginning process to work on bylaws to update*

**CPC Executive Committee update (Sapna); EC has also been meeting to discuss*

**SSC Steering Com. (Carolyn): com. oversees School Site Councils; met and began work;*

**Food and Nutrition: (Shannon) districts came together to attend food conference; also CPC reps on food subcommittee met with candidates for food services director; also participated and shared data about plans for a central kitchen and facilities plan; met with food vendors;*

4) *New Business:*

*CPC 2016-17 elections (*Sapna*); SPC should be electing rep and alternate; role is to look at district wide issues and make connections and connect parents and schools around shared issues; elections have to happen by Oct. 15, though some schools have in June (and could have special elections); current terms go through Oct. 15; once reps are elected there will be election for co-chairs, etc. also note that once election occurs principal/family engagement must certify results and send back information;

Questions, comments, additions:

- note CPC reps may sit on executive board of SSC;
- confirm SPC should elect SPEC PAC rep? (Yes)
- principal may not even be present at SPC; but leads and has controlling vote on SSC

*Evaluate 2015-16;

1) *what was positive about CPC work this year?*

In four groups; Things that were positive:

- accomplishments; school committee
- gaining of parent voice
- bringing meeting minutes back to individual schools
- networking of parents across the district
- well organized and energized in beginning
- Communication across the district on budget issues and budget com. process: BUDGET!
- Immediate action on lead in water
- Meetings with Dr. Chang and on facilities master plan

Questions, what resonates as positive? (general discussion)

- Subcommittee reports (several people said)
- Working with other parents across the district
- That there are people fighting for a better system
- Trickling down; more people interested in and knowing about CPC
- Tremendous source/wealth of information
- Parents working together for all the children
- Pulling more people to CPC and is a real active voice

2) *What didn't go so well/negative*

- not great communication with new reps or with parents who wanted to be involved but not CPC reps
- missed potential of using CPC website
- lack of focus spread over too many issues
- not a good job making sure all voices heard and respected all the time
- administrative challenges early on and needed clarity on process
- not enough follow up with BPS and procedure for moving forward after raising issues
- lot of things happening; how is it decided what CPC talked about?
- need to get tighter about what things we should step into and not (individual v. district concerns)

- not enough advocacy for equitable needs around districts (examples; facilities and different issues needs)
- late starts for CPC because new reps elected late and not enough clarify for
- budget overtakes and overshadows other issues
- **lack of process and record keeping
- outside organizations that came to meetings and dividing parents and BPS in other ways exerting influence against parents being advocates and not supporting
- general tenor in meetings; sometimes disrespectful and people felt helpless how to make it stop

What came up several times/stands out? Lack of process; meetings not controlled;

Recommendations: what do you have so a new parent can have a successful year?

- pre (more?) structured information guidelines (putting things online)
- CPC eblast to all parents
- CPC “on boarding” process for new reps (run by Executive Committee 1x a month)
- more shared best practices
- discussion 1 meeting/take action 2nd meeting
- enforcement when the agenda veers off course
- time keeper; make the time visible and be a person not the facilitator
- follow up-assign someone to follow up when we for ex. put questions to the Super.;
- welcome packet for new reps and mentor
- more structure and protocol in the bylaws
- easier to take votes and action
- rethinking Exec. Com to be sure we have cross-section of reps (racial but also type of school, neighborhood, etc.)
- breakdown in different age groups (for example elem; middle, high schools talk about issues that concern them and then come back)
- each meeting we should review guidelines and general rules so new reps are on board
- CPC work with office of engagement to create a useable handbook for parent engagement (and pass out) written from perspective of parents not office of engagement;
- Communication and accountability for what is on website, and communication throughout
- put subcommittees and notes from subcom. on the website or somewhere available;

5) Announcements:

--Aug. 16 facilities plan meeting; can we express concern that we need a robust conversation and Aug. 16 is not an acceptable date?

--School Committee meets tomorrow;

6) Closing; number from 1-10 and why?

9! Because productive; gave specific recommendations; use of small groups;

Meeting adjourned 8:25.