



Boston Compact Steering Committee Meeting

10a-12p | May 2, 2019
Bolling Building Room4-43

Presented are minutes from the Boston Compact's Steering Committee meeting held on May 2, 2019. For more information about any of the items listed below, visit www.BostonCompact.org or email info@BostonCompact.org.

ATTENDANCE

Members present: **Helenann Civian** (Principal, South Boston Catholic Academy), **Glenda Colón** (Principal, Dante Alighieri Montessori School), **Kristen Daley** (Dir. of SPED Administration, BPS), **Ali Dutson** (Principal, Mission Grammar), **Sharon Lisanckie** (ED, Boston Prep Charter School), **Andrew Miller** (Dir. of Academics, Catholic Schools Office), **Geoff Rose** (Principal, Perry K-8), **Kate Scott** (ED, Neighborhood House Charter School), **Shannah Varón** (ED, Boston Collegiate Charter School), **Lisa Warshafsky** (Principal, St. John Paull II, Lower Mills)

Members absent: **Rob Consalvo** (Chief of Staff, 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), **Tess Atkinson** (Dir. of District Administration, BPS), **Beth Looney** (Dir. of Special Ed., Mission Grammar), **Elise Swinford** (Compact staff), **Rachel Weinstein** (Compact staff)

ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIONS

October 2018 meeting minutes were approved.

AGENDA ITEMS

The committee welcomed the new committee members: Principals Civian, Colón, and Rose.

Sector updates:

CSO: The new Catholic Schools Office Superintendent, Tom Carroll, began on April 8th.

BPS: Dr. Brenda Cassellius was voted in by the School Committee last night. She has a strong background in urban education; was the state commissioner in Minnesota, and worked to expand pre-K, improve grad rates, and narrow the achievement gap.

Ali Dutson asked how the new superintendents will be introduced to the Compact. **Rachel Weinstein** has a meeting scheduled with Supt. Carroll and will now get on Dr. Cassellius' schedule. There is also a sector leaders meeting coming up.

Shannah Varón asked about Dr. Cassellius' record on collaboration. **Kevin Andrews** posited that she will be collaborative with both sectors as she has the full support of Mayor Walsh, who is committed to cross-sector collaboration. **Andrew Miller** reported that Supt. Carroll is interested in sharing capacity on common issues that are CSO priorities.

Sharon Lisanckie asked if the transition will be done differently than in the past. **Kristen Daley** noted that Dr. Cassellius will first focus on listening and learning. **Rachel** will include this question on the sector leaders meeting agenda. Committee members expressed hopes that equity will be at the heart of priorities for the new BPS leadership, as well as better communication. **Kevin** recommended that the Compact come up with a plan to achieve collaborative goals and present them to the new superintendents.

2019-20 Compact Goals:

Rachel provided updates on progress toward the 2018-19 goals. There were many successes and much progress made. Highlights include the school visits and our first public engagement session (accolades for the session included the truly collaborative tone, the opportunity to network with folks outside of normal circles, and its positive reflection on the Compact). Areas for improvement include improving Catholic school transportation (there is hope to move forward on this now that new leadership has been named) and the Compact general operating and programs budget gap.

Messaging the Compact:

Ali suggested tapping into the Lynch Leadership network, noting that these school leaders are eager for this type of networking. **Glenda Colón** cautioned that teachers and leaders need to know that the reason they're leaving the building for outside commitments leads to deliverables and specific work that will be done. She further observed that there is interest in PD across sectors at the leadership level. **Helennann Civian** cited the Coalition of Essential Schools as model in terms of bringing back tangible lessons to schools. **Rachel** noted it would be helpful to get in front of BCA or a BPS school leaders meeting. **Kristen** asked if the concern is branding or engagement, although they can be combined. She recommended more events like the consultancies and making sure we intentionally communicate the value of events.

Other recommendations included using the Lynch Leadership Academy as a model for increasing awareness, making sure the content and work are meaningful to educators, and getting eight consultancies on the calendar for the year then work to publicize those (possibly through pro bono PR). **Andrew** noted that, even without full funding of NICs, we can do similar work for lower cost in the consultancy model. **Glenda** observed that the consultancies are an opportunity to access principals through sector-wide meetings.

Rachel noted that it would require Steering members recruiting colleagues to ensure critical mass. Andrew said that more intentional advance planning would make it easier to do outreach with leaders. Suggested topics included principal retention, SWD who will age out, trauma-informed therapeutic models for SEL, career paths/ leadership models for educators, how to retain teachers while giving feedback to show growth, targeted tutoring and interventions, STEM engagement, and how schools are allocating title funding.

Goals for next year:

Kate Scott recommended determining the priorities of new sector leaders before setting Compact goals for 2019-20, though Shannah noted that principals' priorities are more enduring.

Andrew noted that because Catholic school enrollment is stable in Boston, Supt. Carroll will focus on schools outside of Boston; thus, Catholic school principals will carry more voice in city priorities. Other suggestions for goals included working to engage families and focusing on equity / closing opportunity and achievement gaps.

Consultancy with Mission Grammar:

Ali and **Beth Looney** presented a current challenge to Mission Grammar: student retention. They are proud of the work the school has done on teacher recruitment and retention, improving teacher quality and diversity, and creating an intensive teacher feedback model. They hope these improvements lead to student retention, but welcomed ideas from colleagues about underlying reasons for losing students and how to address the issue.

Committee members asked clarifying questions about using data to identify patterns and how the schools communicates with families. They then asked probing questions that led to suggestions of building coalitions with other schools, differentiating the recruitment strategy, and rethinking the school's retention goals. Subsequent suggestions included looking at census data to better understand the community, increasing the focus on building a strong community in the fall, and leveraging families to engage other families.

Ali and **Beth** reflected on their takeaways including being more intentional about soliciting feedback, going deeper on their "Why Mission Grammar" messaging, and strategizing to connect to families outside of Boston.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rachel announced her current recruiting effort for our Boston Eskolta Network.

ACTION ITEMS

Rachel will connect with the new superintendents and revise the 2019-20 Compact goals accordingly.

Committee members will connect with relevant colleagues about participating in the Boston Eskolta Network.