



Serving Students by Bringing Educators Together

STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING

12:00 – 1:30 | Wednesday, January 11, 2017
BPS, Bolling Building, Rm 5-43

Presented are minutes from the Boston Compact Steering Committee meeting held on January 11, 2017. For more information about any of the items listed below, visit www.BostonCompact.org or email info@BostonCompact.org.

ATTENDANCE

Members Present: **Shannah Varón**, (Executive Director, Boston Collegiate Charter School), **Jon Clark** (Co-Director, Brooke Charter School), **Rahn Dorsey** (Chief of Education, City of Boston), **Dr. Makeeba McCreary** (Chief of Staff, Boston Public Schools), **Dr. Tommy Chang** (Superintendent, Boston Public Schools), **Dr. Karla Estrada** (Deputy Superintendent of Student Support Services, Boston Public Schools), **Kate Scott** (Executive Director, Neighborhood House Charter School), **Kevin Taylor** (Chief Operating Officer, KIPP Massachusetts), **Ali Dutson** (Principal, Mission Grammar School), **Kevin Andrews** (ex-officio)

Members Absent: **Kathy Mears** (Superintendent, Archdiocese of Boston), **Amy Ryan** (Associate Superintendent for Academics and Digital Learning, Archdiocese of Boston), **Kate Brandley** (Regional Director, St John Paul II Catholic Academies), **Monica Roberts** (Assistant Superintendent of Engagement)

Others Present: **Melissa Grubbs** (Teach Plus), **Sasha Zuflacht** (Teach Plus), **Paul Toner** (Teach Plus), **Rachel Weinstein** (Compact Staff), **Natasha Maughan** (Compact Staff),

ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIONS

The November minutes were subsequently approved via email.

TEACH PLUS PRESENTATION

- Paul Toner, Melissa Grubbs and Sasha Zuflacht of Teach Plus introduced themselves and their organization. They reviewed the basics of our joint Boston Teacher Collaborative.
- Compact Staff will continue to update the members on the implementation of the BTC.

SPECIAL EDUCATION DISCUSSION

- With the understanding that the Committee was about to hear how educators in Los Angeles identified and addressed a special education challenge by working across sectors, members separated into affinity groups to brainstorm issues facing Special Education within their schools with which they thought their colleagues from other sectors could help.
- The Catholic sector reported that helping families to navigate through the process was a difficulty and that it was challenging to work within the system. Another challenge for this sector is gaining access to resources.
- The Chief of Education stated that a recurring issue brought to his attention is the consistency of IEP teams. He also wants to see responsive support systems in place and a level of accountability in meeting needs across the city, regardless of the forms these systems take. All of this should be transparent to families.
- The BPS team shared three thoughts about closing of opportunity gaps for students with special needs: (1) providing multiple entrance points for all students to access rigorous tasks and programs, (2) tier II + III behavioral supports, especially with community partners, and (3) sustainable models for students with special needs transitioning to 2- or 4-year colleges.



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- The Charter delegation shared a number of priorities, namely (a) seeing that more students with disabilities apply to charter schools, (b) ensuring that all charter schools know how to provide or secure students who need a therapeutic setting with the appropriate supports, (c) exploring the possibility of a SPED collaborative within the BCA or BCA-BPS, and (d) developing capacity to train more staff in ABA.
- After establishing shared assumptions and noting differences in LA and Boston, Dr. Chang gave his presentation on how Los Angeles district and charter educators asked the question, “How could we induce more collaboration and sharing of special education resources?”

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Dr. Karla Estrada informed the Members of the ongoing Speaker Series being hosted by the Opportunity and Achievement Gap Office at BPS, inviting all to attend. She also distributed fliers for the Compact-sponsored, teacher-led “Celebration of Culturally Responsive Teaching” in March.

ACTION ITEMS

- Staff will work with Members and others to further explore special education options prior to the next meeting
- Staff will send information on the BPS hosted Speaker Series to all members