

SCHOOL TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

10-11:30a | Wednesday, October 25, 2017

BPS Bolling Building, Room 6-55

Presented are minutes from the School Transportation Committee held on Wednesday, October 25, 2017. For more information about any of the items listed below, visit www.BostonCompact.org or email info@BostonCompact.org.

ATTENDANCE

Members Present: **Charles Grandson** (Deputy Chief Operations Officer, BPS), **Shannah Varón** (Executive Director, Boston Collegiate Charter School and Chair, Boston Charter Alliance), **Will Eger** (Strategic Projects Manager – Finance, BPS), **Erica Brown** (Chief of Policy & Practice, Massachusetts Charter Public School Association), **Kevin Taylor** (Chief Operations Officer, KIPP MA), **John Hanlon** (Chief Operations Officer, BPS), **Alice Dutson** (Principal, Mission Grammar), **Mark Loring** (Director of Network Operations, Brooke Charter Schools) **Turah Dorsey** (Chief of Education, City of Boston),

Members Absent: **Ellen McDonough** (Manager of Intergovernmental Relations, BPS), **Morgan McDaniel** (Office of Budget Management, City of Boston), **Shanda Roberts** (Transportation Officer, BPS)

Others Present: **Peter Crossan** (Fleet and Compliance Manager, BPS), **Delavern Stanislaus** (Customer Service Manager, BPS), **Rachel Weinstein** (Compact staff)

COMMUNICATION BETWEEN BUSES AND SCHOOLS

The meeting began with charter school representatives expressing continued concern about how to improve communications between buses and schools. BPS leaders reflected that they too are concerned and are hearing similar issues from district schools. Peter Crossan provided the group with an overview of the 2-year old or less state-of-the-art Motorola radios and the processes for checking that they work. On a given day, maybe 1 of 757 radios does not work. BPS is going to look into whether Transdev can improve its documentation efforts around working radios. Group members noted the need for 100% of buses having working radios. They talked through specific incidents, including a student who was dropped-off without an adult there to meet them.

HOW VARIOUS TRANSPORTATION REFORMS FIT TOGETHER

John Hanlon provided an overview of the district's transportation efforts. He noted that BPS has been working on adjusting start times for over a year. This is a massive effort that will allow significant reinvestment. They would like to include non-BPS schools in this major shift. Charters use 50 buses that cost about \$5million/year. John is glad that two BCA representatives will join the BPS working group. On November 15, School Committee will consider the framework for the start/end time changes (e.g. ensure no greater than x% of schools in a given neighborhood start before 8a). School Committee will vote on the framework at their subsequent meeting, December 6th. Shannah reminded the group that the charters want to help – and they are autonomous, so the

two representatives in the working group will not be able to speak on behalf of the whole Alliance without the time to consult the rest of the group.

The document Will is drafting is intended to outline the process for an individual school who wants to change drop off/pick up times outside of the massive realignment this year.

ENROLLMENT DATA

Committee members briefly discussed the challenge of having students routed to multiple schools. Compact partners could improve this situation by adopting one identification system and cleaning-up enrollment responses earlier in the year. Brainstormed questions included, “Could we use a shared RSVP system?” “Who could call through families - as a neutral party – to ask where their children are going?” We need to sort this out by early March 2018.

ACTION ITEMS

- BPS (Charles?) to ask Transdev to document radio checks
- Delavern, Jeff Hardy and Devonne Stubbs will spend next weekly operations meeting on how to do periodic radio checks and daily driver checks. They will email this group to share what they come up with.
- Peter Crossan to look into specific incidents when students were in danger; Peter will get a report on how long drivers wait in cue when they radio the yard; Peter will share the slide deck on how the radio system works with this committee.
- Will to let BCA leadership know how charters respond to start/end time survey
- Rahn will forward Chris Osgood’s contact information to Shannah.
- BCA is going to simplify student enrollment data within the charter sector.
- After Will and Erica meet, Avi, Will, Rahn, Erica, Oliver Troug and possibly the Mayor’s COS or Policy Director will meet to figure out how to clean-up student enrollment data across sectors.
- Each of the five goals should have a goal, action steps and owner. The Compact will keep track for reporting-back, but participants should drive the work forward between meetings.
- Compact staff will schedule Operations meetings monthly for trouble-shooting specific, smaller, immediate challenges.