



Serving Students by Bringing Educators Together

## SCHOOL TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

9:30-11a | Wednesday, December 20, 2017  
Boston City Hall, Room 608

Presented are minutes from the Boston Compact Transportation Committee meeting held on December 20, 2017. For more information about any of the items listed below, visit [www.BostonCompact.org](http://www.BostonCompact.org) or email [info@BostonCompact.org](mailto:info@BostonCompact.org).

### ATTENDANCE

Members Present: **Turah Dorse**y (Chief of Education, City of Boston), **Aliece Dutson** (Principal, Mission Grammar), **Charles Grandson** (Deputy Chief Operations Officer, BPS), **Mark Loring** (Director of Network Operations, Brooke Charter Schools), **Morgan McDaniel** (Office of Budget Management, City of Boston), **Ellen McDonough** (Manager of Intergovernmental Relations, BPS), **Shannah Varón** (Executive Director, Boston Collegiate Charter School and Chair, BCA), **Erica Brown** (Chief of Policy & Practice, MCPSA)

Members Absent: **Will Eger** (Strategic Projects Manager – Finance, BPS), **John Hanlon** (Chief Operations Officer, BPS), **Shanda Roberts** (Transportation Officer, BPS), **Kevin Taylor** (Chief Operations Officer, KIPP MA)

Others Present: **Rachel Weinstein** (Compact staff) and **Elise Swinford** (Compact staff), **Max Wright** (BCA Fellow)

### ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIONS

Committee members approved the meeting summary from November 29, 2017 with revisions.

### EMERGENT ISSUES

Start/ end time conversation:

BPS reported that the School Committee will convene on January 10<sup>th</sup> and Dr. Chang will make a decision on when/ if to implement changes. BPS will hold 10 public community meetings this week. Members from all sectors reiterated the need for clarity on the fact that neither the charter sector, Catholic sector, nor the Boston Compact have been or will be part of the decision-making process on this issue. BPS is the decision-making body and is sending out FAQ's in response to this and other inquiries.

Data sharing:

Charter representatives had a productive meeting with DESE about the need to stabilize lists earlier in the enrollment process. When charter schools send more finalized enrollment lists to BPS earlier, BPS can better plan summer transportation routes. Charters finish their enrollment lotteries in March, claims are uploaded in July (which is a change), information will be disseminated to all involved schools, and enrollment conflicts can be resolved in July rather than into the fall semester. This will improve the process by two months. In the enrollment application, there is

an opt-out option for 3<sup>rd</sup> party sharing. The charter sector is addressing the language of the opt-out option on the enrollment application regarding third-party info sharing. Modifying this will increase the potential for data sharing across sectors and improving transportation system for all students.

Update from Catholic schools:

**Ali Dutson** reported on her findings (based on reports from principals) that approximately 2,100 Catholic school students in Boston live within one mile of school. 81 students take transportation now. 548 do not qualify for transportation but need it (based on family hardship with transportation issues). Most that need transportation are within two miles of the school. The Catholic sector is working with BPS to consider options.

Communication:

Several committee members emphasized the need to learn lessons from last summer's transportation challenges.

**Mark Loring** and **Kevin Taylor** will join operations meetings to align processes and help establish clear timelines.

Troubleshooting/Ops meeting:

Compact staff will circulate Google doc to establish agenda. **Erica Brown** noted that the intention was to create a direct line of communication between schools and BPS. Compact staff will handle scheduling and agenda for three months and the group will reassess at that time.

Updates on charter transportation planning:

**Max Wright** provided updates on budgetary and staffing concerns for a charter transportation pilot. Such a pilot would focus on door-to-door students and would be an "opt-in" program for charter schools. BCA continues to work with BPS on details.

#### ACTION ITEMS

Charter representatives will continue talks with DESE and Shanda Roberts about identifying duplicate enrollments.

BPS will help determine logistical and operational tasks that must happen for a bus management plan to pilot.

BPS will respond to BCA about a deadline for decisions on a pilot program.

Compact staff will coordinate the next Transportation Operations Team meeting.