



Serving Students by Bringing Educators Together

SCHOOL TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

9:30-11a | Wednesday, January 31, 2018

Bruce C. Bolling Building 2-01

Presented are minutes from the Boston Compact Transportation Committee meeting held on January 31, 2018. For more information about any of the items listed below, visit www.BostonCompact.org or email info@BostonCompact.org.

ATTENDANCE

Members Present: **Erica Brown** (Chief of Policy & Practice, MCPSA), **Peter Crossan** (Fleet and Compliance Manager, BPS), **Aliece Dutson** (Principal, Mission Grammar), **Will Eger** (Strategic Projects Manager – Finance, BPS), **Charles Grandson** (Deputy Chief Operations Officer, BPS), **Mark Loring** (Director of Network Operations, Brooke Charter Schools), **Shanda Roberts** (Transportation Officer, BPS), **Delavern Stanislaus** (Transportation Customer Service Manager, BPS), **Kevin Taylor** (Chief Operations Officer, KIPP MA), **Shannah Varón** (Executive Director, Boston Collegiate Charter School and Chair, BCA)

Members Absent: **Turah Dorsey** (Chief of Education, City of Boston), **John Hanlon** (Chief Operations Officer, BPS), **Morgan McDaniel** (Office of Budget Management, City of Boston), **Ellen McDonough** (Manager of Intergovernmental Relations, BPS)

Others Present: **Lina Musayev** (Capacity Building Network Managing Director, MCPSA), **Tabitha Redding** (Vice Principal, Mission Grammar), **Elise Swinford** (Compact staff), **Rachel Weinstein** (Compact staff), **Max Wright** (BCA Fellow)

ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIONS

Committee members approved the meeting summary from December 20, 2017 with revisions. **Erica Brown** introduced **Lina Musayev** as the new representative from MCPSA as Erica transitions off the committee. **Ali Dutson** introduced **Tabitha Redding**, who will fill in for Ali during her maternity leave.

UPDATES

Data sharing:

MCPSA reported on imminent improvements for sharing charter data with BPS that will improve transportation and reduce the costs thereof: charters will provide enrollment lists to BPS earlier, will work to eliminate duplicate applications and multiple school acceptances, and will work on a plan to reach out to families to resolve application issues. It was agreed that, across the sectors, SASIDs need to be in the database earlier in the process. It was reiterated that this cross-sector work is a first step toward greater improvements in transportation and potentially other areas. BPS representatives emphasized that the more information they have before the bus routes go live in June, the more they will know about savings.

Charles Grandson noted he will have a draft of the transportation work flow calendar in February, at which time he will reach out to **Mark Loring** and **Kevin Taylor** for review.

Pilot programs:

Ali Dutson and **Will Eger** updated the committee on work on a pilot for Catholic school students (intended to provide

improved service and reduce BPS financial burden) that would involve designated bus stops is ongoing, and that BPS is currently researching legal implications.

Shannah Varón updated the committee on the transportation innovation pilot for charter student transportation. Details regarding the per pupil dollar are being determined. The plan has broadened to include students beyond door-to-door riders. All involved are interested in addressing homeless and geographically outlying students. The pilot program needs to determine 1) a viable vendor, 2) a contingency re-entry plan, and 3) a firm deadline for implementation from BPS. BPS underlined the labor agreements that dictate transportation staffing. Charter reps will meet with BPS transportation leaders to discuss further details. **Will** noted that the deadline for schools to opt in is April 1st, though individual students could be added later; he added that BCA should continue to invest in this planning despite deadline challenges for future implementation. **Peter Crossan** clarified the current transportation labor contracts being negotiated (drivers, Transdev, and monitors). **Charles** explained that no details could be revealed at the time due to ongoing negotiations.

Start/ end times:

Charles updated the committee on the process review and conversations with BPS principals. Changes will move forward, but not for Fall 2018. Thus, no charter-requested start/ end time changes will be approved. Charter reps reiterated the charter sector's willingness to be responsive to BPS needs on this issue in order to re-direct more funding toward education. BPS acknowledged the cooperative spirit of charters in solving these challenges.

EMERGENT ISSUES

Horace Mann School is interested in the charter innovation pilot, but BPS noted that they are in-district and therefore ineligible.

Mark Loring asked BPS for other cross-sector work that could reduce transportation costs. Suggestions included using the opt-out option, consolidating bus stops, and exploring pilots for SWD and homeless students.

Shannah suggested that there are benefits for BPS to be more transparent with charters about transportation costs. BPS expressed interest in outreach to charter principals for this purpose.

Max Wright requested clarification on liability concerns for pilots. **Peter** explained that if staff are not parent volunteers, the vendor must be compliant with current BPS standards.

Peter noted the \$370k cost to BPS of interstate tolls for busses, and that they are working on getting relief from this at the state level.

Delavern Stanislaus announced a job opening for the SPED Monitor Unit Leader at BPS and discussed ongoing work on monitor improvements. Charter reps expressed interest in working with BPS on improvements to the monitor program and SPED transportation program.

ACTION ITEMS

Charter representatives will meet with BPS transportation officials to discuss staffing details of pilot program.

Compact staff will work to schedule a meeting between now and the scheduled March meeting.

Catholic school and charter school reps will continue work on both pilot programs.