

**SCHOOL TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE**  
10:30a-12p | Wednesday, August 28, 2019  
Bolling Building Room 4-43

Presented are minutes from the Boston Compact Transportation Committee meeting held on August 28, 2019. 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: **Mark Loring** (Chief Operating Officer, Brooke Schools), **Ellen McDonough** (Mgr. of Intergovernmental Relations, BPS), **Shanda Williams** (Assist. Dir. of Ops, BPS), **Roudcha Serizier** (Transportation Officer, BPS), **Delavern Stanislaus** (Dir. of Transportation, BPS), **Angela Zhang** (BPS Transportation)

Members absent: **Tchad Cort** (Transportation Officer, BPS), **Peter Crossan** (Fleet & Compliance Mgr., BPS), **Ali Dutson** (Principal, Mission Grammar)

Others present: **Barry Kaufman** (Strategic Planning Senior Analyst), **Elise Swinford** (Compact staff), **Eric** (BPS Technology), **Rachel Weinstein** (Compact staff)

**ADMINISTRATION ACTIONS**

July minutes approved with revisions.

**UPDATES**

**Updates on charter school start bus transportation:**

BPS Transportation reported on the requested bus transportation data: last week, 25% of buses were late; there are fewer uncovered routes than last year; all routes were bid on but driver attendance continues to be a concern (between 40-60 drivers absent each day last week). BPS Transportation and Transdev continue to explore all options to ensure route coverage. While the stand-by driver pool is sufficient, it takes time to confirm necessity and reassign the routes which leads to late buses. Committee members urged BPS to underscore urgency of these concerns to Transdev management.

**Route updates:**

**Mark Loring** noted that charter students who have confirmed their charter enrollment are still missing from routes. Roudcha Serizier confirmed that all students newly enrolled this week are now routed. **Mark** observed that the fall routes for charter schools differ significantly from

summer routes, to which BPS Transportation responded that summer routes do not use the Dynamic Ideas solution while fall routes do, hence the differences. **Mark** inquired if it was possible to split summer route bidding into early summer and late August bids to preempt August attendance issues. BPS noted that the bidding is governed by the collective bargaining agreement.

**Dual enrollment updates:**

**Barry Kaufman** made the following announcements: BPS has made several rounds of calls to families to confirm enrollment, there is a template form available to families to email to confirm enrollment, charter enrollment claims are fairly up to date, BPS leaders can also withdraw students independently of BPS Central Office Barry, and Lee will be transitioning out of his role with central office (schools should use Google Form system instead).

Regarding the issue with enrollment defaulting to BPS schools in the Aspen system upon the new academic year, **Barry** said that the issue is worth exploring protocol for future years in conversation with Technology to ensure that assignments do not default to an incorrectly assigned school. In future years, possible improvements could be to reach out to families earlier in the spring for the following school year and also that families accepting at charters are immediately asked to notify BPS. Transportation will reach out to Eric in Technology to follow up on this in January.

**School bus messenger service:**

**Angela Zhang** noted that conversation about this are ongoing and should move forward after start-of-school issues have passed.

**Aspen transition:**

The committee welcomed **Eric** (Head of Application Development) from BPS Technology. **Eric** described the transition to Aspen as needed but difficult. SASIDs are preferred across the board, and **Eric** will think more about the possibility of including these on reports for charters. Regarding the summer rollover, he noted the issue is actually transportation's ability to manage multiple years of data at once. Next year, BPS Technology can get charter data to **Angela** earlier as well. **Shanda Williams** noted that there are two databases and Aspen feeds only to the fall database. Overall, the committee concurred that there is a better way for all systems and stakeholders to communicate that can be explored for future years.

**EMERGENT ISSUES**

M7 passes should be delivered by the end of this week. There are two sets of M7 passes: one for August and another for September.

Mailers for September began going out yesterday, with home-to-school taking priority and then alternative requests.

It was noted that charter reps are now asking for two specific staff when calling the Call Center because they are the only ones with access to updated information about late buses. **Delavern Stanislaus** said that they are working on getting CSRs access to bus yard information and hope to implement new communication protocol soon.

It was brought to the committee's attention that a Helen Y. Davis student with an IEP was told BPS does not transport IEP students to charter schools, and the student subsequently unenrolled at Davis. BPS Transportation noted that there might be communication issues with all of the broader network of call center locations, and that they will work to make sure all staff are trained on proper communication.

Several individual school issues were noted, including APR getting access to Zonar (they did), confusion about Brooke 8GA bell times, and Roxbury Prep concerns.

#### **ACTION ITEMS**

BPS Transportation will reach out to Eric in BPS Technology to follow up on the Aspen academic year turnover concerns in January.