



Serving Students by Bringing Educators Together

SCHOOL CLIMATES SURVEY MEETING
12:00 – 1:00p | Monday, February 6, 2017
BPS Bolling Building

Presented are minutes from the Boston Compact School Climates Survey meeting held on Monday, February 6, 2017 at the BPS Bolling Building. 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 and Chair, Boston Charter Alliance), **Monica Roberts** (BPS Assistant Supt of Engagement), **Donna Muncey** (Deputy Superintendent of Strategy), **Nicole Wagner** (Executive Director of Data and Accountability), **Julia Mejia** (Executive Director, CPLAN), **Angela Kiley** (Director of External Relations, Brooke Charter Schools), **Kathy Mears** (Superintendent of Catholic Schools Archdiocese of Boston)

Others Present: **Rachel Weinstein** (Compact staff), **Natasha Maughan** (Compact staff)

BPS INITIATIVES

Nicole shared progress on the BPS School Quality Framework (SQF). Some of the outcomes from the framework have been mapped on to the current climates survey and there has been interest in making enhancements and revisions to the survey. These revisions will bring more questions on social/emotional learning and cultural responsiveness.

BPS will be releasing a RFP for a more comprehensive survey to be administered in 2017-2018.

Donna commented that the BPS would be piloting the Massachusetts Consortium for Innovative Approaches to Education this year, which is a common survey with nine districts working together. The survey requires common teacher and student surveys. It is not available for family input at the moment.

CHARTER INITIATIVES

Shannah shared that the charter schools are thinking more about the relationship with the community served, as it became evident from the 2016 election ballot question 2 that such ties needed to be addressed.

The Boston Charter Alliance compared school climate surveys within the group of 15 charter schools in order to begin identifying common themes and to learn from each other.



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The Charter Alliance decided to contract with Panorama to pilot a family survey in 2017. Fourteen of fifteen schools in the BCA will participate. The Alliance is still deciding on the domains to be covered, however, the broad topics will include diversity and equity, and the participating schools will have the opportunity to customize questions. CPLAN may be asked to assist in conducting focus groups aimed at making the language as family friendly as possible.

For the Panorama survey, each school will sign an individual contract with the first draft of questions due in March.

Topics to be addressed are:

- Family Engagement
- School fit (sense of belonging to school)
- School climate
- School safety
- Diversity & Equity
- Demographics

CATHOLIC SCHOOL INITIATIVES

Kathy informed the group that the Catholic schools nationwide are working with AdvancEd for teacher, family and student surveys. The content will be similar to DESE's with additional foci on Catholic identity and social emotional learning. She noted that one of the benefits to the nationwide effort is the ability to make comparisons with other Archdioceses across the country. A pilot group in the Boston Archdiocese has begun to use the surveys.

CROSS SECTOR COLLABORATION

Rachel shared that DESE has been looking at surveys as part of ESSA and will be finalizing student school climate questions by the end of the week. At present, there are no questions focused on school fit and only a few on social emotional learning.

Nicole suggested that we make sure the survey items are actionable for schools!

Julia pointed out that, at times, there is a disconnect between families and systems. She introduced the idea of an exit survey for families who are transferring between schools.

Shannah said that although the charter schools are scheduled to launch their surveys in May 2017, they are open to tweaking the project for a cross-sector launch in Spring 2018.



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Rachel asked whether the sectors could align on the larger categories, even if they only had a percentage of common questions.

Nicole suggested that we find a researcher to help understand the costs and benefits of such collaboration. The researcher would eventually assist with analysis of the data collected.

Julia pointed out that it is important to have all stakeholders involved in the process as these surveys inform on more than school choice and assignment.

Rachel stated that it might be more prudent to get further along in the process before opening it up to the stakeholders. She offered to contact Kristin McSwain to explore including the information in the Opportunity Agenda's annual report card in future years.

ACTION ITEMS

For Next Meeting:

- All sectors will bring their current family climate survey domains and items in order to look for comparability

Later:

- Convene family focus groups across sectors (summer 2017?)
- Compact staff to contact Kristin McSwain regarding inclusion of school climate survey data in annual Boston Opportunity Agenda report card
- Administer at least a set of common items in family school climate surveys in spring 2018