



Serving Students by Bringing Educators Together

**Meeting with Family Leaders  
School Climate Survey Initiative**  
Boston Public Schools, Room 4-43  
11:30a-1p, September 28, 2017

Presented are minutes from the Boston Compact School Climate Survey meeting held on September 28, 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).

#### **PARTICIPANTS**

**Family Members:** Fabienne Eliacin (Mission Grammar), Brit Johnson (St. Patrick's School), Elsa Flores (James Otis, Mario Umana, EB High School), Tiffany and Barry Payne (Jackson Mann, Mendell), Cassandra Cumberlander (Neighborhood House Charter School, Cathedral High School), Aveann Bridgemohan (Joseph Lee School), Tayla Andre (Edward Brooke), Tara Register (John Winthrop Elementary), Karla Walker (Helen Y. Davis Leadership Academy)

**Committee Members:** Julia Mejia (CPLAN), Monica Roberts (BPS), Cyntonia Grant (BPS), Karla Jenkins (BPS), Rachel Weinstein (Boston Compact)

#### **WELCOME AND OVERVIEW**

Monica Roberts and Julia Mejia welcomed the group. Monica noted that, across sectors, school climate is a challenge and that educators need to own this fact. The Compact educators invited parents to the table in order to consider together how to address school climates. Educators need the perspective of parents.

Rachel gave a brief introduction to the Boston Compact and explained the origins of the school climate work, remarking that this is an opportunity to (a) give families comparable data across schools beyond academic data, and (b) to provide families and school staff actionable data for their own buildings. She also reviewed the proposed roles and stipends for families.

#### **EXPLORATION OF CONCEPT AND PROCESS**

The group discussed the definition of “school climate” and many believed that “school culture” is a more understandable phrase.

Next the group broke into small groups to discuss what excited and concerned people about the proposal, what revisions were recommended, and what support would be needed from Compact partners/schools to be successful. Below are some of the answers from the report-back portion of the meeting.

What Excites Us:

- Being innovative
- Using the results of climate surveys to drive change
- Bringing all constituents (BPS, Catholic, charter) together
- Parent voices leading the way



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#### What Concerns Us:

- METCO and others aren't at this table and would be helpful to have perspectives from outside of Boston
- How to ensure timely participation from parents taking surveys
- How to give survey participants unique IDs while preserving anonymity
- Gentrification in Boston, keep an eye on it as analyzing surveys
- How schools share survey data and implement changes based on results

#### Ideas We Have:

- Surveys should take no more than three minutes to complete
- There should be multiple ways to complete the surveys, including events for families
- The Compact should offer an incentive, could be a pen/mug/etc. and/or free courses in financial literacy, ESL or computers
- Surveys should be translated into all languages spoken in Boston
- We should solicit participation from family members who are incarcerated
- We should look at independent schools and schools outside of Boston to see other cultures/climates
- We should add Asian, White, Muslim and LGBTQQ families to this group of facilitators
- We should offer speaking groups to give feedback on climate, for parents who may not read/write

#### Support We Want from Schools:

- Access to school events
- Buy-in and support from principals to use results for action
- Help sending surveys home

#### **ACTION ITEMS**

- CPLAN will diversify group of family facilitators
- Family facilitators will meet with Nicole Wagner-Lam
- Family facilitators to draft work plan for focus groups and bring to educator committee for discussion 11/8
- Family visit to school outside of Boston?
- Compact staff will update and distribute the work plan
- Compact staff will forward the existing climate surveys
- Remember that student climate surveys are critical too and move with a sense of urgency so that we get to students next year
- Committee to consider incentives for people to complete surveys, unique family codes vs. anonymous