



School Climate Survey Committee

October 3, 2019 | 10:15-11:15a

Conference Call

Presented are minutes from the Boston Compact School Climate Survey Committee meeting held on October 3, 2019. For more information about any of the items listed below, visit www.BostonCompact.org or email info@BostonCompact.org.

ATTENDANCE

Members present: **Tayla Andre** (Collaborative Parent Leadership Action Network), **Spencer Blasdale** (Exec. Dir., Academy of the Pacific Rim), **Blair Dawkins** (Evaluations Coordinator, Boston Public Schools), **Lisa Harvey** (Dep. Dir. of Evaluation & Programs, BPS), **Britt Johnson** (CPLAN), **Julia Mejia** (Exec. Dir., CPLAN), **Jake Stern** (Office of Data & Accountability, BPS)

Members absent: **Linda Freeman** (Special Education Parents Advisory Council), **Becky Mongeau** (Data Specialist, Catholic Schools Office), **Monica Roberts** (Assist. Superintendent of Engagement, BPS), **Gloria West** (Citywide Parent Council)

Others present: **Elise Swinford** (Compact staff), **Rachel Weinstein** (Compact staff)

ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIONS

July meeting minutes were approved with revision.

AGENDA ITEMS

2019 data analysis:

Rachel Weinstein noted that we are still in conversation with the BU Center for Promise, and asked if it would be possible for each school sector to contribute toward the cost of data analysis. **Spencer Blasdale** noted that each charter school contributes \$2,000 for the Panorama survey, and that the cross-sector part would necessitate a contribution of approximately \$150 each. Compact staff would need to present the request in front of BCA. **Rachel** inquired about approaching the state charter association about absorbing the cost, which **Spencer** thought might be a more expedient route. Regarding the possibility of BPS contributing, **Lisa Harvey** said she would check with **Monica Roberts**. **Jake Stern** added that the BPS budget is already set, but given the amount, there might some wiggle room. The total amount for BU to perform the analysis is \$8,000 but **Rachel** is hoping to raise funds for parent outreach stipends as well.

Update on 2019 survey participation:

BPS: Numbers are down for parent participation, which **Jake** noted was a surprise. It is possible that the shift in leadership and other district priorities were an issue. **Spencer** does not have access to BCA participation numbers at the moment, and given the shift in the BCA Panorama point person, is not sure what comparison is to previous year. The spreadsheet Teresa Rodriguez provided does not include paper surveys. **Elise Swinford** offered to follow up on the paper surveys, crunch the numbers provided by Teresa, and compare them to last year.

2020 participation:

Julia Mejia recommended activating parent councils, especially the Citywide Parent Council, by applying lessons learned from last year. This would help with the sustainability of the project. **Rachel** asked **Lisa** to connect with Monica regarding the CPC's potential participation.

Spencer observed that increasing survey participation is not a current priority for principals, but being able to share data analysis from 2019 would help make a case for the importance of this work. **Jake** added that the BPS student survey feels more important this year, and to make the parent survey results more actionable it would be useful to disaggregate the data for more targeted analysis.

Tayla Andre suggested that we engage outreach volunteers beyond parents, possibly college students. **Rachel** raised a concern about building trust between the volunteer and the parents of a particular school. **Julia** suggested engaging alumni of those schools and emphasized the need to create opportunities for young people to become involved.

Britt Johnson suggested looking at a program like that at St. Patrick School where parents participate in a rewards program for participating in certain school activities. **Rachel** noted the financial requirement of such a plan. **Tayla** suggested exploring a partnership with Union Capital Boston. **Britt** will present the idea of including the cross-sector survey as part of report card night at a PTA meeting soon.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Tayla announced the upcoming talk by Jane Elliot on October 12 and asked partners to share with their networks.

ACTION ITEMS

Elise Swinford will review and compare BCA's 2018 and 2020 results.

Lisa will connect with Monica regarding the CPC's potential participation in survey outreach

