

BOSTON STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL

(BSAC)

***Presentation To
Boston School Committee
May 21, 2014***

MISSION

*BSAC advocates for and protects the voices of students in BPS by **empowering the student body** to express their opinions regarding education reform and ensuring that **students are included in decision and policy making** that impacts their lives and educational experiences.*

What is BSAC?

BSAC is a **body of student leaders** representing their respective high schools, which serves as the **voice of students** to the District.

Our job is to:

1. Advise the School Committee as part of its decision-making process
2. Keep schools informed of relevant city-wide issues
3. Work on policies and projects that BSAC develops throughout the year



Membership Update

- Working Group
- Steering Committee
- Beginning of School Year
 - Started the year with 18 students
- End of School Year
 - 26 students serving on BSAC
 - Current membership = 14 high schools



BSAC PROJECTS

SY 2013-14

Student Voice in Superintendent Search

- Hosted a Youth Hearing on the Superintendent Search
- Goals:
 - Have a student who will **serve on the Search Committee** in the selection of the new Superintendent.
 - Incorporate **BSAC Criteria** into the **Job Description**
 - BSAC students develop **interview questions** that will be used in the interview process.
 - BSAC Members and the Student Member on the School Committee have an opportunity **to interview the final candidates**
 - The Student Member on the School Committee has a **vote in the selection** of the new Superintendent.

Mayoral Race

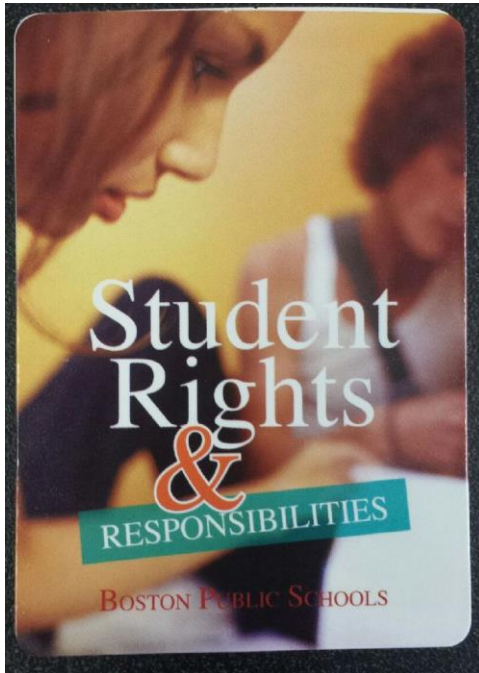
- Meetings with Candidates
- Goals:
 - Find a candidate who would support a student serving **on the Search Committee** in the selection of the Superintendent
 - Find a candidate who will support **voting rights** for the Student Representative on the School Committee
 - Gauge the candidates **support** for other **city-wide student efforts** such as Youth Pass and Youth Jobs



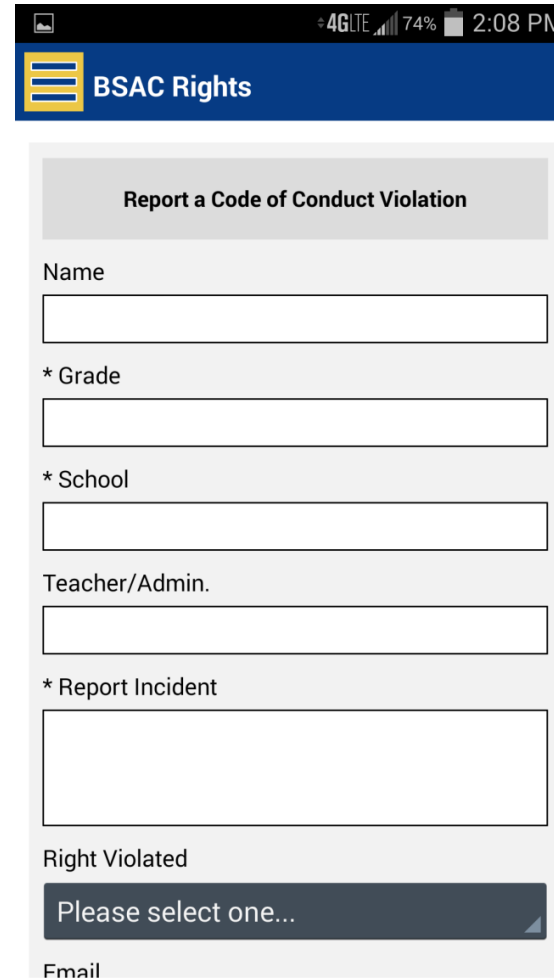
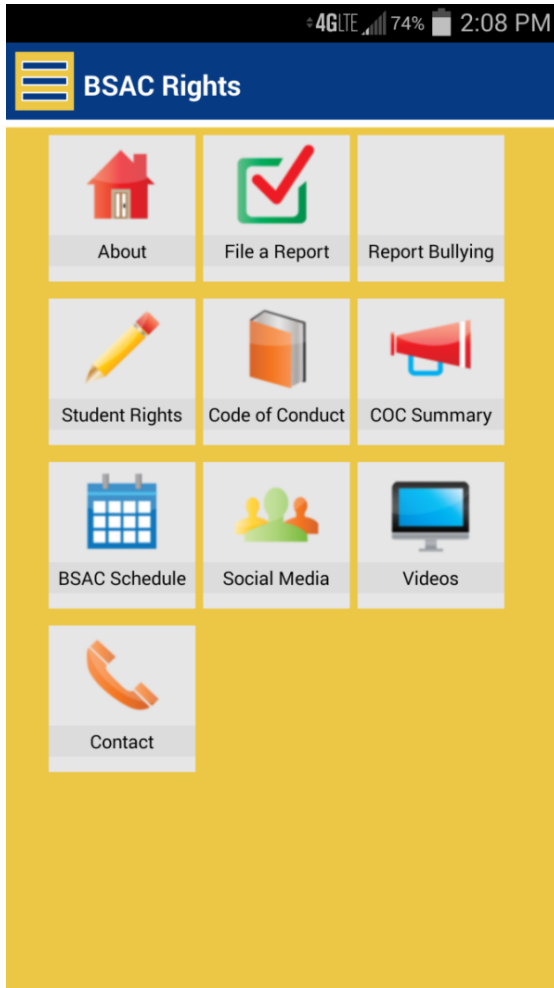
Charter School Accountability

- Need to hold schools accountable to serving ALL students
- Goals:
 - Don't lift the Charter School Cap
 - More funding to BPS
 - Create a Charter School Accountability Task Force

Student Rights & Responsibilities



- SR&R cards
- School Campaigns
 - 6 Schools Participated
 - Over 1500 students were reached
- Phone Application



A screenshot of a mobile application interface showing a form titled 'Report a Code of Conduct Violation'. The status bar at the top shows '4G LTE', signal strength, 74% battery, and '2:08 PM'. The header is dark blue with a yellow hamburger menu icon and the text 'BSAC Rights'. The form has a light gray background and includes the following fields: 'Name' (text input), '* Grade' (text input), '* School' (text input), 'Teacher/Admin.' (text input), '* Report Incident' (text input), 'Right Violated' (dropdown menu with 'Please select one...' selected), and 'Email' (text input).

School Discipline

- Code of Conduct Advisory Council (COCAC)
- Dignity in Schools Coalition
- Listening Project on October 3rd 2013
 - Spoke to over 250 students
- Goals:
 - Moratorium on Out of School Suspensions
 - Code of Conduct Trainings



Constructive Feedback & Teacher Evaluation

- Student voice is best predictor of student outcomes!
- Student Feedback Working Group
- Working with the State
- Goals:
 - Every student fills out a survey for every teacher
 - The teacher receives the feedback from students
 - The student feedback portion of teacher evaluation holds more weight than being used as just evidence (cannot be optional)

- Exemplary
- Proficient
- Needs Improvement
- Unsatisfactory



Advising on District Policy

- BPS Transportation Policy
- BPS Policy on Expectant and Parenting Students
- Acceptable Use Policy
- School Quality Working Group



Collaborative Role

- Youth Affordabili(T) Coalition
 - Youth Pass
 - MBTA Hikes
- Jobs for Justice
 - Youth Jobs
 - Raising the Minimum Wage
- Participatory Budget
- Safe and Supportive Schools
- Climate Change



Partnerships & Collaborations

- Boston Teachers Union Community Advisory Board (CAB)
- Code of Conduct Advisory Council (COCAC)
- Youth Organizers United for the Now Generation (YOUNG)
- Boston United for Students (BUS)
- Boston Truth Coalition
- Youth Affordabili(T) Coalition (YAC)
- ELL Youth Advisory Committee
- National Student Bill of Rights
- Opportunity to Learn (OTL) Campaign
- Dignity in Schools Coalition (DSC)
- Just and Fair Schools

