Dear Stakeholders,

Thank you for your support and commitment to the students and families of the Boston Public Schools. The BPS Office of Engagement’s Community Engagement Team acts as a catalyst to leverage the participation of families, students, school leaders, teachers, and community and faith partners. Your collective efforts have nurtured goodwill and helped optimize educational opportunities for all students. You have done this by contributing your voice to critical decisions and dialogue, and offering valuable resources in the form of time, funding, and programming.

Over the past eight years, more than 7,000 members of the community have joined BPS in problem solving, developing policies and practices that best serve students and families, and exploring new and innovative ideas. This report outlines the accomplishments of our collaborative efforts to improve the district, and looks at where we go from here.

With Thanks,

Mary Ann Crayton
Senior Director, Community Engagement

How we Engage the Community

Our goal is to engage the Boston community in public forums, stakeholder dialogues, and other activities to ensure district policy changes are informed by those who are impacted by them.

This is achieved through authentic community engagement.

First Steps for Community Engagement

1. Involve all sectors of the community.
2. Involve the community early in the process.
3. Engage community members in important questions and acknowledge their views and contributions.
4. Offer opportunities for people to gather at convenient times and locations.
5. Hold more than one meeting and allow time in the process to make informed judgments.
6. Ensure that the aspirations that families have for their children drive the process.
7. Build community awareness and knowledge around the subject at hand by presentations explaining technical terms and budget concepts.
8. Sustain the involvement of stakeholders.
10. Offer clear, open, and consistent communication.

Plan The Engagement Process Using These Guiding Principles*

* Adapted from, 10 Principles of Authentic Community Engagement, developed by KnowledgeWorks Foundation
History of Success: Community Engagement (CE) Timeline

2009
- TASAP (Technical Assistance for Student Assignment Plans) Grant Award
- BPS receives a federal grant to engage the Boston community in redesigning the school assignment policy in a way that addresses the long-standing gaps and inequities in resources and opportunities

2010
- Circle of Promise Established - Geographic area created to support schools with specific needs
- Collaborates with schools and community and faith-based organizations to support students and families
- Matches school needs with partner resources

2011
- Choice Neighbourhood
- Receives and manages a five-year federal grant from US Dept. of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) totaling $450,000 for five BPS schools:
  - Hayes EEC
  - King K-8
  - Burke High School
  - Winthrop
  - Frederick Middle School

2012
- Improving School Choice
  - All-inclusive process culminating in over 100 meetings of intense discussions involving all sectors of the community to provide feedback and historical insights for a new model school choice
  - External Advisory Committee (appointed group of stakeholders) makes recommendations based on input from researchers and the community to determine new policy for school choice

2013
- Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) Introduced
  - First time school and community leaders formalized partnership agreements

2014
- Black Elder Seminars Report
  - A series of educational seminars with African-American leaders

2015
- School Quality Work Group (SQWG) Convened
  - Coordinated discussions to develop district-wide school quality framework
  - SQWG listens to stakeholders' concerns, conducts research and comparisons with other school districts

2016
- Recommends five comprehensive domains to indicate high quality schools
- Asset Map Launched
  - After several years of mapping and compiling resources in Boston, an online Asset Map was developed and launched to help BPS families and communities identify resources outside of school buildings

2017
- Be the Light
  - CE coordinates peace walk with teachers, district leadership, local clergy, Boston Police, and BPS students with a rally at Charles St AME Church

2016
- BuildBPS
  - Mayor Martin J. Walsh announces release of BuildBPS, a 10-year Educational and Facilities Master Plan for BPS that serves as a framework to bringing Boston's school buildings into the 21st century
  - CE has over 2,200 participants responding to a facilities and program survey about BPS

South African Dialogue
- CE participates with the BPS Department of Global Studies professional development in South Africa with educators and policy makers

SIP: Strategic Implementation Plan
- CE facilitates town hall meetings across Boston to incorporate feedback from more than 600 stakeholders about BPS's strategic implementation plan, including meetings focusing specifically on the Long Term Financial Plan

How does policy change? BPS identifies issue and seeks public feedback

Conversations and information sessions initiated to gather feedback and ideas

Feedback is shared with BPS leaders, policy is drafted

Community discussions about drafts, propose additional feedback and changes

BPS considers community input and drafts final policy

Policy is presented publicly to school committee for discussion, vote, and adoption

Asset Map Redesign
- Asset Map is redesigned to become more user-friendly when searching for services

Asset Map Launched
- Asset Map is redesigned to become more user-friendly when searching for services

Be the Light Peace Walk
- CE coordinates peace walk with teachers, district leadership, local clergy, Boston Police, and BPS students with a rally at Charles St AME Church

School Quality Domains
- Leadership and Governance 20%
- Student Achievement 75%
- Teaching and Learning 7.5%
- Family Connections and Inclusion 10%

Dearborn Stakeholder Group Convened
- Planned and facilitated five committee/community sessions to examine criteria for decision making
  - Committee recommendation for school operations reviewed and approved by district leaders
  - BPS and CE staff produce student leaders video: youtube.com/watch?v=JNvYZpfQIf8

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Town Hall Meetings
District-driven conversation seeking input from large city-wide convenings that provide an opportunity to present specific ideas such as the BPS vision, long-term planning strategies, and budget considerations, with facilitated Q&A to clarify concepts and next steps.

Strategic Implementation Plan - Stronger Schools Stronger Boston, A Plan to Foster Equity, Coherence and Innovation, the five-year vision that puts students first.

Long Term Financial Plan - Investing in Student Success, 10 Big Ideas to Unlock Resources in the Boston Public Schools

BuildBPS is a 10-year educational and facilities master plan for the Boston Public Schools. A district-wide survey of residents, parents, teachers, and students informed many components of the BuildBPS report in determining options for projects and for prioritizing investments.
The Office of Engagement’s (OOE) mission is to promote welcoming environments in BPS, build capacity for authentic engagement, and support effective partnerships among students, families, schools, and the community to ensure student readiness and achievement from birth to graduation.

OOE promotes BPS core values - equity, coherence, and innovation.

- **Equity**: Eliminating system bias and providing authentic learning opportunities for all students developing our future leaders into self-determined, independent learners, who can pursue their aspirations
- **Coherence**: Focusing BPS’ business model on teaching and learning, and building an efficient way to deliver resources to students, families, teachers, and staff
- **Innovation**: Building a culture of change; generating new solutions, not just relying on current operational methods

To ensure that BPS continues to engage its stakeholders, the School-Community Partnerships’ team, which now includes CE’s faith and community-based partners, provides oversight of quality standards, program support, technical assistance, and professional development opportunities. You can access them at www.PartnerBPS.org.

The Office of Engagement looks forward to working with you to serve and support our students and families.

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