

**Boston School Committee
Inclusion Task Force
May 8, 2014
6:00 – 8:00 PM
Jeremiah E. Burke High School
60 Washington St., Dorchester**

Present:

Raul Garcia, Jerry Mogul, Eileen Nash, Lindsa McIntyre, Zach Rossetti, Marty Mitchell, Carolyn Kain, Elaine Ng, Maria de Lourdes Serpa, Michael Loconto, Bill Henderson (Co-Chair), Karen Zerby Buzzelle (Facilitator).

Absent:

Jean-Dominique Hervé Anoh, Natalie Ake, Regina Robinson, Patricia Lampron, Richard Robison, Janet Palmer-Owens, Dianne Lescinskas, Edward Powell,

Also Present:

Laura Wirth, Dana Girswold, Marjie Crosby.

Welcome & Introductions

- Marty reported on the site visit to the Ellison Parks Elementary School. He was impressed by the surround care provided, the clubs and electives and the dedicated and supportive staff. Bill also added that Natalie shared the experience of transition to an Inclusion School and the importance of staff involvement and support.
- Zack reported on the Council for Exceptional Children Conference.
- Elane reported on the Urban Collaborative Conference. She participated in a workshop with a focus on how to successfully transition schools and districts to an Inclusion model. Bill noted that Acting Superintendent John McDonough and School Committee Chair Michael O'Neil made brief presentations.

English Language Learners

- Dr. Maria de Lourdes Serpa gave a presentation on English Language Learners and Boston Public Schools.

- *Please see Dr. Serpa's presentation and supporting materials on BPS website. Drop down "School Committee" then choose "Inclusion Task Force".*

Q: A teacher, who is bilingual, does not necessarily have the qualifications needed to be a bilingual teacher. How do teachers get the skills needed?

A: We should look at other districts' Professional Development. There are examples of effective environments that blend both ELL strands and SWD strands.

Q: How has BPS been addressing Inclusion for ELL/SWD?

A: It is something BPS has just started to address. There is a plan to merge a new field of classes for September.

Approval of Inclusion Task Force Meeting Minutes: 4/10/14

- Jerry motioned to accept minutes, Lindsa seconded and all approved with two abstentions.

Committee Discussions

- Expand Quality Options
 - o The Committee approved the list of goals with some minor revisions.
- Ensure Quality Options
 - o The Committee reviewed the Inclusive Practice Document. Zach will re-write the document based on Committee discussion.

Next Meeting:

- June 12th, 6:00 – 8:00 PM, Ellison Parks Elementary School, 108 Babson St., Mattapan