

INCLUSION TASK FORCE

Thursday, September 11, 2014

**Dr. Catherine Ellison Rosa Parks Early Education School
108 Babson Street
Mattapan, MA 02126
6:00 – 8:00 PM**

Present:

Eileen Nash, Zach Rossetti, Marty Mitchell, Carolyn Kain, Natalie Ake, Regina Robinson, Richard Robison, Dianne Lescinskas, Michael Loconto, Bill Henderson (Co-Chair), Karen Zerby Buzzelle (Facilitator).

Absent:

Raul Garcia, Jerry Mogul, Lindsa McIntyre, Elaine Ng, Maria de Lourdes Serpa, Jean-Dominique Hervé Anoh, Patricia Lampron, Janet Palmer-Owens, Edward Powell,

Also Present:

Aixa Borrero-Sanchez

Welcome & Introductions

- Members introduced themselves and noted one positive aspect of the new school year.
- Bill announced that four members of the Inclusion Task Force will not be able to continue this year. He asked for recommendations to fill their places and will ask Michael to bring recommendations to the School Committee for approval.
- Bill noted that the Task Force charge is to come up with recommendations to increase the number of inclusion schools and promote quality inclusion.
- Bill explained that the School Quality Working Group (SQWG) will be finalizing recommendations and the Inclusion Task Force recommendations should be aligned with them.

Review of Meeting Groundrules

- Karen called attention to the meeting groundrules agreed to by the Task Force. The ground rules are hung on the wall at every meeting.

Approval of Inclusion Task Force Meeting Minutes: 6/12/14

- Michael motioned to approve the minutes and Carolyn seconded the motion. All approved with one abstention.

Feedback from BPS Leadership on Expansion Recommendations

- Bill mentioned that members will have the opportunity to review the latest data on the number of students included in BPS at the October meeting. Preliminary data suggests that there has been an increase in the number of students in full and partial inclusion. Members would like clarification on the State averages vs. BPS averages. It was also noted that the data on partial-inclusion is not clear.
- Eileen reported to the group that she distributed the Expanding Inclusion document to key BPS leaders and did not receive any objections.
- Members agreed that details need to be added to #7: "Identify, describe and publish inclusive options in BPS". People described the informal, unofficial path that parents take to find information about Inclusion schools. Carolyn and Eileen will work to create a fact sheet on Inclusion Schools that includes, but is not limited to, the schools that are Inclusion schools, the supports that are provided and are specific to certain disabilities (i.e. ABA, therapists for SEB students), the locations and grades, each school's pathway and clarification on taking tours of schools. This information must be explained in the context of clusters and widely disseminated through all BPS outreach channels. Materials must be culturally sensitive and there should be a strong collaboration with early intervention.

School Quality Recommendations

- Michael let the Task Force know that the School Committee reviewed the SQWG document and hopes that the final document will be presented and approved in October.
- Task Force members reviewed the SQWG document and agreed that the Inclusion Task Force Quality Expansion Document should be aligned with and formatted as the SQWG document. This will prevent duplication of efforts and support an efficient implementation of all recommendations. Karen and Zach will work on this.
- Bill asked all members to review the Ensuring Quality document and make any suggestions for aligning the recommendations with the School Quality Working Document. The latest documents are all on the Boston School Quality website (www.bostonschoolquality.org) in the Resources tab. Please email any suggestions to inclusiontaskforce@gmail.com before the next meeting October 9th.

Other Announcements

- Eileen went to a follow meeting with BTU on Inclusion. She felt that it was a productive meeting and that members were receptive to the increase in inclusion. She emphasized the importance of partnering with BTU.
- Rich announced that the Federation of Children annual forum will take place in March and anyone interested in speaking should contact him.
- Eileen announced that there are 12 Inclusion Specialists in place.

Next Meeting

- October 9, 2014 at Campbell Resource Center
- Michael Loconto will provide food for the October meeting.