Full-service Schools Roundtable Newsletter

December 2009/January 2010

Dear Colleagues,

Happy New Year!

2010 promises to be another year of opportunity and exciting challenges for all of us who are working to connect children to badly-needed services.

On November 18, the Boston Public Schools (BPS) released their new five-year strategic direction. In this document, BPS outlined their key strategies to help meet their goals of ensuring MCAS proficiency, closing access and achievement gaps, and preparing students for college and career success.

Among the short list of core strategies is a deepening of partnerships with parents, students, and the community. It is this strategy that is, of course, of particular interest to our work.

The rationale for choosing this strategy is sound: "Schools alone cannot ensure that every child achieves academic success and personal well-being...We must tap into the rich resources in Boston...to expand access to high-quality programs that address students' academic, social, and emotional needs...Together, we will create a strong system of supports that help equip all of our students for success in college, career, and life."

We applaud BPS and Superintendent Carol Johnson for taking leadership on this issue and elevating partnership as a core strategy. We hope that you will join us in offering to support her and the district as they flesh out their plan and continue the hard work of meeting their ambitious goals for all of the

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The mission of the Full-service Schools Roundtable is to advance the healthy development and success of students in Boston through integrated school/community partnerships.

The Full-service Schools Roundtable is grateful for generous support from The Boston Foundation, Children's Hospital Boston and an anonymous foundation.

JOIN OUR MAILING LIST

children in Boston.

With very best wishes for a happy and healthy 2010,
Abby R. Weiss
Executive Director

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

National PTA, DLA Piper Distribute Guide on State Laws on Family Engagement

National PTA and DLA Piper LLP, an international law firm, recently released a guide that will help families, policymakers and child advocates develop and monitor family engagement legislation in their states. The 271-page State Laws on Family Engagement in Education Reference Guide provides a comprehensive, up-to-date survey of family engagement legislation in all 50 states and the District of Columbia. Providing an in-depth examination of state statutes related to family engagement in education, this guide is organized into six issue areas: Family Engagement Laws and Policies; State Grant and Award Programs; Labor Laws that Support Parental Participation in School Activities; Early Childhood Education and Literacy Programs; Youth and Children in High-Risk situations; and Families with English Language Learners.

This guide serves policymakers and child advocates with a better understanding of state family engagement legislation by providing detailed analysis, noteworthy statutes, policy recommendations, and the essential components of systemic state family engagement laws. This guide provides information to create legislation that supports policies and practices that meaningfully engage families in improving student achievement.

National PTA will update the State Laws on Family Engagement in Education Reference Guide every few years to provide a reliable source for families, child advocates, and policymakers to support their endeavors in long-term public policy and reform initiatives.

Remarks by the President and Q&A at the Closing Session of the Forum on Jobs & the Economy

On Thursday December 3, 2009, President Obama mentioned full-service community schools during the White House Jobs Summit. He noted, "Randi Weingarten of the AFT suggested a specific idea: community schools, especially in rural areas, where parents can get training after hours in the same place where their kids are learning during the day, and I think that's a terrific idea worth exploring." To read the President's full comments, click here.

Mass Insight Survey Shows Strong Public Support for Education Reform

In December, Mass Insight Corporation released its 2009 Annual Report on Education, which measures public opinion on key education issues at the state and national level. The report showed strong support for many in

the key educational issues, including creating enhanced powers to turnaround underperforming schools, expand charter schools and support math and science instruction.

Some key findings of the report include:

- A plurality (40%) of Massachusetts residents give Massachusetts public schools a grade of "C";
- Almost all (95%) say it is important for Massachusetts students to be globally competitive in math and science achievement;
- 81% support having school districts partner with a non-profit turnaround organization led by experienced administrators and teachers that would work in failing schools;
- 72% support allowing successful charter school networks to open more schools in communities with failing schools in order to give families a choice;
- 63% support providing district superintendents and the state with extraordinary powers that would require teachers' unions to give up control over hiring and firing of staff in exchange for higher pay for teachers and a longer school day for students who need more time.

What Works for Parent Involvement Programs for Children:

Lessons from Experimental Evaluations of Social Interactions

This fact sheet presents lessons learned from 67 parent involvement programs that work, don't work, or have mixed results for children aged 6-11. Overall, programs that actively engage parents generally have positive impacts on at least one child outcome. These include parenting skills training programs, parent-child involvement programs, and programs that actively involved both parents and children. Also, most programs that integrated technology into their interventions had positive impacts. However, parent education-only programs did not generally have impacts. The fact sheet includes a chart of the programs that worked or didn't work for different outcomes, and a glossary summarizing the programs.

What Works for Parent Involvement Programs for Adolescents:

Lessons from Experimental Evaluations of Social Interactions

This fact sheet presents lessons learned from 47 parent involvement programs that work, don't work, or have mixed results for adolescents ages 12 to 17. Overall, nearly two-thirds of parent involvement programs were found to be effective. Interventions that build parenting skills generally had positive impacts on at least one outcome. All family and teen-focused therapeutic interventions were found to work. Also, programs with a combined focus on parents and teens--those that include intervention components for both groups--were likely to be effective. On the other hand, parent education programs--those that simply offer information, but do not give parents opportunities to practice related skills--did not tend to work. The fact sheet includes a chart of the programs that worked or didn't work for different outcomes, and a glossary summarizing the programs.

Teachers making house calls make pupils, parents feel at home

In James Vaznis' *Boston Globe* article *Teachers' house calls make pupils, parents feel at home*, he explains the practice of teachers in Boston and Springfield that is gaining national attention. "The goal is to build stronger relationships between teachers and families in a quest to bolster parent volunteerism in school and involvement in their child's education at home, as well as break down any misconceptions that parents and teachers might have about one another." Engaging parents in this way results in successful students.

Teacher's house calls show the benefit of a strong parent-teacher relationship for students. Having engaged parents, enthused children and teachers creates a positive learning experience that:

1. extends learning from the classroom to the home
2. builds parents' trust in teachers
3. encourages parental involvement with the school
4. prepares teachers to work with students

The idea of family involvement to support one member of the family is a common practice adopted in areas of human service, particularly in therapy/counseling. Adopting this family-oriented method of teachers meeting the student's nuclear family and interacting with the child outside of the classroom establishes a common experience that leads to understanding and positive results for all involved.

UPCOMING FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Community Action Grants

Community Action grants provide funds to individuals, AAUW branches and AAUW state organizations as well as local community-based nonprofit organizations for innovative programs or non-degree research projects that promote education and equity for women and girls.

- One-year grants ($2,000-$7,000 over one year)
  One-year grants provide seed money for new projects. Topic areas are unrestricted, but should include a clearly defined activity that promotes education and equity for women and girls.

- Two-year grants ($5,000-$10,000 over two years)
  Two-year grants provide start-up funds for longer-term programs that address the particular needs of the community and develop girls' sense of efficacy through leadership or advocacy opportunities. Topic areas are unrestricted, but should include a clearly defined activity that promotes education and equity for women and girls

Applicants must be women who are U.S. citizens or permanent residents. Nonprofit organizations must be based in the United States. Grant projects must have direct public impact, be nonpartisan, and take place within the

United States or its territories.

Special consideration is given to projects focused on K-12 and community college girls' and women's achievements in science, technology, engineering or math. For more information, visit Community Action Grants.

DEADLINE: JANUARY 15, 2010

Coming Up Taller

The Coming Up Taller Awards recognize and support outstanding community arts and humanities programs that celebrate the creativity of America's young people, provide them with learning opportunities and chances to contribute to their communities. These awards focus national attention on exemplary programs currently fostering the creative and intellectual development of America's children and youth through education and practical experience in the arts and the humanities. Accompanied by a cash award, the Coming Up Taller Awards not only reward these projects with recognition, but also contribute significant support to their continued work.

Award recipients receive $10,000 each, an individualized plaque, and an invitation to attend the annual Coming Up Taller Leadership Enhancement Conference. In addition, 35 exceptional youth arts and humanities programs across the country receive a Semifinalist Certificate of Excellence.

Coming Up Taller is an initiative with the Institute of Museum and Library Services, National Endowment for the Arts and the National Endowment for the Humanities to showcase cultural excellence and enhance the availability of out-of-school arts and humanities programs to children.

For more information, visit Coming Up Taller.

DEADLINE: JANUARY 29, 2010

Siemens We Can Change the World Challenge

The Siemens Foundation, Discovery Education, and the National Science Teachers Association invite you to join the only Challenge of its kind that empowers students to create solutions to environmental programs in their own backyards, and to share their results with students nationwide. They'll learn. They'll take action. And their ideas may well end up changing the world.

It's the opportunity to make a difference and win great prizes that celebrate innovation, including the chance to be featured on TV!

Students in grades kindergarten to eight are eligible and compete for more than $100,000 in cash and prizes. For more information, visit We Can Change.

DEADLINE: JANUARY 31, 2010 FOR ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS
MARCH 15, 2010 FOR MIDDLE SCHOOLS

Boston Capacity Tank's Technical Assistance Awards

The Boston Capacity Tank was founded in 2002 through a partnership among the Black Ministerial Alliance of Greater Boston, United Way of Massachusetts Bay, Emmanuel Gospel Center, and Boston TenPoint Coalition, to

build the capacity of faith-based organizations and community-based organizations in Boston that serve at-risk and high-risk youth. The Tank provides training workshops, individualized technical assistance, capacity-building grants, and the High-Risk Youth Network. All services are free of charge. The Tank's services address the following five priority areas: organizational development, leadership development, programs and services, fundraising capacity, and community engagement. These services are intended to help agencies grow stronger and more sustainable, and to provide more effective youth programs.

For this current opportunity, the Boston Capacity Tank will award 20 to 40 hours of individualized technical assistance to faith-based and community organizations that provide direct services to youth in the City of Boston. Twenty five awards are given, worth $3,000 in technical assistance. For more information, visit Black Ministerial Alliance of Greater Boston.

DEADLINE: ROLLING TO FEBRUARY 2, 2010

Sprint Character Education Grant Program

Through the Sprint Character Education Grant Program, the Sprint Foundation will award grants to school districts and individual schools to fund the purchase of resource materials, supplies, equipment and software that facilitates and encourages character education among K-12 students. With a national reach, the program is open to all US public schools (K-12) and US public school districts.

The Sprint Character Education Grant program will accept applications for Character Education programs that promote youth leadership, youth volunteerism, school pride and a positive school culture. District-level grants range from $10,000 to $25,000; school-level grants range from $500 to $5,000. For more information, visit Sprint Character Education.

DEADLINE: FEBRUARY 5, 2010

"Music Matters" Grant Program
The Muzak Heart & Soul Foundation's mission is to redefine and support music education. Through music education, a child can better achieve his/her full potential and stimulate personal and educational growth. Music Matters Grants for 2010 will focus on educational reform in school music programs and independent music programs. Grants will be awarded in April 2010 (money will be distributed by October 2010) to schools and music programs throughout the United States. Grant amounts for this cycle are between $1,000-$12,000 each and are made on an annual basis.

For more information, visit Music Matters.

DEADLINE: FEBRUARY 5, 2010

Project Orange Thumb® Grant Program

Started in 2003, Project Orange Thumb® is a grant program that provides community garden groups with the tools and materials they need to reach their goals for neighborhood beautification and horticulture education.

Marking our 7th successful year in 2009, Project Orange Thumb® has provided over 100 community groups with over $200,000 to create and develop their own special community gardens. These included projects geared toward community involvement, neighborhood beautification, sustainable agriculture and/or horticultural education.

Community garden groups, as well as schools, youth groups, community centers, camps, clubs, treatment

facilities, etc. are encouraged to apply. Twenty two grants of up to $2,000 in tools and garden supplies will be awarded. For more information, visit Project Orange Thumb.

DEADLINE: FEBRUARY 19, 2010

Get Ur Good On

Miley Cyrus recently partnered with Youth Service America to create Get Ur Good On, a social network that brings together youth to support each other in their mission to do "good" in their communities. On November 18th, YSA launched Get Ur Good On Grants that fund youth-led service initiatives on Global Youth Service Day, April 23-25, 2010. Available to children and youth around the world, YSA's Get Ur Good On Grants will award 100 $500 grants to support projects addressing critical community needs such as poverty, education, and environmental sustainability.

More than 3,600 "volunteers" are registered on Get Ur Good On, a space for them to discover what needs fixing in the world, find information on how to get involved, and showcase their work in schools and communities through photos, videos, and blogs. The site links Miley Cyrus' star power with youth voice, giving kids an opportunity to demonstrate how one person can make a difference.

100 grants of $500 each are available. For more information, visit Get Ur Good On.

DEADLINE: FEBRUARY 22, 2010

CONFERENCE/TRAINING ANNOUNCEMENTS

FOCUS On Children

Boston Public Schools DELTAS

Bridging the Gap Conference Requests for Workshops

Boston Public Schools Department of Extended Learning Time, Afterschool and Services (DELTAS) is excited to send out a request for workshops for the 2nd Annual Bridging the Gap Conference: Sustaining the Whole Child, which is supported by the Nellie Mae Education Foundation. Workshops will be framed around the eight focus areas that are critical to sustaining the "Whole Child": Climate, Sustainability, Professional Development, Data and Evaluation, Family and Partner Engagement, Student Support, Expanded Learning Opportunities, and Wellness.

This conference is for everyone who has a stake in the success of Boston's Youth: Out-of-school time providers, "bridging" professionals, educators and administrators, student services and youth development providers, funders and other family and community stakeholders.

The goals of the Bridging the Gap Conference are to: explore how to focus Boston's resources to enable every child and youth to thrive; examine system strategies for aligning in-school and out-of-school programming to support student success; engage in discussion centered on best practices for school-community partnerships.

Please fill out the workshop application accordingly and e-mail back to Morgan Randall no later than **Wednesday, January 22, 2010 at 3:00 PM**.

If you have any further questions please e-mail Morgan Randall or call 617.635-1578.

Improve your math skills & your understanding of the TERC and CMP curricula!
FREE math games for you & your students or child.
Time to play games and identify key concepts and strategies.
4 sections of the workshop broken down by grade level:
Pre-Kindergarten-grade 1: January 8, 22; February 5
Grades 2-3: March 5, 19; April 9, 16
Grades 4-5: April 30; May 7, 14, 21, 28
These courses are also open to parents/guardians!
Limited availability-preference given to groups signing up!
Email completed registration form(s) to Morgan Randall.
Please pass along to anyone who may be interested; all are welcome!

BEST Initiative Winter Training
Youth Development Approach to Violence Prevention
Winter Training 2010
Dates: January 13th, 20th, 26th and February 3rd
Times: 9:30 AM - 2:00 PM

Email registrations to Celina Chan.
For more information about training content, contact Daisy Ortega or call 617.279.2240 x209.
For more information, visit Youth Work Central.

Parent University
Calling All Dads
(Fathers, Stepdads, Grandfathers, Uncles, Brothers, and other male Role Models)
for a day of learning, sharing and celebrating at Parent University

January 30, 2010
8:30 AM - 3:00 PM
Northeastern University - Curry Student Center
360 Huntington Avenue, Boston

8:30 AM: Continental Breakfast and Registration

9:00 AM: Dads: Raising Our Sons
11:30 AM: Dads: The A, B, C'S of Reducing Baby Mama Drama
12:30 PM: Lunch
1:00 PM: New Millennium Dads: Fathering For The Future
Understanding Gender Differences

To find out about other learning sessions or to register, go to Parent University.
For more information, call Parent University at 617.635.1683
Dads do make a Difference!

Tuesday, February 2, 2010
Groundhog Job Shadow Day is a half day event designed to
expose high school students to the world of work.
Host a student and provide a local teen a firsthand look
at the skills and knowledge required to succeed in a career.

For more information about the Boston Private Industry Council's Job Shadow Day,
please contact Tara Raposa or call 617-488-1326.

Advocacy Day for Afterschool & ELO is less than a month away - February 4, 2010!
Please take a moment to REGISTER for Advocacy Day

Now more than ever, it is critical to tell our legislators how essential quality afterschool and expanded learning opportunities are to the development of the whole child. For providing quality services, supporting working families, supporting economic growth, strengthening workforce development and keeping kids safe, the answer is simple: Afterschool Works!

Once you have registered, please check out the Advocacy Preparation resources available here. You will find information on how to schedule and prepare for legislative meetings, engage parents, families and community members, arrange transportation to and from Advocacy Day, as well as policy news and updates. For even more up-to-the-minute information, follow MAP on Twitter!

To arrange for an on-site Advocacy Preparation training at your program, school, or office, and/or to coordinate transportation to the State House via bus from your region, please email Katie Magrane.

Boston Public Schools Department of Extended Learning Time, Afterschool and Services (DELTAS)

SAVE THE DATE
2nd Annual Bridging the Gap Conference
Tuesday, March 30, 2010
University of Massachusetts Conference Center

This year's conference is already shaping up to be a unique and exciting day to learn and connect. The theme for this year will be the "Whole Child" and will focus on a child's cognitive, social, emotional, physical, cultural and creative dimensions. Workshops will be framed around the six areas within "Whole Child": Sustainability/PD/Climate, Data and Evaluation, Partner/Family Engagement, Student Support, Learning Opportunities, and finally Wellness.

This conference is for anyone and everyone who engages with youth in the City of Boston! Out-of-school time providers, 'bridging' professionals, educators, and administrators, student services and youth development providers, funders and other family and community stakeholders are welcome to join us at this year's Bridging the Gap Conference on March 30th.

Boston Public Library's Literacise
Interactive, bilingual children's exhibit

The Boston Public Library (BLP) welcomes young children and their families to Literacise, an interactive exhibit in English and Spanish where they can zig-zag, bunny-hop, and giant step their way through Irene Smalls' story "Jonathan and His Mommy."

Literacise is open through March 31 at BPL's Central Library (700 Boylston Street).
Find out more information

Be the Change!
NAA's 22nd Annual Convention
The 2010 National AfterSchool Association (NAA) Convention will be held in Washington, DC, on April 19-21, 2010.

In partnership with the Afterschool Alliance's Afterschool for All Challenge, we'll shake up the Nation's Capital Afterschool Style!

You simply won't want to miss this historic event.
Online Registration is Now Available!

Co-hosted by the Coalition for Community Schools and the Netter Center for Community Partnerships at the University of Pennsylvania

Community Schools National Forum
April 7-9, 2010, Philadelphia, PA

Building Innovative Partnerships for Student Success: The Key to America's Future

This year we celebrate partnerships because they are at the heart of the community schools approach- bringing schools, families, community residents, higher education and an array of other community partners together around a common result - student success.

Innovation is the word of the day in education reform.
Community schools are an innovation that is turning around student performance ...enabling them to graduate from high school ready for careers, college, and citizenship. Attaining this goal is vital to the future for our nation.

Who should attend? National and local government leaders, school and district leaders, teachers, community-based organization leaders, community school site coordinators, local policymakers, civic-minded organizations, higher education, lead partners, intermediaries, parents and youth.

Keynote Speakers Invited

U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan
U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services Kathleen Sebelius
U.S. Secretary of Housing and Urban Development Shaun Donovan
President of the American Federation of Teachers Randi Weingarten

REGISTER NOW
Questions? Contact Maame Ameyaw or call 202.822.8405, x156

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