



Full-service Schools Roundtable

February 2007

"partnering for Boston students' success"
443 Warren Street • Dorchester, MA 02121 • 617 635 6537
www.fullserviceschoolsroundtable.org

In This Issue

- Roundtable Report
Changes at the Roundtable
- What's Happening with Roundtable Members
Why Does My Child's Math Homework Look So Different from When I Was in School?
- Upcoming Funding Opportunities
Patrick-Murray Inaugural Committee's Charitable Giving Program
- For Your Information
Engaging Elementary Students in Literacy Learning Workshop Series; BOSTnet Leadership Roundtable Series; Boston Campaign for Proficiency; BOSTnet Half-Day Forum; After-School and Youth Advocacy Day; Race, Education, and Democracy Lecture Series; Understanding Trauma and Caring for Caregivers; The Leadership Institute Spring 2007 Course; PEAR Conference
- New & Noteworthy
Leaders Call for "A New Day" for Education

Roundtable Report

EXPANDED Full-Service Schools Website Launched!

The Roundtable is pleased to announce that our highly anticipated [online toolkit](#) is now available on our [website](#)! This comprehensive guide scours the wide field of full-service and community education for the best resources available to those who are working on change within their schools. Topics covered range from planning and development to implementation to sustaining the work - we have tried to provide as much information as possible in one place. Most of the toolkit is comprised of live links to web resources, but what isn't available online is available in hard copy in the Roundtable office. Please feel free to call and inquire about accessing our materials in your work.

Staff Changes at the Full-service Schools Roundtable

The Full-service Schools Roundtable seeks candidates for the position of Executive Director to fill the vacancy created by the departure of founding director, Marta Gredler. A job posting is attached and assistance in disseminating this opportunity widely is appreciated. The position is available immediately and applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis. In the interim, Jill Asser will be staffing the Roundtable on a part-time basis and can be reached by leaving a message at 617-635-6537 or emailing info@fullserviceschoolsroundtable.org.

Marta Gredler, who is transitioning to the BPS Department of Extended Learning Time, Afterschool, and Services (DELTA) where she will manage afterschool programs for the BPS, can be reached at mgredler@boston.k12.ma.us.

What's Happening with Roundtable Members

Why Does My Child's Math Homework Look So Different from When I Was in School? *Helping Parents Understand and Support Their Children's Math Learning*

Alice Levine, BPS Office of Family and Community Engagement

Many parents of elementary school children in Boston, across the state, and across the country are confused by their children's math homework and feel frustrated about not being able to offer their children assistance and guidance. In Boston, where the innovative TERC Investigations program is being used at the elementary level, parents are particularly puzzled as they see their children

Full-service Schools Roundtable Staff

Marta Gredler,
Executive Director

**AnnaLisa Prada-
Fiutak,**
Program Director

Norah Kyle,
Graduate Intern

Visit our website to search
past newsletters for funding
information:

[www.fullserviceschools
roundtable.org](http://www.fullserviceschoolsroundtable.org)

solving problems in nontraditional ways. In an effort to respond to parents' need to better understand and support their children's learning, the BPS Office of Family and Community Engagement is currently offering parent math classes in 3 district elementary schools. These classes allow parents to explore the Investigations approach to teaching and learning mathematics in a relaxed, non-rushed, and parent-friendly environment.

Under the Office of Family and Community Engagement, parent math classes are being held this year at the Trotter School, the Hurley School, and the Winthrop School. Classes run once a week for 10 weeks, during the school day. Even parents who are initially reluctant to come to class because they never liked math themselves, end up enjoying the classes and becoming incredibly engaged in the hands-on problem-solving activities. As one parent at the Trotter class put it, "We knew we needed to come to this class so we could help our kids...but we didn't expect to like it!"

Recently, a number of parents in the class have indicated that their participation has given them the confidence to pursue their own education. Several are facing their fears about math and are preparing to take math courses in college. And all the parents say that the course helps them to help their children with math homework, to make connections between math and daily life, and to talk more knowledgeably with their children's teachers about their children's progress in math. As one parent wrote in her evaluation, "At the beginning of the year, I was looking at the papers and had no idea what I was looking at. Now it makes sense."

The Office of Family and Community Engagement, along with the rest of BPS, is focusing all its efforts on helping to narrow the achievement gap. The classes for parents give adult family members the tools they need to play a more active role in supporting their children's learning—an important factor in helping all children to achieve proficiency.

Upcoming Funding Opportunities

Patrick-Murray Inaugural Committee's Charitable Giving Program *Charitable Grants*

Due to unexpectedly high ticket sales and the generosity of our sponsors, the Inaugural Committee has excess funds that it will be awarding to Massachusetts charities.

Funds Available: Grants ranging from \$1,000 to \$25,000

Eligibility: Massachusetts 501(c)(3) charities with an operating budget of \$3 million or less

Contact:

Link: www.jan4th.org to fill out the "charitable giving" application

Deadline: Thursday, March 1st, 2007

For Your Information

Engaging Elementary Students in Literacy Learning
Workshop Series
presented by Bridging the Gap, the BPS DELTAS Office, and ReadBoston

The Full-service Schools Roundtable appreciates support for its work from The Boston Foundation, Herman and Frieda L. Miller Foundation, Jessie B. Cox Charitable Trust, and an anonymous foundation.

The mission of the Full-service Schools Roundtable is to advance the healthy development and academic success of students in Boston through integrated school/community partnerships. In alignment with BPS goals, the Roundtable increases Boston's capacity to provide comprehensive, school-based supports for children, youth, and families.

Join us for a workshop series for after-school providers focused on the tools and information you need to promote literacy in your programs.

After-School Activities: Fun, Hands-On, and Enriching
Tuesday, February 27th, 2007
9:45 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Presented by: Maria Villarreal, Literacy Advisor, ReadBoston

Writing Poetry with Students
Tuesday, March 13th, 2007
9:45 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Presented by: Sarah E. Farbo, Literacy Advisor, ReadBoston

Workshops take place at ReadBoston
43 Hawkins Street, 2nd Floor (Curley Room)
Boston, MA

Please contact Ayana Neal at aneal@boston.k12.ma.us to register for workshops.

BOSTnet Leadership Roundtable Series
presents

All of Us Are Learning!
*Working with Youth with Learning and Behavior Disabilities
on Homework and Education*

Thursday, March 1st, 2007
10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
Tobin Community Center
1483 Tremont Street, 2nd Floor

Please join us for an introduction to learning disabilities, positive behavioral management, presentations by local providers, discussion, and networking!
Participants receive 2 EEC hours.

To RSVP, please contact:
Monica Zgola
(617) 720-1290 x232
zgola@bostnet.org

The Boston Campaign for Proficiency
presents

Get Smart!
Mindset Workshop

Saturday, March 3rd, 2007
9:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
Holland Community Center

- *Breakfast and childcare will be provided!* -

Why do some people learn at very high levels and others do not?
People who make it in life learn how to learn new things!
Understand the role of effective effort in the learning process and learn how to

help your children tap into their best.
Join us for a great interactive session, full of practical tips and methods parents can use to support your child!

For more information, please contact:
Fran Smith
(617) 541-6815

BOSTnet Middle School Half-Day Forum

Thursday, March 8th, 2007
8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
Northeastern University, Curry Student Center

This FREE forum will provide tools for program providers to create supportive, positive environments for middle school youth to learn and grow.

Mini-Workshop Topics Include:

- Promoting Positive Behavior of Middle-School Youth
- Engaging Families of Middle-School Youth in After-School
- The Basics of Planning Activities and Curriculum for Middle School Youth

Please RSVP with your mini-workshop choice to:
Monica Zgola
(617) 720-1290 x232
zgola@bostnet.org

**Can We Count on You?
After-School and Youth Advocacy Day**

Wednesday, March 14th, 2007
9:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
Massachusetts State House
in the Great Hall
Boston, MA

Have you made appointments with your legislators yet?
Are you interested in coming to the State House with a group from your region?

More information on transportation and how to make appointments for
for Advocacy Day can be found at www.massafterschool.org

**Race, Education, and Democracy Lecture Series
*presented by Simmons College and Beacon Press***

**The Historical and Contemporary Value of Education
in African-American Communities**

Wednesday, March 14th, 2007
4:00 - 6:00 p.m.

**African American Struggles to Reduce the Achievement Gap:
Lessons for Community Educators, Activists, and Policymakers**

"We knew we needed to come to this class so we could help our kids...but we didn't expect to like it!" – A Trotter Parent Participant in the BPS Parent Math Classes

Contact Us

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Thursday, March 15th, 2007
4:00 - 6:00 p.m.

The Historical Context for Understanding Race Conscious Means to
Educational Equality:
Lessons from the Louisville and Seattle Desegregation Cases

Thursday, April 5th, 2007
4:00 - 6:00 p.m.

Civic Education, Citizenship, and Immigration:
Race and Democracy on the 150th Anniversary of the *Dredd Scott* Decision

Friday, April 6th, 2007
4:00 - 6:00 p.m.

All sessions will be held at:
Linda K. Paresky Conference Center
300 The Fenway
Boston, MA

Free and open to the public.
For more information, please visit:
www.raceandeducation.com

The Guidance Center, Inc.
presents

Children with Voices
Understanding Trauma and Caring for Caregivers
8th Annual Conference

A Mini-Conference for Human Service Professionals and Educators Working
with Families Exposed to Violence

Monday, March 19th, 2007
8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
The Charles Hotel
1 Bennett Street, Cambridge, MA

Featured Speakers:

Dr. Richard Bedrosian, on Cognitive and Communication Distortions in
Traumatic Family Systems: Implications for Working Toward Self Esteem and
Competency

Dr. Janina Fisher, on Trauma, Consciousness, and the Body: New Approaches to
the Treatment of Trauma

*Please join us to network, learn strategies for understanding trauma
and caring for ourselves.*

Space is limited.

Please reserve your seat by contacting:

Gabrielle Correia at (617) 354-2275 x0
or

Ilana Amrani-Cohen at (617) 354-2275 x139

Registration fee is \$50 until February 25th, \$55 after March 1st.

The Leadership Institute

Spring 2007 Course

*Resiliency, Behavior Management, and Mental Health
in After-School and Summer Programs*

Tuesdays, March 20th - May 29th, 2007

9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

BPS FCE Title I Training Center

443 Warren Street

Dorchester, MA

This course has the goal of introducing program leaders to the wide-ranging topics necessary to an understanding of the mental, emotional and behavioral worlds of children and adolescents. Experts in the fields of developmental and clinical psychology, trauma, and out-of-school time will address these issues in practical, hands-on sessions. The course costs \$125; scholarships are available and Achieve Boston vouchers are accepted. 30 EEC hours, including 2 in-service hours for BPS teachers, are available. Three undergraduate or graduate credits are available from Cambridge College for an administrative fee of \$150.

Seats are limited.

For more information and/or to register, please contact:

Rachel Green

(617) 635-1578

rgreen2@boston.k12.ma.us

SAVE THE DATE!

The 5th Annual PEAR Conference

the whole child, the whole day

Presented by PEAR, a joint initiative of McLean Hospital and Harvard University

Friday, April 27th, 2007

8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Harvard Medical School Conference Center

77 Avenue Louis Pasteur

Boston, MA

Conference agenda and registration information will be available in late March.

For more information, please contact our Conference Coordinator,

Marjorie Stockford, at mstockford@rcn.com, or visit

www.pearweb.org

New & Noteworthy

LEADERS CALL FOR "A NEW DAY" FOR EDUCATION

A new report from a task force of education and policy experts calls for a sweeping reinvention of the American school day, "cast[ing] aside the notion that learning can occur only between 8 am and 3 pm and within the traditional school day." The report from the Time, Learning, and Afterschool Task Force, supported with funding from the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation, calls for a national dialogue on how to re-imagine education in the United States - how, where and when it occurs, and what its best methods and most appropriate objectives are. Afterschool programs play a key role in the task force's vision.

Afterschool programs are cited throughout the report in case studies highlighting successful approaches for expanding learning opportunities for youth. Citizen Schools of Boston's national network of afterschool programs is spotlighted for its hands-on learning with adult mentors, and the NC NW 3 consortium in northwest North Carolina is hailed as an example of providing afterschool enrichment programs that draw on "place-based" resources integrated with the curriculum.

The report is available online at www.edutopia.com.
Visit Edutopia.org for articles on after-school topics.