

The Boston Full Service Schools Roundtable  
443 Warren Street • Dorchester, MA 02121 • 617 635 6537  
*“helping schools, families and communities to ensure children’s success”*

October 2004 Newsletter

Roundtable Report: Kick-off Meeting Provides ‘Look at the Year Ahead’

On the morning of September 28<sup>th</sup>, over fifty individuals committed to improving public schools in Boston attended the first Boston Full Service Schools Roundtable (BFSSR) meeting of the school year.

Old and new members alike gained a sense of the organization’s mission, structure, accomplishments, and vision for the future. The meeting began with a welcome from BFSSR’s Executive Director, Marta Gredler who shared the organization’s goals:

- Help the community, non-profit and public sectors to create new collaborative full service schools;
- Catalyze a realignment of public resources and an expansion of private resources to support increased and improved delivery of services to children and families; and
- Develop a citywide infrastructure to support and improve full service schools.

Members of BFSSR’s Steering Committee joined in to provide a review of the roundtable’s structure, fundraising, membership outreach and history.

Joy Dryfoos, a member of the organization’s Steering Committee and well-known advocate and researcher of full service schooling, offered a national perspective for community schools. Dryfoos described similar full service community school efforts across the country to significantly reduce barriers to learning through non-academic supports.

Featured speaker, Patrice DiNatale then drew from her experience as Senior Project Manager for Boston Connects and former BPS Cluster Leader and Principal of the Horace Mann School for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, and expanded on the positive effects school and community partnerships can have on student achievement and well-being.

To help realize the Roundtable’s objectives of growing more intentional, integrated school-community partnerships that benefit children and youth in Boston, members were encouraged to join one of the organization’s three workgroups-- Data Collection/ Research, Technical Assistance and Financing/ Sustainability (see box below).

The next BFSSR membership meeting is scheduled for November 17 from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. at the Boston Centers for Youth & Families at 1483 Tremont Street. For more information, please contact Marta Gredler at 617 635-6537 or email: [mgredler@boston.k12.ma.us](mailto:mgredler@boston.k12.ma.us).

Want get involved in BFSSR? Join a Workgroup!

1. **Technical Assistance Workgroup:** Develop protocols and best practices for providing high quality on-site consultations, workshops, training sessions and resources to both school and community partners.  
Next Meeting: Wednesday, November 3<sup>rd</sup>, 3:00-4:30 p.m., BLA, 443 Warren Street, Dorchester.
2. **Data Collection/Research Workgroup:** Build on the efforts of the Children's Hospital Neighborhood Partnership to map existing mental health services being provided to BPS by including health services, social services and community resources in existing database. Develop a logic model and systematic evaluation strategy designed to document the impact of the Roundtable's work.  
Next Meeting: Wednesday, November 17<sup>th</sup>, 12- 2 p.m., Location TBA
3. **Financing/Sustainability Workgroup:** Generate long-term systemic funding strategies that maximize public and private resources to support both full service school program delivery and infrastructure support, including:  
Next Meeting: Thursday, October 28<sup>th</sup>, 3:30 – 5:00 p.m., PA Shaw School

Interested in getting involved in a workgroup? Please attend the next meeting or call Marta Gredler at 617 635 6537!

What's Happening in Boston Public Schools?

“Proficiency for all”: Efforts to Address the Achievement Gap

In his May 10<sup>th</sup> presentation to the School Committee, “Proficiency for All: Closing the Achievement Gap in the Boston Public Schools,” and again during the August Principals Institute, Superintendent Payzant pointed out that various achievement gaps exist and persist between special education students, English Language Learners and regular education students, between Black & Latino and White & Asian students, and with regard to socio-economic status and gender.

The strategies proposed by Dr. Payzant for closing this achievement gap, taken together, comprise a pretty fair approximation of the full services school approach:

- Taking a “whole school” approach, integrating all students, staff and parents into the school’s culture and improvement strategies;
- Supporting principals and headmasters in leading the work, including replicating best practices and engaging families and the community;
- Engaging schools, parents, higher ed institutions, CBOs and others to address the full range of students’ academic and social needs; and
- Identifying students at greatest risk of failure, and providing them with additional instruction time, in part by aligning out-of-school time with BPS curriculum.

Full service schools can play an integral role to assist teachers, parents, communities and students in addressing the barriers to achievement. By providing a range of services, at the school, full service schools are able accomplish two key objectives:

- The resources of their community partners can be used to strengthen families’ focus on child learning, as well as, increase the teachers’ capacities to support children more effectively, and thus increase students’ academic success.

- Full service schools enable children and their families to access this range of services designed to help children overcome barriers to success. Schools, teachers, parents, and community agencies work together to address the needs of the whole child, rather than trying to address a child's problems piecemeal.

Superintendent Payzant indicated his recognition of the critical role that full service schools can play when he stated, "As schools raise expectations for what is possible in the classroom, it will become increasingly clear that schools cannot solve these problems on their own. Other sectors of society—health, employment, housing, investment—must work in concert with one another. This is the only way to overcome the inequalities in American life."

Profile of a Full Service School:  
Washington Irving Middle School

Stepping into the Washington Irving Middle School in Roslindale, one is immediately overcome with the feeling that this is a special place. The school has a bright, warm feel to it. Students, teachers and school staff look busy, but they are smiling. At the Irving School, students and school personnel aren't just working; they are living and learning together. The Washington Irving Middle School is model of how far schools can go when they work in partnership with community agencies.

The Washington Irving Middle School has been partnered with the non-profit Alliance for Inclusion and Prevention (AIP) since 1995. The middle school's partnership with AIP is a model of public and private collaboration that offers students academic and special education services within the school. AIP provides clinical and support staff for 3 Inclusion Day Program classrooms taught by Boston Public Schools teachers. These classrooms serve as alternatives to placements in private therapeutic schools or more restrictive public school settings, and as transition points for students trying to move into regular education classes. The idea is to have all students placed in at least one mainstream class each day and gradually increase that number up to full inclusion, while adjusting the level of clinical support according to the changing needs of each student. Underlying this model is an absolute commitment to educating students in the least restrictive setting possible while also providing all the supports necessary for that to happen successfully.

The joint effort to extend support services to students and families has grown since the partnership's birth ten years ago. Today, in addition to the Inclusion Day Program, the Irving Middle School and AIP offer a range of Extended Day Programs. The AIP operates a Therapeutic Afterschool Program for 50 at-risk students referred by teachers, and Citizens Schools operates an afterschool program for 85 students. Both of these programs and others come under the umbrella of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Boston Community Learning Center (BCLC) operated by AIP in collaboration with Citizen Schools. In addition to the 145 full-time afterschool slots, the BCLC program offers numerous clubs and sports activities open to all 850 Irving students through multiple community partnerships. Examples of school-wide clubs include Girls Soccer, Boys Soccer, Drama, Double Dutch, Media Education, Newspaper, Hip Hop Culture, Dance, Video Production, Computers, Prevention groups, and much more. AIP also leads a school-wide Service Learning Program open to all students where they work with Alzheimers patients, Head Start students, and more. Finally, AIP is able to offer counseling support to many Irving students through its 6 social work interns from 4 area colleges.

The full service schooling partnership between the Irving School and AIP aims to promote healthy child development and academic achievement by coordinating services for families and children. The partnership's Inclusion Day Program has been successful in reducing out of district placements, facilitating transitions into public school, reducing stigmatization, increasing family involvement and keeping students focused on the goal of public school reintegration. The Extended Day programs have enabled the Irving to offer all students a rich menu of full-time afterschool programs as well as sports and clubs. Most importantly, together these programs convey the message to students that they are capable of achieving at

high levels, are connected to caring teachers and AIP staff, and can make important contributions to their community.

For more information about this full service school, contact Bob Kilkenny, Executive Director of AIP, at [info@aipinc.org](mailto:info@aipinc.org).

#### Upcoming Funding Opportunities

1. American Honda Foundation: offers grants to youth and scientific education programs. Visit <http://www.hondacorporate.com> for more information.  
DEADLINE- NOVEMBER 1
2. Tiger Woods Foundation: offers grants to community based programs that promote health, education and welfare of children. Visit <http://www.tigerwoodsfoundation.com>.  
DEADLINE- NOVEMBER 1
4. Clippership Foundation: offers grants to organizations in Greater Boston, Lawrence and Lowell that help the homeless, handicapped, children and aged or address the needs of minority, low-income individuals and families. Visit <http://www.agmconnect.org/clipper1.html> for more information.  
DEADLINE-- NOVEMBER 15
5. Hasbro Children's Foundation: offers grants of up to \$35,000 to programs that address the emotional and physical health of disadvantaged children. Visit <http://www.hasbro.com> for more information.  
ACCEPTING YEAR ROUND

SAVE THE DATE! NEXT BFSSR MEMEBERSHIP MEETING-  
NOVEMBER 17, 2- 4 P.M.  
BOSTON CENTERS FOR YOUTH & FAMILIES, 1483 TREMONT STREET









