

INCLUSION TASK FORCE

**Thursday, October 9, 2014
Campbell Resource Center
1216 Dorchester Ave.
Dorchester, MA
6:00 – 8:00 PM**

Present:

Eileen Nash, Lindsa McIntyre, Aixa Borrero-Sanchez, Maria de Lourdes Serpa, Zach Rossetti, Marty Mitchell, Carolyn Kain, Regina Robinson, Jacqueline Sedgwick, Richard Robison, Bill Henderson (Co-Chair), Karen Zerby Buzzelle (Facilitator).

Absent:

Natalie Ake, Elaine Ng, Jean-Dominique Hervé Anoh, Janet Palmer-Owens, Dianne Lescinskas, Michael Loconto, Marjie Crosby, Jerry Mogul.

Welcome & Introductions

Approval of Inclusion Task Force Meeting Minutes: 9/11/14

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

Updates

- Eileen brought the Task Force recommendations on expanding inclusive options in BPS to the Cabinet. Members were receptive and agree that next step is to bring recommendations to the School Committee. Cabinet members are interested in exploring issues around certification and diverse hiring.
- Eileen presented some updates on data, although the information is not yet finalized. Boston is still behind the State on percentage of students who are in full-inclusion and there are several challenges to collecting accurate data, including the need for a more accurate method of tracking students in partial-inclusion, more data on ELL students and taking into account a new coding system. It appears that while there are still discrepancies based on race and class, overall all more students are being included than in 2011. Marty noted that is important to find ways to bring students back who have left the district.

School Quality Recommendations

- Task Force members worked together to finalize recommendations, using the format of the School Quality Working Group's recommendations. Bill emphasized that the group will make every effort to reach consensus on each recommendation.
- Members identified outcomes and indicators for the domains of Student Performance, Family, Community and Culture and Student Access and Opportunities. Members will continue discussing outcomes and indicators for the domains of Leadership and Collaboration and Teaching and Learning at the November meeting.

Other Announcements

- Task Force members congratulated Headmaster Lindsa McIntyre on the tremendous turnaround of the Burke High School.
- Bill acknowledged that the new standardized test PARCC will allow for more opportunities for Students with Disabilities.
- Regina announced that on November 8, BTU will be hosting for the first time, a parent-to-parent conference. BTU members are committed to focusing on Inclusion and reaching out to parents and families.

Next Meeting

November 13th, at the Federation for Children with Special Needs located in the Schrafft Center, 529 Main St. Suite 1M3, Charlestown.