



Full-service Schools Roundtable

December 2004

"partnering for Boston student's success"
443 Warren Street Dorchester MA 02121 617 635 6537

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Many thanks to designer Cathy Moylan, Moylan Design (www.moylandesign.com) for our new logo.

Roundtable Report: Building a Learning Community

The Full-service Schools Roundtable is a citywide coalition comprised of educators, community organizations, full-service school providers, university partners, city and state representatives, and advocates –all dedicated to increasing Boston's capacity to provide coordinated, comprehensive, school-based supports for children, youth and families. In addition to participating in workgroups (see below), Roundtable members come together at bi-monthly meetings for dialogue about our individual and collective work and to learn from one another.

At our November meeting, members had the opportunity to hear from two city leaders in the movement to promote the healthy development of children, families and community members - Robert Lewis, the newly named Director of the Boston Centers for Youth & Families (BCYF) and Anne McHugh, Boston STEPS Director, Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC). Both shared their commitment to foster collaborative strategies for addressing community needs and encouraged members to consider each of their agencies as potential allies. For more information about BCYF, call 617 635 4920 or visit their website at <http://www.cityofboston.gov/bcyf>. To be added to an email list for Boston STEPS updates, email amchugh@bphc.org.

In January, all are invited to attend the next Roundtable meeting which will feature a presentation by Heather Weiss, Director of the Harvard Family Research Project. The meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 14th, 2005, 9 – 11 am at the Egan Center, Room 340, Northeastern University. More information will be sent out later this month. We invite all to join us as, together, we think, talk, and plan how to move our work forward in a way that benefits all.

For more information, or to participate in a workgroup, please contact Marta Gredler at 617 635-6537 or email: mgredler@boston.k12.ma.us.

Workgroup Update

1. **Technical Assistance Workgroup:** This group will guide the development of protocols and best practices for providing high quality on-site consultations, workshops, training sessions and resources to both school and community partners. Next Meeting: January 14th, 9:30 – 11:00 am, BLA, 443 Warren St. Dorchester

"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."

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2. [Data Collection/Research Workgroup](#): This group is reviewing existing data about health services, social services and community resources and determining how to document the impact of the Roundtable's work. Next Meeting: TBA
3. [Financing/Sustainability Workgroup](#): This group has begun to develop financing recommendations that can be useful to those seeking ways to sustain school-based services. Next Meeting: TBA

What's Happening in Boston Public Schools: A Look at Family Engagement Initiatives

Engaging families in children's learning is an essential part of fostering student achievement. Boston Public Schools recognizes the importance of family involvement in education and has established a Family and Community Engagement Initiative through the Deputy's Office of Family and Community Engagement. Through a partnership with the Face to Face Program, the Family and Community Engagement Initiative is working to "create a culture of partnership in the district among schools, families, and community members that support high standards and quality of educational outcomes for all students."

Run by the Home for Little Wanderers, the Face to Face Program works with parents of school age and preschool children to "enhance parent involvement in their children's education." To this end, the Face to Face Program provides trainings, workshops, and support groups to parents so that they are better able to help their children succeed in school. Please visit their website for more information
<http://www.thehome.org/facetoface>.

This year, the Family and Community Engagement Initiative and the Face to Face Program are working on three main projects to increase family and community involvement in learning: the establishment of Information Stations in Family Resource Centers, the Ambassador Program and the Summer Campaign. These programs seek to improve family engagement by tackling two important areas-- outreach and technical assistance.

Both the creation of Information Stations in Parent Resource Centers and the Summer Campaign are outreach programs that provide information to BPS families about resources that are available to them. Information Stations are meant to serve as a kind of "one stop shopping" for families-- providing information about an assortment of potential resources including adult education, health insurance, and school registration. The Summer Campaign works to notify over 1100 BPS families about potential resources available to them by reaching out to them in their communities. Through the campaign, BPS seeks out families who may be in need of help, reaching out to parents in places that they go-- supermarkets, health clinics and other community centers.

The Ambassador Program, a new program within BPS, addresses another important aspect of family engagement by offering technical assistance to schools. Through the Ambassador Program, a Family and Community Engagement staff member is assigned to serve as an Ambassador to each school. By working with parent liaisons and coordinators, Ambassadors assist schools with the development and implementation of parent engagement initiatives, often providing help with parent orientations, open houses, councils, volunteer programs.

For more information about the Family Engagement Initiative and the Face to Face Program, please visit the website at

"We learn, we care, we grow."

[http://www.thehome.org/facetoface.](http://www.thehome.org/facetoface)

Profile of a Full-Service School: The Lucy Stone Elementary School

The Lucy Stone School is a model of how bright schools can shine when students, school staff, families and communities are working together towards student success. As one steps into the Lucy Stone, it becomes clear that partnerships are engrained into the school's philosophy and daily operation. At the front of the school's entry way, a bright colored sign reads, "We learn, we care, we grow." Adjacent to the door, another large sign declares the school's mission statement: "The Lucy Stone community—students, staff, parents, neighborhood, agency, university and business partners—will provide an effective and enriched education focused on strong skill development and preparation for productive and responsible membership in society." A look at the school's wide array of programs reveals that the Lucy Stone School is truly a community and that all community members are learning, caring and growing as a result of strong partnerships.

The Lucy Stone Initiative is the school's five year work plan aimed at addressing the needs of the whole child by offering as many services as possible to students and families at the school through partnerships. Over the past few years, partnerships through the initiative have been effective in fostering academic achievement, providing support to families in need, and in improving school climate.

Through strong relationships with community partners, the Lucy Stone School has grown from a school identified in need of corrective action to a school meeting MCAS adequate yearly progress in literacy and in math. The school's full-time learning coordinator has played a central role in this, working closely with teachers and students who are enrolled in the after school program or who are identified as at risk. In addition, through the federal program, "Reading First," the school has been able to attain a full-time reading coach and thousands of new books. Also, for the past five years, Project Aspire has worked closely with the school, bringing Harvard graduate students into classrooms to work with students to promote reading and social development.

Partnerships with community agencies have also enabled the Lucy Stone School to provide increased support to families. Through a relationship with FAMILY Inc., the Lucy Stone has a Family Liaison to help families to access resources that they need. Partnerships with community agencies have also enabled the school to run a before school program, an after school program, and a universal breakfast program. Last year, a partnership with Lenscrafters provided students with eye exams and glasses.

Business partners at the Lucy Stone School have played a central role in improving school climate by increasing resources at the school. Partners such as John Hancock, Hestia, The Group and General Dynamics have provided funding for computers, the construction of a new library, conference room and Parent Center.

During the next few weeks, the Lucy Stone School will partner with community agencies and businesses to meet the needs of students and families during the Holiday season. With the support of FAMILY Inc. and the Home for Little Wanderers, the school will help students and families in need access coats and toys. This week, after reading "The Polar Express," publisher Houghton Mifflin will bring all students at the school to

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The Full-service Schools
Roundtable appreciates
support for its work from:
The Boston Foundation,
Herman and Freida L.

see the film. John Hancock will offer a holiday program at the school, providing each student with a gift.

For more information about The Lucy Stone School, contact Kim Moloney, Director of School, Community and Clinical Partnerships at kmoloney@boston.k12.ma.us or at (617) 635 8773.

Upcoming Funding Opportunities

Staples Foundation for Learning: provides support to programs that support or provide job skills or education for all people, with a special emphasis on disadvantaged youth. Visit <http://www.staplesfoundation.org> for more information.

DEADLINE—January 3

IBM MA Corporate Community Relations Program: provides grants to statewide and local initiatives encouraging K-12 Education Reform. Visit <http://www.agmconnect.org> for more information.

DEADLINE- February 15

HP Technology Teaching Grant Initiative: provides support for innovative and effective uses of technology in the classroom setting. Visit <http://www.hp.com/go/hpteach> for more information.

DEADLINE- February 15

Pay it Forward Foundation: provides funding for service-oriented projects identified by children to benefit their schools, neighborhoods, or greater communities. Projects should also include learning goals for the youth participants. Visit <http://www.payitforward.org> for more information.

DEADLINE- The 15th of Every Month, September to June

Carlisle Foundation: provides support to innovative, new programs that emphasize substance abuse, homelessness/housing, domestic and community violence, economic development and other services for children, youth and families. Visit

<http://www.carlislefoundation.org/annualgrants> for more information.

ACCEPTING YEAR ROUND

For Your Information: The Coalition for Community Schools National Conference Announcement

Join us for three days of learning and networking with people working to create community schools across the country (March 9 through 11). Visit successful Chicago community schools to see how they work, participate in interactive skill-building workshops, and hear from well-known senior education, community, and political leaders discussing the benefits of community schools. The keynote speaker will be Richard Rothstein, the former New York Times education columnist. Featured guests: Arne Duncan, Superintendent of Chicago Public Schools and other prominent leaders to be confirmed soon.

To register to attend the conference, visit <http://www.communityschools.org>. A group of members from the Roundtable will be attending the conference. If you would like to receive our group discount rate, please contact us by January 7th.

Miller
Foundation, Jessie B. Cox
Charitable Trust, and an
anonymous foundation.