



# Full-service Schools Roundtable

February 2008

*"partnering for Boston students' success"*

443 Warren Street • Dorchester, MA 02121 • 617 635 6537  
[www.fullserviceschoolsroundtable.org](http://www.fullserviceschoolsroundtable.org)

## In This Issue

- Roundtable Report
- Upcoming Funding Opportunities
- For Your Information
- Conference/Workshop/Event Announcements

## Stay Tuned...

for the date of our next Roundtable meeting

## Contact Us

Abby R. Weiss  
Executive Director  
Full-service Schools Roundtable  
443 Warren Street  
Dorchester, MA 02121

email: [aweiss@boston.k12.ma.us](mailto:aweiss@boston.k12.ma.us)

P: (617) 635-6537  
F: (617) 635-8027

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

## Roundtable Report

On January 17, 2008, we held our first Roundtable meeting of the new year.

Focused on "Sustaining Full-service Schools and Mental Health Services for Children," this program grew out of the report produced by Community Matters and The Finance Project for the Roundtable and Boston After School & Beyond. This report, entitled *"Investing in Student Success: Financing School-Connected Initiatives in Boston,"* provides us with critical information, documenting the challenges of tracking how dollars are used for comprehensive services. The report contributes to the dialogue, across sectors, about how to make strong, full-service programs available to all children. This Roundtable meeting was the first of three convenings to be focused on sustainability. We are grateful to the Barr Foundation and Wallace Foundation for supporting this work.

The meeting was a chance for Roundtable members to meet our new director, Abby Weiss, who shared some of the results of our recent strategic planning process. More than 50 people heard excellent presentations by Marty Blank, Director of the Coalition for Community Schools, and Emily Sherwood, Director of Children's Behavioral Health Interagency Initiatives, Executive Office of Health and Human Services (EOHHS).

What follows is a summary of the meeting:

**Marty Blank's** presentation focused on sustaining full-service community schools. He shared important national trends:

- The new federal budget provides \$5 million to fund full-service community schools. An RFP will be released in the Federal Register in the next couple of weeks;
- Congress approved \$100 million in funding for afterschool programs in spite of the fact that it has been a very difficult budget year in which Head Start suffered budget cuts.
- City-wide full-service/community schools initiatives are gaining strength. Chicago has 110 community schools, Portland, OR, is thriving, and Baltimore has support of high-level policymakers for its district-wide initiative.
- The Coalition for Community Schools and others are working to embed community school language into NCLB revisions.

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.

The Full-service Schools Roundtable appreciates support for its work from Herman and Frieda L. Miller Foundation and an anonymous foundation.

Marty challenges the field to stay focused, strategic, and results-oriented in order to sustain comprehensive programs. Marty argues that sustainability also requires:

- Leadership - with clear vision and a focus on results - at the grass tops and grass roots;
- Manageable programs;
- Building on existing initiatives and finding common ground;
- Working across boundaries and breaking down categorical silos;
- Transparent data; and
- Community involvement.

Emily Sherwood gave a detailed overview of the state's plans to implement the court order from the *Rosie D. v. Romney* class action lawsuit. Found in violation of the federal Medicaid Act by failing to provide adequate community-based mental health services to an estimated 15,000 children with serious emotional disturbance, the state is required to provide:

- Behavioral health screening in primary care settings;
- Improved and standardized clinical assessment (all will need to use Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths - CANS); and
- Coordination of services to be delivered through Community Service Agencies (CSAs).

Emily's office is required to develop the implementation plan and solicit stakeholder feedback. EOHHS will issue a Request for Information (RFI) in the next few weeks; check the state Comm-PASS website (<https://www.ebidsourcing.com/>) for its release. Though the court order does not specifically mandate a role for schools, Emily and her team want to hear about ways to connect schools with CSAs; the RFI is an opportunity to share your ideas with them.

Emily offered her thoughts about some of the possible benefits of the remedy for the student support field:

- By insisting that universal mental health screenings are integrated into physical health assessments, pediatricians will become critical resource for families. This will also challenge the stigma commonly associated with behavioral health issues.
- Strengthening the infrastructure for basic mental health services for children on Medicaid raises the quality bar for all mental health programs.
- The required holistic approach to child services is strongly supported by Governor Patrick and his administration.

Finally, Emily acknowledged that this 5-year plan will take an enormous amount of money to implement (\$100 million in FY 2010 alone and increases beyond that in the out years). This will create a particularly challenging funding environment next year.

Emily's Powerpoint slides from her presentation outline the remedy and plans for implementation and are posted on the Roundtable website: [www.fullserviceschoolsroundtable.org](http://www.fullserviceschoolsroundtable.org)

The Roundtable's new Executive Director, **Abby Weiss**, also shared some Roundtable news and a peek at our new strategic direction:

The Roundtable is at a very exciting moment in its history. Building on the successes of its first seven years and in recognition of the changing landscape in Boston, the Roundtable's steering committee has completed a strategic planning process and established three long-term goals:

- Increase awareness of/demand for full-service schools by building community support for and public understanding of the work and its benefits;
- Expand the number of schools that are engaged in this work; and
- Advance a policy and advocacy agenda that promotes and preserves full-service schools.

To achieve these goals, for the next few years we will no longer deliver one-on-one technical assistance to schools but will focus on promoting broader systems change. We will continue to serve as a resource to schools and community partners in Boston by:

- Expanding our own knowledge and expertise about what's taking place here in Boston, in Massachusetts and beyond;
- Sharing information about the power of evaluation for program improvement, encouraging schools and programs to use data for this purpose;
- Connecting schools and programs with technical assistance providers and other key partners; and
- Focusing on increasing visibility and knowledge about the full-service schools model, particularly to promote engagement and support of policymakers in this important work.

We invite you to share your thoughts and feedback with us. What do you think of our new direction? What suggestions do you have about ways we can most effectively influence policy in Boston and beyond? How can we help you? Please email Abby at [aweiss@boston.k12.ma.us](mailto:aweiss@boston.k12.ma.us)

## ***Upcoming Funding Opportunities***

### **Federal Funding Available for Full-service Community Schools**

The new federal budget contains \$5 million to fund Full-service Community Schools, for which the US DOE will be issuing an RFP in the Federal Register in the next couple of weeks. This RFP will have a 60 day turn around and will be tailored closely to Appropriations Conference Report language. To view specific language, visit: [www.communityschools.org/CCSDocuments/hr\\_110-231\\_and\\_amendment.pdf](http://www.communityschools.org/CCSDocuments/hr_110-231_and_amendment.pdf)

The Department will be making between 8 and 15 awards, with between \$75,000 and \$500,000 available per award. The lower number reflects the minimum that an individual school can receive and makes clear that smaller districts are potential applicants.

There will be a peer review process for selecting applicants. Although the number of awards is small, applicants should tell their Senators and Representatives about their interest in Full-service Community Schools. This will help leverage greater resources in the future.

**DEADLINE: NOT YET ANNOUNCED, MORE INFORMATION TO FOLLOW**

## **Implementation Grants for School-Based Literacy Programs**

The Toyota Family Literacy Program, administered by the National Center for Family Literacy (NCFL), addresses the growing educational needs of Hispanic families and other immigrant families. The program, which targets students in kindergarten through third grade and their parents, seeks to help increase English language skills for adults while also supporting their involvement in their children's education. Focusing on communities with large immigrant populations, NCFL will provide five school districts with awards of \$600,000 to implement this highly successful program.

For more information, visit:

[www.familit.org/site/c.gtJWJdMQIsE/b.3781979/](http://www.familit.org/site/c.gtJWJdMQIsE/b.3781979/).

**DEADLINE: FEBRUARY 15, 2008** for capability survey

## **Motorola Offers Innovation Generation Grants for Science and Math Education Programs**

In 2008, the Motorola Foundation will provide a total of \$4 million in Innovation Generation Grants to organizations that engage K-12 students and teachers in the U.S. in innovation, science, technology, engineering, and math.

Funding priority will be placed on pioneering programs that engage students and teachers in innovative, hands-on activities; teach innovation and creative problem-solving skills; focus on girls and underrepresented minorities; engage Motorola employees as volunteers; take place in Arizona, California, Florida, Illinois, Massachusetts, New York, Pennsylvania, and Texas communities where Motorola has an employee presence; demonstrate measurable outcomes; and are less than two years old.

Grant applicants may request up to \$100,000 each. Select organizations may be asked to apply for larger grants. Grants will be for one year of project work, starting after June 2008.

For more information, visit:

[www.motorola.com/content.jsp?globalObjectId=8153](http://www.motorola.com/content.jsp?globalObjectId=8153).

**DEADLINE: MARCH 1, 2008**

## **Brown Rudnick Charitable Foundation Unveils New Grant Program Designed to Help Inner-City Educators**

The Brown Rudnick Charitable Foundation Corp., a nonprofit tax-exempt entity established by attorneys from Brown Rudnick Berlack Israels LLP, has launched a Community Grant Program. Created to support frontline educators who often do not have a voice in funding decisions, the program will subsidize small, concrete projects to improve inner-city education in Boston, Hartford, Providence, or New York City.

The applicant must be a "frontline educational worker" who is involved in education or a related field in one of the communities eligible for grants. The proposed recipient must be a nonprofit or tax-exempt organization (e.g., a public school) that is willing to accept the grant and use it in the required manner. The proposed use of the grant must be to fund a specific, one-time future education-related need or idea that promises to improve inner-city education within one year of the grant award.

The foundation will generally consider grant applications monthly and award grants in an amount totaling not more than \$2,000 in any one month.

For more information, visit:

[www.brownrudnickcenter.com/foundation/communitygrant.asp](http://www.brownrudnickcenter.com/foundation/communitygrant.asp).

**DEADLINE: ROLLING**

### ***For Your Information***

#### **Community Schools: A Rationale and Results Framework for Student Success**

A new on-line resource for community school leaders and practitioners, this tool features specific results that community schools seek for students, families and communities, and indicators for measuring progress toward these results. Also included in this resource is a tool to gauge the capacity of a community school to attain results, a research document that supports the indicators identified, a menu of data sources for each indicator and results frameworks that have been developed by local initiatives.

The Coalition for Community Schools would like to include your results framework on their website. If you have one you are willing to share, please send it to [ccs@iel.org](mailto:ccs@iel.org) or contact Amy Berg at 202-822-8405x100.

### ***Conference/Workshop/Event Announcements***



**Lobby Day is Coming!!! February 27, 2008**

In order to get the most leverage out of the ASOST Commission report, Lobby Day will be held earlier this year. Please keep this day open to join in advocating for Boston's out-of-school time opportunities.

If you will not be able to attend at the State House on February 27th, please take the time to write or call your representative. The time is right and with the newly released report, we anticipate that the state legislature will be more receptive to our requests.

Budget issues of particular importance (it is likely that the final numbers will change as the process unfolds):

- Increase of ASOST grant from \$2 million to \$14 million
  - o Include language to push for multi-year funding
  - o Expand MAP earmark and related activities
- An additional \$10 million additional funding to reduce the Department of Early Education and Care waitlist through expanded vouchers and contracted slots
  - o Extend school-age voucher eligibility to age 14 or 8th grade.
- \$6 million to create a new Afterschool Professional Development Fund



**Race, Culture, Identity & Achievement Seminar Series**  
**February 14, 2008, 4:00-6:00 pm**  
**Closing the Achievement Gap for Latino Students:**  
**What Does it Take?**  
**Wheelock Family Theater, 200 The Riverway, Boston**

Join Eugene García, Vice President, Education Partnerships Curriculum and Instruction, Mary Lou Fulton College of Education, Arizona State University to discuss how race, culture, and identity are implicated in the school achievement of Boston's increasingly multiethnic student population.



**National Forum for the Coalition for Community Schools**  
**April 30 - May 2, 2008**  
**Portland, Oregon**

[Click here](#) to go to the National Forum website.

Key Note Speakers:

- Pedro Noguera, author, professor and nationally known expert on education and diversity.
- Ira Harkavy, Coalition Chair and Director of the Center for Community Partnerships at the University of Pennsylvania
- Others to be announced.

Learn from the experience of the SUN Community Schools Initiative that is making schools the hub of their neighborhoods.

Co-hosted by SUN Schools Initiative, Multnomah County and the Oregon Commission on Children and Families

Questions? Contact Maame Ameyaw at 202-822-8405 x156 or [ameyawm@iel.org](mailto:ameyawm@iel.org).