



Full-service Schools Roundtable

"partnering for Boston students' success"

443 Warren Street Dorchester MA 02121 617 635 6537

May 2005

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Join Us!

Conversation with Joy Dryfoos, Jane Quinn and Richard Negrón

On the occasion of the release of their new book

Community Schools in Action

At The Full-service Schools Roundtable Meeting

Thursday, June 16, 2005
3:30 - 5 pm

With reception to follow(invitation attached)

Boston College
Vanderslice Hall, Caberet Room

RSVP to Marta Gredler at mgredler@boston.k12.ma.us or at 617-635-6537

To attend the reception, RSVP by June 13th

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For Your Information

“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.”

Roundtable Report: Addressing the Barriers to Academic Achievement/ Partnering for Boston Students’ Success Forum

Over 200 people representing Boston Public Schools, nonprofits, hospitals, foundations and universities attended the forum “Addressing the Barriers to Academic Achievement: Partnering for Boston Students’ Success,” held at The Boston Foundation on May 16th.

The forum featured a keynote address by **Richard Rothstein**, author of **Class and Schools: Using Social, Economic and Educational Reform to Close the Black-White Achievement Gap**.

Presenting Boston’s strategies for addressing the gap was a panel moderated by Dr. Blenda Wilson, President of the Nellie Mae Education Foundation that included: Thomas Payzant, Superintendent of Boston Public Schools, Robert Lewis, Jr., Executive Director of the Boston Centers for Youth & Families, M. Laurie Cammisa, Vice President for Child Advocacy at Children’s Hospital Boston, and Milton Little Jr., President and CEO at United Way of Massachusetts Bay.

Mr. Rothstein cited differences in social class as a key factor affecting the levels of educational success for children. In his book, Rothstein writes, “For nearly half a century, the association of social and economic disadvantage with a student achievement gap has been well known to economists, sociologists and educators. Most, however, have avoided the obvious implication—raising the achievement of lower-class children requires amelioration of the social and economic conditions of their lives, not just school reform.” While he lauded the work of educators, especially those involved with afterschool programming, he emphasized the need for connecting to and supporting other programs, resources and policies that affect low income students and their families.

In his address, Rothstein shared compelling evidence from “**Meaningful Differences**,” a study conducted in Kansas that examined the differences in childrearing among families of different social classes and the resulting effects on educational achievement. According to the study, the differences in the way middle class parents communicate with their children when compared to low-income parents produces advantages for middle class children leading to increased vocabulary and self-confidence. Rothstein recommended higher quality intellectual experiences for children including parents spending more time reading to their children, better qualified childcare providers, less television watching and more play with manipulative toys.

Although afterschool and summer programs help children make significant educational gains, those programs alone are not enough to support student achievement. On the macro level, Rothstein emphasized other crucial factors that school reform supporters must also address. Healthcare, healthcare access and macroeconomic policies that govern housing and unemployment issues all affect low income student achievement.

Superintendent of Boston Public Schools, **Thomas Payzant** urged support for standards based reform to support low income students' preparation to compete and become part of the middle class. If public policies are aligned in a strategic way, families will be dealt with as a whole, improving the effectiveness of comprehensive school reform efforts.

To better coordinate efforts to bring resources to more schools, **M. Laurie Cammisa**, from Children's Hospital's Office of Child Advocacy, suggested the development of a model or system. Cammisa emphasized the role of institutions to become corporate citizens by bringing in other services and resources to schools.

Robert Lewis Jr., Executive Director of Boston Centers for Youth and Families likened full-service schools to old settlement houses, where knowing providers and having "one stop shops" were essential to their effectiveness in meeting the needs of families. Changes to schools must include developing safe and comfortable environments for parents to talk to teachers about their children's education.

United Way's **Milton Little Jr.** pledged their support for children, young people, employment and housing as a result of strategic planning the organization engaged in over the last year. Their new vision seeks to ensure that, over the next 10 years, the Boston area is seen as the most child and youth friendly in the nation.

The forum concluded with a call to action from **Marta Gredler**, of the Full Service Schools Roundtable, for better alignment across sectors of the community, bringing together key strategies in Rothstein's book, including early childhood education, after-school and summer programs, child health and mental healthcare and advocacy.

The forum was co-sponsored by The Full-service Schools Roundtable, Massachusetts 2020, the Nellie Mae Education Foundation, Boston Public Schools, Boston Centers for Youth & Families, Boston After School & Beyond, The Boston Foundation, and the United Way of Massachusetts Bay.

Roundtable in Action: Get More Involved by Joining a Workgroup!

The Financing/Sustainability Workgroup needs you to become a member! Become a part of this vital group to identify systemic funding strategies that maximize public and private resources to support both school program delivery and infrastructure support.

Next Meeting Date: TBD

To join, contact Marta Gredler at mgredler@boston.k12.ma.us.

The Technical Assistance Workgroup has been focused on creating the Roundtable's TA process.

The mission of the Boston Asthma Initiative is to reduce the incidence and prevalence of asthma morbidity and mortality among Boston children through educating, raising awareness, improving care and access to care, and identifying and addressing environmental factors in homes and schools contributing to asthma.

Currently, we are focusing on the use of consultants. Who should they be, what qualifications and skills should they have and how do we provide support to them. We welcome new thoughts & ideas at our next meeting at Boston Latin Academy!

Next Meeting Date: Friday, June 3rd, 9:30–11 am

To join, contact Anne Greenbaum at annetruro@comcast.net.

The Data Collection Workgroup is solidifying its data collection and evaluation tools. Join us at the Home for Little Wanderers for a discussion of the future of data collection at the Full-service Schools Roundtable.

Next Meeting Date: Thursday, May 26th, 3:00-5 pm

To join, contact Marta Gredler at mgredler@boston.k12.ma.us.

What's Happening in Boston: A Look at the Boston Asthma Initiative

The Boston Asthma Initiative(BAI) works with schools, health centers, hospitals, community groups and families to reduce the incidence and prevalence of asthma morbidity and mortality among Boston children. Formerly known as the Jamaica Plain Asthma Environmental Initiative when it was established in 1997, the BAI, was led by community members in Jamaica Plain as well as representatives from area nonprofits, Brigham and Women's Hospital, Faulkner and Children's Hospital. The initiative set forth to:

- Educate children and families about asthma;
- Increase public awareness about it's causes and effects;
- Improve care and access to care related to asthma;
- Identify and address environmental factors in homes and schools contributing to asthma.

The BAI has had much success since its inception eight years ago, developing solid programming and collaborations to address the prevalent issue of asthma in urban communities. Over the years, the BAI widened its scope to work with other Boston area communities, hence the name change. Its four prong approach seeks to connect homes, schools, communities and health centers to each other to maximize the impact on asthma morbidity and mortality.

Due to limited staffing, the BAI scaled down it's programs this school year to work with four Boston Public Schools: The Mendell, Curley Elementary and Curley Middle and the Hennigan School. There are two capacities in which the BAI works with a school:

- The BAI, in collaboration with MassCOSH, examines a school's environment through an air quality grant from the EPA.
- With the Open Airways and other curricula from the National Heart and Lung Association, the BAI also supports schools in educating students in grades K-5 about asthma prevention and

care.

With home visits and a swimming program, the BAI provides unique outreach and support to families around the care and prevention of asthma. The BAI's home visiting program provides education and support throughout a one year period to families referred by doctors and school nurses. With the Boston Public Health Commission and Children's Hospital, BAI helps youth from the ages of 7-13 learn about asthma in a fun and active way through the Swimming program at Curtis Hall in Jamaica Plain. All participating children have asthma and are recruited for the program through home visits, health center referrals and community outreach.

To learn more about The Boston Asthma Initiative please call 617-971-0863 or e-mail at bostonasthmainitiative@verizon.net.

Becoming a Community School: A Step-by-Step Guide to Bridging the School-Family Gap

Becoming a Community School tells the story of the Robert L. Ford School, a full-service school in Lynn, Massachusetts. Located in the heart of one of Massachusetts' poorest neighborhoods, the Ford School struggled to meet the needs of students in the 1990's against overwhelming odds—high crime rates, drug use, violence, and vandalism plagued the city. By working closely with families and community members, the Ford School has been able to successfully identify and address community needs. Today, school staff describe the Ford School as a "neighborhood village with the school at the epicenter." The school is now able to offer a wide range of supports including literacy and enrichment programs for students, education and life skills programs for their parents, English language instruction, on-site high school and college courses, and access to experienced teachers, nurses, psychologists and social workers.

While *Becoming a Community School* is certainly an inspirational account of how full-service schools can better serve communities, it offers more than that. The book lays out a clear, specific outline of what schools can do to grow into community schools. *Becoming a Community School* not only explains the importance of relationship building, it offers specific suggestions on what schools can do to build partnerships with families, universities, and the larger community. For each type of partnership, the book lists and explains what each partner should offer and expect to receive. In addition, the book offers instructions on what schools can do to develop and sustain partnerships with families, universities and communities.

Becoming a Community School is an extremely useful tool for any school looking for ways to better serve their students. Written by teachers with support from the Project for School Innovation, the book highlights the Ford's best practices, offering honest and practical advice for other schools.

Many thanks to designer
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The Project for School Innovation is a non-profit organization based in Dorchester, MA that helps public schools share their success stories. To learn more about *Becoming a Community School* or the Project for School Innovation, please visit the Project for School Innovation's web site at <http://www.psinnovation.org>.

Upcoming Funding Opportunities

Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts Foundation, Closing the Gap on Racial and Ethnic Health Care Disparities: supports programs that identify disparities in racial and ethnic health care disparities and provide programming to raise awareness and help reduce disparities.

For more information, please visit <http://www.bcbsmafoundation.org>

LETTERS OF INQUIRY: June 3rd by 5:00 pm

U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services: provides funding for nonprofits and schools that create technology or media services for individuals with disabilities. For more information, contact:

Jo Ann McCann, U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue, SW., room 4067, Potomac Center Plaza, Washington, DC 20202-2600, Telephone: (202) 245-7434, or visit:

<http://a257.g.akamaitech.net/7/257/2422/01jan20051800/edocket.access.gpo.gov/2005/05-8615.htm>

DEADLINE: June 13

Foley Hoag Foundation: is a private foundation that seeks to combat racism, especially among youth, in the City of Boston. The foundation awards grants to organizations that work to improve Boston's racial climate by addressing issues of diversity and race. For more information, please visit the following web-link: www.fhe.com/pages.asp?pageID=000322094505

Jordan Fundamentals Program: supports outstanding teaching and instructional creativity in public secondary schools that serve economically disadvantaged students. Applicants must develop an original lesson plan or thematic unit that demonstrates high expectations for students. Award Size is \$2500. For more information, please visit:

<http://www.nike.com/nikebiz/nikebiz.jhtml?page&iten=jordan>

DEADLINE: June 15

The American Dental Association: provides funding to organizations whose oral health promotion programs are designed to improve and maintain children's oral health. Please visit: http://www.ada.org/ada/prod/adaf/prog_aces_harris.asp

DEADLINE: July 9

Project Bread's After-School Snack Incentive Grants: Project Bread is encouraging after school programs in low-income neighborhoods to offer healthy snacks to the children they serve through the federally funded Child and Adult Care Food Program, which offers cash reimbursement for programs in at-risk communities. To learn more about Child and Adult Care Food Program and how to apply, please contact Maria Infante at Project Bread at (617) 239-2583 or maria_infante@projectbread.org

DEADLINE: Ongoing

For Your Information:

Resources

LOOKING FOR SUMMER IDEAS FOR STUDENTS?

BPS publishes Summer Stuff & Summer Stuff Jr. 2005 for grades k-12. It's available in schools, libraries, neighborhood centers, and on the BPS website: <http://www.boston.k12.ma.us>.

Guide for Creating & Improving School/Business Partnerships

This How-To Guide is designed for school officials and business leaders who are interested in engaging in school-business partnerships. Whether you are already engaged in partnerships, or are embarking on your first partnership, this guide can provide valuable insight on effective strategies. To obtain your copy, visit: <http://www.corpschoolpartners.org/guide.shtml>

Call for Proposals

**The Coalition for Essential Schools
Fall Forum 2005
"Reclaiming the Freedom to Learn"
November 3-5**

Boston Marriott Copley Place Hotel

Join educators, parents, students, and other leading thinkers in education at the CES annual conference to exchange ideas, ask questions, and share insights from schools around the world. This year we focus on creating schools that equip all students with the knowledge and skills to make the most of their lives and get a fair start on a promising future. Look for the Call for Proposals for conference sessions to be distributed in mid-May. Applications will be accepted from mid-May through mid-June. Conference registration will open in late August. To learn more about Fall Forum, visit: <http://www.essentialschools.org>

Conference Announcements

**“Parent Involvement: Keeping it Real, Making it Meaningful”
5th Annual Conference for Building Strong School, Family, and Community Partnerships
that Support Student Learning
Wednesday, June 8, 2005
8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.
Northeastern University**

Everyone is welcome! Learn about successful programs and partnerships that are making the difference for students, families and communities. Pre-registration required. Please call 617 373 2595 for details.

**The National Institute on Out-of-School Time
Training for After school Program Professionals
Monday–Thursday, July 11-14, 2005
John Hancock Conference Center**

Registration required. Please contact Samatha at 781 283 2547 or sharris@wellesley.edu for more information.

**Boston Coalition for Child & Adolescent Mental Health
Year-end program review & celebration luncheon
Monday, June 20, 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
Boston Public Health Commission**

1010 Massachusetts Avenue
Hayes Conference Room, 2nd Floor

For more information contact Paula Georges at 617 534 5671 or e-mail pgeorges@bphc.org

**Build the Out-of-School Time Network
Youth Program Resource Fair 2005**

Contact Us

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October 6, 2005

Artists for Humanity EPI Center

100 West Second St., South Boston, MA 02127

Applications for tables available 7/1/05; Participant registration available 9/1/05

For more information contact Tania Buck at 617-720-1290 x239 or buck@bostnet.org or visit the
website: www.bostnet.org