



Full-service Schools Roundtable

October 2005

"partnering for Boston students' success"

• 443 Warren Street • Dorchester, MA 02121 • 617 635 6537 •

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SAVE THE DATE!

Next Roundtable meeting:

Bridging the Gap between School & Out-of-school Time

Presenters: Dishon Mills and Corbett Coutts BPS Afterschool Office

Dec. 13th, 9:30 - 11:30 am
City Year, 285 Columbus Ave.

Roundtable Report: Focus on Families

On October 12th, the Full-service Schools Roundtable attracted 80 participants to their bi-monthly meeting held at the Boston Foundation. With a theme of "Focus on Families," the meeting helped participants explore effective strategies and community resources for engaging families in promoting the academic success and healthy development of their children. The meeting featured a panel discussion with Moderator Carol Strickland, Institute for Responsive Education, and Panelists: Karen Richardson, Deputy Superintendent for Family & Community Engagement; Margarita Muniz, Principal, Rafael Hernandez School; and Karen Wontan, Parent, Richard J. Murphy School.

Karen Richardson kicked off the panel with an overview of her department's current structure including the members of her leadership team: Deborah Gray, Director, School, Family, Community Partnerships, Katie Madrigal, Director, Parent Outreach Networks, and Cyntoria Grant, Director, Family & Community Engagement Training Center. Richardson stated that her office's priorities for the year ahead include the development and strengthening of school site and parent councils and the creation of a Parent Outreach Network to support the fifteen new Family and Community Outreach Coordinator positions and other school-based parent coordinator staff.

Margarita Muniz responded to the question, "What does family engagement look like when it works well?" with a reference to the founding of the Hernandez by a group of parent activists concerned about the educational opportunities for Latino students. Since its beginnings, the school has experienced high parent demand with 400 students currently on its waiting list for admission. The commitment to family engagement begins with the principal's belief that parents must be involved in their child's education. At the Hernandez school, opportunities for family engagement include: Parent breakfasts, Math family nights, Science and Young Author nights, a Technology Goes Home program, and making sure that all parent materials are bilingual. Phone calls go out to every family member encouraging them to participate in school events and a parent communication log is maintained by every teacher and monitored by the principal. In conclusion, Muniz commented that she lets parents know "I am a public servant but I also have expectations for you."

Karen Wontan, parent of a student at the Murphy K-8 School defined family engagement as "whatever it takes to support a child". From her experience of speaking with other parents, she maintained that parents will commit to coming to school if the focus of the meeting is how parents can support their children's learning. She urged schools to think beyond holding Open Houses and meeting over report cards. Tips on education including how to support literacy or math are welcome. Wontan also noted that in addition to promoting academic achievement, her willingness to become involved in school encouraged her son to reach out socially and experience more success with peers.

To learn more about the resources available to strengthen family engagement in schools, see the attached Family Resource List disseminated at the meeting.

What's Happening in Boston Public Schools

Boston one of 16 districts to receive state grant for extended school day planning

Boston Public Schools was one of 16 school districts in Massachusetts to be awarded state grant funds to begin planning strategies to extend the learning day as approved by the Board of Education yesterday.

Boston was awarded a total of \$40,000 to begin planning to expand the learning time in seven middle schools:

Edison in Brighton

Edwards in Charlestown

Irving in Roslindale

Timilty in Roxbury,

Umana/Barnes in East Boston

Wilson and McCormack, Dorchester.

"We have made a commitment to find new ways to provide additional resources to students who need extra help," Superintendent Thomas W. Payzant said. "Extending the school day is one strategy to support those students and their schools."

Each school will use the state grant to explore various models for expanding the day for students in their school community. The principals of each of the seven schools will collaborate with district officials, union representatives, parents and partners to devise plans.

BPS will report back to the Department of Education with specific proposals by January 13, 2006 and, if approved, implement the expansion plans with the start of the new school year in September 2006, contingent upon the availability of additional state funds.

The other school districts selected for the grants, each receiving \$25,000, are Cambridge, Fall River, Lawrence, Leominster, Lowell, Malden, North Adams, Old Rochester Regional, Peabody, Randolph, Reading, South Middlesex Regional, Springfield, Ware and Worcester.

For more information on the Boston Public Schools please visit

www.bostonpublicschools.org.

Upcoming Funding Opportunities

EPA Environmental Education Grants support environmental education projects that promote environmental stewardship and help develop aware and responsible students, teachers, and citizens. This grant program provides financial support for projects which design, demonstrate, or disseminate environmental education practices, methods, or techniques as described in this notice. The average size of awards given is \$79,000.

For more information, contact Kristen Conroy, U.S. EPA, Region 1, Enviro Education Grants (MGM), 1 Congress Street, Suite 1100, Boston, MA 02114, Phone: 617-918-1069 or Email: conroy.kristen@epa.gov or visit the website at www.epa.gov/enviroed/grants_sol2006.html.

DEADLINE: November 23, 2005

"We have made a commitment to find new ways to provide additional resources to students who need extra help," Superintendent Thomas W. Payzant said. "Extending the school day is one strategy to support those students and their schools."

The Full-service Schools Roundtable appreciates support for its work from The Boston Foundation, Herman and Frieda L. Miller Foundation, Jessie B. Cox Charitable Trust, and an anonymous foundation.

National Gardening Association and the Home Depot Youth Garden Grants are available for schools and community organizations with child-centered, outdoor garden programs. The funders will give priority to programs that emphasize one or more of these elements: educational focus and/or curricular ties, if applicant is a formal education program; nutrition or plant-to-food connections; environmental awareness and education; entrepreneurship; and social aspects of gardening such as leadership development, team building, community support, or service-learning. Applicants must plan to garden in 2006 with at least 15 children between the ages of three and 18 years. Fifty - \$500 gift cards will be awarded for first place and 100 - \$250 gift cards will be awarded for second place.

For more information contact National Gardening Association, 1100 Dorset Street, South Burlington, VT 05403, Phone: 800-538-7476, Fax: 802-864-6889, or www.kidsgardening.com/grants.asp.

DEADLINE: November 30, 2005

Arch W. Shaw Foundation funds programs in the areas of arts, business school/education, education, health care, higher education, hospitals, libraries/library science, medical research, museums, residential/custodial care, and hospices. Support is given for annual campaigns, building/renovation, capital campaigns, continuing support, emergency funds, endowments, equipment, general/operating support, program development, research, scholarship funds, and seed money. Grants average \$1,000 to \$50,000.

For more information contact William W. Shaw, Treasurer, Arch W. Shaw Foundation, c/o HC 3, Box 60-B, Birch Tree, MO, 65438, Fax: 417-764-3706.

OPEN DEADLINE, Next Board Meeting: December

John Hancock Financial Services, Inc. Giving Program makes charitable contributions to nonprofit organizations involved with performing arts, education, public health, substance abuse, crime prevention, job training, housing, recreation, youth development, human services, intergroup and race relations, economic development, and on a case by case basis. Special emphasis is directed towards programs designed to provide educational, after-school, and sports activities for young people. Support is given in the forms of donated products, employee matching gifts, employee volunteer services, in-kind gifts, program development, and use of facilities. The AGM Common Proposal Form is required and support is limited to 1 year in length. Grants awarded average from \$2,500 to \$15,000, with a high of \$175,000.

For more information contact Carol Fulp, V.P., Community Relations, John Hancock Financial Services, Inc., Giving Program, c/o Community Relationship Department, T-58-02, PO Box 111, Boston, 02117, Phone: 617-572-6471, Fax: 617-572-6290, or visit www.jhancock.com/company/community/index.html.

OPEN DEADLINE, Next Board Meeting: December

The Linden Foundation, Inc. has a mission to help disadvantaged families achieve a better quality of life through educational programs, workforce development, and support for organizations that provide housing services. Support is given for general/operating support, matching/challenge support, and program development. Awards range from \$3,000 to \$115,000.

For more information contact Tegin L. Teich, Foundation Assistant, The Linden Foundation, Inc., c/o Grants Management Associates, 77 Summer Street, 8th Floor, Boston, 02110, Phone: 617-426-7080, Fax: 617-426-7087, Email: tteich@grantmanagement.com, or visit www.lindenfoundation.org.

DEADLINE: December 15, 2005

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.

The **Millipore Foundation** supports organizations involved with arts and culture, education, health, and human services. Support is given for curriculum development, employee matching gifts, employee-related scholarships, general/operating support, in-kind gifts, matching/challenge support, program development, and scholarship funds. Proposals may be submitted using the AGM Common Grant Proposal Form. Grants awarded ranged from \$500 to \$75,000. For more information contact Charleen L. Johnson, Executive Director, The Millipore Foundation, 290 Concord Road, Billerica, 01821, Phone: 978-715-1268, Fax: 978-715-1385, Email: charleen_johnson@millipore.com, or visit www.millipore.com/foundation.
OPEN DEADLINE, Quarterly Board Meetings

For Your Information

"The Evaluation Exchange". The newest issue of this periodical focuses on evaluation methodology, covering topics in contemporary evaluation thinking, techniques, and tools. Mel Mark, president-elect of the American Evaluation Association, kicks off the issue with a discussion about the role that evaluation theory plays in methodological choices. Other voices include Georgia State University evaluator Gary Henry, who makes the case for a paradigm shift in how we think about evaluation use and influence, and Robert Boruch, a Campbell Collaboration founder, who discusses the role of randomized trials in defining "what works."

Other contributors to the issue respond to various "how to" questions, such as how to foster strategic learning, how to find tools that assess nonprofit organizational capacity, how to select and use various outcome models, how to increase the number of evaluators of color, how to enhance multicultural competency in evaluation, and how to measure what we value so others value what we measure.

Finally, the issue explores theory of change, cluster evaluation, and retrospective pretests - methodological approaches currently generating much interest and dialogue.

The issue is available free of charge at www.gse.harvard.edu/hfrp/eval/issue30. For a hard copy, email millerst@gse.harvard.edu or subscribe at www.gse.harvard.edu/hfrp/subscribe.html.

GiveKidsGoodSchools wants to hear from you about the effects the *No Child Left Behind* Act is having on your schools and community. Input from concerned public education advocates like you is vital to improve public schools. Congress needs to hear from you - please fill out the 2005 NCLB online survey at: www.democracyinaction.org/dia/track.jsp?key=-1&url_num=0&url=http://www.zoomerang.com/recipient/survey.zgi?p=WEB224MKRERCAV. With your input, they will provide policymakers with concrete "on the ground" information about the effectiveness of *No Child Left Behind*. It is critical that government and education leaders hear about the impact of this law from concerned public school advocates. Results of this survey will be reported to the President and Congress, state and local policymakers, education stakeholders, media, and the public. For more information, visit GiveKidsGoodSchools.org.

Full-service Schools Roundtable Staff

Marta Gredler,
Executive Director

AnnaLisa Prada,
Program Director

Jill Asser, Graduate Social
Work Intern



Excl Recycles. ExCL has been offering recycled materials and workshops to teachers, parents, and students since 1980. Their mission is to stimulate creative learning and help children awaken their creative potential in education and play through the use of reusable, recycled, and surplus material.

Visit the Excl Recycle center and their new hours: Tuesday and Wednesday 10:00 AM - 5:30 PM and check their new website at www.exclrecycles.org.

Conference Announcements

Bridging the Gap Training: Second Step & Violence Prevention
November 9th, 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

BCYF Central Offices / Tobin Community Center
Conference Space, 1483 Tremont Street, Roxbury

This training is for providers working with elementary students. Learn components of the Second Step curriculum and how to teach students empathy, anger management and problem solving skills with Lucinda Mills, from BPS Safe & Drug-free Schools. Capacity is 30 Participants.

For questions, please call Rachel Greet at 617-635-6609 or email rgreen2@boston.k12.ma.us. To register, fill out attached form.

Bridging the Gap Training: Elementary English / Language Arts (ELA)
November 10th, 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Boston Public Library, Copley Branch
McKinn (Lower Level), Conference Room A

This training is for providers working with youth in elementary school and focuses on how to support literacy in out-of-school time (OST) with Ann Deveney, BPS Sr. program Director. Capacity is 30 Participants.

All of the trainings are free and count for Department of Early Education and Care training hours. For questions, please call Rachel Greet at 617-635-6609 or email rgreen2@boston.k12.ma.us. To register, fill out attached form.

Bridging the Gap Training: Preventing Bullying
November 16th, 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

BCYF Central Offices / Tobin Community Center
Conference Space, 1483 Tremont Street, Roxbury

This training is for providers working with elementary students with Lucinda Mills, from Safe and Drug-free Schools. Capacity is 30 Participants.

All of the trainings are free and count for Department of Early Education and Care training hours. For questions, please call Rachel Greet at 617-635-6609 or email rgreen2@boston.k12.ma.us. To register, fill out attached form.

Math Intensive for After School Staff

November 9th - February 28th, Wednesdays, 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Math Power, Bridging the Gap of the Boston Public Schools (BPS) and Northeastern University bring you a brand new course for staff working in After School Programs. After school programs serving youth in BPS grades K-8 may send groups of staff (one program administrator and up to 3 direct staff) to the Math intensive. Participants will review important math concepts covered in the TERC Investigations and Connected Math curricula such as number sense and algebra. Staff will be prepared to assist young people with their homework and help them to build math skills. In addition to being able to attend the course, all sites accepted will also receive on-site technical assistance from the Math Power Staff. To be admitted RFPs must be received by October 31st.

Urban Improv Teacher Training Seminar
Dialogue, Discussion, Drama: Dealing with Bullying, Peer-Pressure and
Prejudice in Children Ages 8 to 12
November 12th, 8:30 AM - 4:15 PM

The Faulkner House at The Park School, Brookline

This seminar will involve participants in Urban Improv's proven approach and will offer specific guidance in helping educators speak out about and confront issues of bullying, peer-pressure and prejudice with their students. Seminar participants will act in structured improvisations with our team of expert actors/educators, and will explore topics in depth with their peers. The Trauma Center at Justice Resource Institute will introduce an innovative new curriculum guide for teachers interested in using the Urban Improv methodology in class. For more information and registration contact: Shari Mendler, Program Manager, 617-524-7049, Fax: 617-524-7005, or email: info@urbanimprov.org.

Tuesday November 22, 2005 5:30 pm-7:30 pm

Askwith Education Forum -

Art and Opportunity: Growing Up in Calcutta's Red Light District

Join us for a special film screening and discussion. HGSE will show the Academy Award winning movie which documents the lives of several children of prostitutes living in Calcutta's red light district. Teaching the children how to use inexpensive cameras, the filmmaker sparks hidden interests and fosters artistic talents that reside in these children who live in the most seemingly hopeless world. A Q&A focused on the resiliency of youth and the transformative power of art will follow the movie. Discussants will include: **Pamela Tanner Boll**, Co-Executive Producer; **Steven Seidel**, Lecturer on Education and Director of the Arts in Education Program; and **Robert Selman**, Roy Edward Larsen Professor of Education and Human Development. For information, contact Meghan Liegel at meghan_liegel@gse.harvard.edu. **Askwith Lecture Hall, Longfellow Hall**. Free with seating available on a first-come, first-served basis.

2005 - 2006 Race, Culture, Identity and Achievement Seminar Series

The seminar series will bring to Boston nationally recognized scholars, researchers and practitioners - individuals who can deepen our understanding of what it will take to normalize high academic achievement for students of color. This series will create a location for teachers, teacher-educators, community leaders and involved citizens to engage in a sustained conversation about how race, culture and identity are implicated in the school achievement of Boston's increasingly multiracial and multiethnic student population.

November 29, 4 - 6 pm

Topic: *Creating Culturally Appropriate Science Experiences for Native American and Other Students*

Presenter: Eric Jolly, President of Science Museum of Minnesota, St. Paul

Location: Orchard Gardens K-8 Pilot School, 26 Albany Street, Roxbury

For more information, a complete schedule and to register, visit
www.achievementseminars.com

The Family Center's:

The Parenting Journey Information Session

Thursday December 1st, 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM

This is an information session for agency decision makers who are considering investing in The Parenting Journey. They will learn about the goals and assumptions of The Parenting Journey, the many ways it benefits clients, the value of adding The Parenting Journey to their service mix, and the on-going support given to agencies and facilitators after they have completed the five-day training. The information session is free.

For more information and to register contact: Sharra Owens at 617-628-8815.

Contact Us

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