Bates SPC/SSC Meeting: Sept 28, 2016

- Co-Chair Introductions: Barb Damon and Jocelyn Marshall
- SPC and SSC Introductions
- Review of Minutes from 9/14/16 meeting and motion to approve
- Principal Updates
  - Great attendance today. Starting in November, we will rotate days of the week. Co-Chairs will work with Mr. Vega to determine dates.
  - District Drivers: Equity, Coherence, Innovation
    - Equity – AWC Expansion / “Excellence for All” 5th graders all taking Spanish, 4th graders will all take Robotics
    - Coherence – Teachers will be tracking data towards common goals and continuity
    - Innovation – Unique and Creative, only elementary school with 4th grade Humanities
  - Quality School Plan: A living document that outlines all instruction going in in building. At the November meeting we will look at that. Instructional Leadership Team (every teacher at Bates) with Mr. Vega. Last year Bates was in the top 5 schools and got great feedback.
  - Instructional Focus: Same as 2015-2016. Inclusive practices that focus on accessing language conversations between student to student and between students and adults to improve their learning. Next steps: using specific language and “look-fors” for each grade level.
  - Parent Directories: With the help of classroom parents, Mr. Vega will distribute a survey to enroll – there will be paper and electronic copies distributed. The aim is to foster relationships outside the classroom, especially between the inclusion and non-inclusion students.
  - Extended Learning Time
    - Mayor Walsh Initiative; 1 person in district in charge of ELT and a research team looking at district best practices
    - Bates opted out last year but we may need to apply again
    - Bates is in Schedule A school (17 schools to start) which means starting in Fall 2017 from 9:30am – 4:10pm
    - Planning grant to use at Bates’ discretion
    - Planning team of teachers and parents will be formed
    - First planning session will be in early November
    - Bates has full choice over what is done with the extra time
    - No changes to per-student funding from BPS
    - Bus availability will determine the start and end time; there is a possibility to do bus-sharing with the Conley if we have an earlier start time
    - Reminder for parents to opt out of transportation if they don’t use it so that empty buses will not. Mr. Vega will include a link to opt out in the next Bates newsletter.
  - Reconfiguration
    - In the August leadership Institute, Mr. Vega indicated that Bates was interested in adding a 6th grade
This is a district-wide initiative to have all elementary schools go from K-6 and all high/upper schools go from 7-12.

As of today, ALL reconfiguration work in the district is still on hold until 2017-2018, for a 2018-2019 implementation.

Parents are encouraged to reach out to their reps or email Superintendent Chang directly; Barb Damon invites parents to be in touch with her to organize to reach out to BPS as a group.

Roslindale Pathway meetings (all Roslindale elementary schools plus Irving Middle School) are a good place to bring up these conversations; Mr. Vega will let everyone know when the next one will be.

**Open Council Positions: CPC and Treasurer**

- **Treasurer:** Lauren ________ who has been treasurer for the past 2 years and would like to continue. 27 votes = unanimous
- **Citywide Parent Council** (joining Kristen Bonstein): Bob Damon served on the CPC for the Philbrick on the budget subcommittee, and spent a lot of time looking at how BPS spends their money. Was also parent council treasurer at the Philbrick for several years. 27 votes = unanimous
  - CPC meetings are open to all parents, but only official representatives can vote on issues.

**Roslindale Parade – Sunday 10/2/16**

- Bates and Conley will join forces on a float and walk together; neither school has been
- We are still in need of a trailer or truck – and we have a volunteer to provide one!
- There is some lag time between arrival (11am-noon) and the parade start time (1pm) to decorate the trailer with posterboard, balloons, etc.
- New banners will be unveiled, chants will be made, Phineas the Fox will be there in costume (any volunteers?)
- It is rain or shine!

**Fundraising and Volunteer Opportunities**

- Would like to have more families participate in these initiatives; looking to form a fundraising subcommittee.
- 21 languages are spoken at the Bates; please reach out to the Co-Chairs about translation and communication. Mandarin, Nigerian, Albanian are fast-growing languages/communities
- Parents’ Night Out – a new initiative that would possibly have a local restaurant
- Election Day Bake Sale on November 8
- Original Works Fundraiser – making mugs, Tshirts, and other gift items from students’ artwork. This happens in Nov/Dec for the holidays.
- Fox Fest will happen later in the school year. Travis will lead the charge – please reach out to him with
- Annual Fund / “Fox Fund” – this can be shared with networks and on social media.
  - Bob has supplied the letter with another paper and envelope listing donation levels. Please look over the letter and give feedback by next week.
Suggestion to target community partners and local businesses at the same time as the Bates family network.
Small businesses tend to donate goods and services instead of money – we will list that as an option.
Sponsorships such as yearbook ads, etc.
Check with employers who may do matching donations.
The more specific we can be about what the money goes to, the better.
Dollar amounts equal to specific items: “$___ will pay for _____ students to go on a trip,” etc.

In 2015-2016 we raised about $6,000
How to leverage the community dollars as well as families?
We can register with Amazon Smile as a nonprofit
We have a tax-exempt status

• Questions or Comments/Future Agenda Items
  Classroom parents’ role: Create a class directory; connecting parents on the classroom level; help lead fundraising efforts
  Efforts to get parents in for social activities and events – Could possibly have an engagement subcommittee. The barbeque and Fox Fest are very well-attended, but there hasn’t been much in between. There were talks last year about having an international fair or dinner. We could aim to do this between January and April – perhaps January would be good?
  Do we have a list of all of the languages spoken? Yes - Mr. Vega will update and disseminate to everyone
  Social media: Can we have a link to the annual fund online? Yes, Mr. Vega will send out. We can publicly thank businesses and restaurants for their donations that way, too