WELCOME AND INTROS

Welcome by Jocelyn and review of meeting agenda.

Review of last meeting’s minutes by Korri

PRINCIPAL UPDATE BY MR. MORALES

Uniform Policy - Currently: “not mandatory but encouraged”
Continued discussion re: whether policy should be kept as is or amended. Various comments:
• Colors and gender? Give ‘girl’ option for colors? Or is that reinforcing society gender norms?
• Can we order more Bates-branded apparel?
• What’s the purpose of the policy? Neutralize socio-economic class differences, etc.
• Middle ground? Shirt doesn’t have to be a specific color but no patterns/logos/graphics etc
• Mixed messages re: the policy. Whatever we decide we need to stick with the approach/messaging of the policy (i.e. what’s written on website)
• Uniform clothing swap? Donate outgrown clothing to the school for use by other families. Either have a swap day or permanent location for clothing donations.

Quality School Plan - What we’re focusing on for the 2017-18 school year.
1 Multiple means of expression, 2 social and emotional learning, 3 using data to respond to students needs
Principal Morales mentioned a potential future meeting to go over the data and break it down with families and show how it’s used in the school environment.
Question regarding how the data is used and the flexibility/fluidity of the plan.
- Teachers present respond about how important data is in the day to day functioning of the school and how there is an ongoing discussion on the data between staff.
Question re: how often is data collected from the students? Answer: data is constantly being observed and recorded by the staff.
Deb Ras spoke about the Grade 1 market project and how the videos and observations are an example of data that can be used in the future.
- School Site Council approval needed to accept the QSP - approval granted.

School Start Time - New start time for 2018-19 school year @ Bates: 815 - 255 (doors open at 8, instruction at 815) Changes to the before and after school programs will be discussed in the upcoming weeks.
Nora discussed her experience re: community feedback from greater Boston family population. While the Bates received an optimal new start time, that could change in
the future and that should be considered. Feedback from the Bates thus far has been largely positive from staff and parents that were polled. Question: should we get involved in the larger movement to speak up re: the 715 start times district wide? Should we share the advocacy info with the Bates parent community? Consensus seems to be that as the citywide parent council rep, Nora could offer access to the information to the school community that can then be accessed at each family’s discretion.

Post meeting update added 12/16 by Korri – BPS announced yesterday that they are reconsidering the start times and will be making another decision mid-January.

Listening Tour/Mozart-Bates Merger - As of now we still do not know if there will be a merger of the Mozart and the Bates. If the merger were to be approved, next year would be a planning year, 2019-2020 would be first year implemented.

The potential merger has been discussed for many years as a part of the ongoing Build BPS initiative.

Frustrations were expressed re: the process or lack there of surrounding the decision-making. Neither school community was fully invited to be a part of the discussion - that lack of information and transparency led to frustration with BPS Central Office. Both principals requested translation services (granted), better communication, improved planning and agenda, etc. Moving forward the Bates community needs to be prepared to accept whatever decision is ultimately made and work optimistically together. Teacher perspective given that a merger could lead to current teachers losing their jobs and for all to consider the position that puts the faculty in.

KINDNESS WEEK PROPOSAL – Kate Heaton suggests a Kindness Week/weeks initiative over the winter around Valentine’s Day in February. She will form a committee to help plan - could be a good/easy way for more parents to get involved with the Bates. She will collect parent interest and form an initial plan. Kate can be reached at katebarchheaton@gmail.com or 617-429-8734. First meeting planned for January, date TBD. Reach out to Kate to get involved!

Next meeting January 10th 2018!