

Citywide Family Council Meeting

February 26, 2019

**S. Christa McAuliffe Elementary
570 Beacon Street, Lowell, MA**

Whole Group

2.26.19

Objectives:

1. Fund Our Future Campaign
2. Lowell Superintendent Search Group Discussion
3. Working groups: (1) Before/After and Summer Opportunities, (2) Parent University, (3) LPS Organizational Chart

Welcome and Purpose

1. Introduction of objectives
2. Review group norms and ask for feedback/revisions
3. Rebecca Duda - School committee presentation (brief history and objective of CFC)
 1. Citywide Family Council website via the Family Resource Center
<https://www.lowell.k12.ma.us/Page/3290>
 2. CFC will be on the agenda at least once a year

Whole Group

2.26.19

Fund Our Future Campaign:

1. Rebecca Ludvino described campaign as an effort to pass legislation updating the current MA foundation budget formula and how that would affect Lowell Public Schools.
 - a. Stories and attendance requested for Fund Our Future Legislative forum happening Monday, March 11 at the Senior Center in Lowell (5:30-7:30).
 - b. Food, childcare and translation in Khmer and Spanish will be provided.

Citywide Family Council Bylaws:

1. Review Citywide Family Council bylaws
 - a. Invitation for families to revise bylaws in order to best facilitate the work of the CFC
 - b. Debbie Rondeau and Rebecca Duda are working on collecting suggestions and making revisions

Whole Group

2.26.19

Superintendent Search

1. The School Committee is preparing to select its Blue Ribbon Committee for reviewing superintendent candidates
2. Wednesday March 13th Listening Session for Massachusetts Association of School Committees (MASC) to hear from community re: qualities of a new Superintendent – schedule in conjunction with CFC audience (to replace March meeting)
3. Review 2/25/19 School Committee meeting to firm up details of Blue Ribbon Committee process
4. The Citywide Family Council is looking for a candidate with:
 - a. Cultural literacy and competency (understands the needs of a diverse community)
 - b. Experience managing fiscal difficulties, large projects and staff turnover
 - c. History of working well with unions
 - d. Grassroots orientation

Whole Group

2.26.19

Superintendent Search

1. The School Committee has decided on the type of constituents for 20-person Blue Ribbon Committee that will review applicants for the Superintendent position.
 - a. *VERY* condensed timeline, but there are fewer superintendent job postings than usual and it is known that Lowell is going to be looking, so we may not be losing potential candidates to other districts
 - b. Perhaps the committee should rank candidates and let them know their ranking in order to allow them to decide whether they want to move forward

1. Questions:
 - When are the meetings?
 - How does one become considered for the Blue Ribbon Committee? (Deadline Mar. 4)
 - What qualifications are we looking for?
 - How unusual is this process?
 - How can we attract high-quality candidates?

Break-Out Groups

2.26.19

Before/After and Summer Opportunities

Inventory of Before and After School Programs at Lowell Schools:

1. 21 schools have after school programs funded through 21st Century grants
 - a. Program is offered 2x a week
 - b. Children must attend host school to be able to attend
 - c. <https://www.lowell.k12.ma.us/site/Default.aspx?PageID=139>
2. Other schools offer after school programs through Community Teamwork, Inc. (CTI) and Child Care Circuit
 - a. Vouchers available
 - b. <https://www.lowell.k12.ma.us/Page/200>
3. Summer Programming...?
4. Feedback and questions about information provided, contact Carolyn Rocheleau, Coordinator of Special Programs at (978) 674-2053 or crocheleau@lowell.k12.ma.us

Break-Out Groups

2.26.19

Parent University

Objective of a Parent University

1. Create a welcoming atmosphere where families feel comfortable bringing questions and concerns
 - a. Establish points of contact
 - b. Quick: Create a Citywide Family Council Facebook page in order to centralize communication about resources, events and workshops of interest to Lowell Families
2. Provide comprehensive guide to families registering child for PreK/K
 - a. Slow: inventory the Family Resource Center website in order to provide feedback re: content and organization
3. Compile resources to provide families with guidance and information, create resources and events where they do not already exist
 - a. See “LPS Organizational Chart”
 - b. Establish roles and iterations of School Site Councils across the district (Katerynne on it)

Break-Out Groups

2.26.19

LPS Organizational Chart

Topics to add to chart:

- How to contact school nurses/medical staff (and Lowell Health Dept. w/ questions and comments about medical staffing)
- Make LPS policies searchable (medication policies and forms, transportation, etc.)
- How to request translation for a meeting or form
- Current school supply lists / Budget for classroom supplies
- Transportation topics: special education bussing, student bus passes, regular ed bussing, changes in transportation
- Information for “Newcomers” to MA schools

Parking Lot / Bike Rack

2.26.19

1. **What organizations can help host, advertise, facilitate the face-to-face meetings?**
2. **What do the School Site Councils look like at each school?**

Next Steps & Upcoming Events

2.26.19

Next Steps

1. Contact and document prevalence of School Site Councils
2. Post policy regarding flyer distribution
3. Build relationships with individual PTOs
4. Those interested in joining the Blue Ribbon Committee should contact the Mayor's office ASAP (include a resume and a cover letter on why you want to participate and your qualifications). If easily accessible, make sure you at least send your interest via email: williamsamaras@comcast.net.

Upcoming Events

- *Thursday, March 7 from 5:30 @ Coalition for a Better Acre* **How to Run for Office Workshop**
- *Monday, March 11 from 5:30-7:30 @ Lowell Senior Center* **Fund Our Future Legislative Forum**
- *Wednesday, March 13 from 5:30-7:30* **Community Forum and Expert Panel on Lowell's Vision for Superintendent**