

May 1, 2013 SPC Meeting

Parents in Attendance:

Nicole Aljoe, Heidi Brooks, Kimberly Rand, Cheryl Watson Harris, Genevieve Day, Mirna Vega Wilson, Dave Demerjian, Sunny Schwartz, Pam Yosca, Katie Fitch, Rebecca Nieto, Marie Delivert, Carrie Fletcher, Susan McConathy, Bill Elsderee, Kenia Garcia, Maria Monteiro Roby, Kristin Jurkoic, Heshan Berents-Weeramuni, Lindsey Weeramuni, Inci Kaya, Flo Zimmerman, Noreen Power, Leah Barcan

Introduction of Ms. Vega-Wilson:

Ms. Vega-Wilson introduced herself and is offering her support with any issues. She will be here until June 28 and is happy to be back in the Curley community.

Email is the best way to communicate with her: mvegawilson@boston.k12.ma.us

Principal Search Update:

Cheryl Watson Harris – Network Asst. Superintendent briefed us on the process for hiring our new principal.

She met with SSC and SPC parents to get an idea of what qualities would make a good fit for our school.

Principal Selection Process (for all of Boston Public Schools):

New structure: schools divided into 6 separate networks. Needed more rigorous policies for hiring, so BPS just implemented new procedures.

It is now a 4 phase process with the first being the application and resume process. There were 120 candidates narrowed down to 50. Candidates had to participate in a workshop last night where they had to respond to dilemmas and be part of a team problem solving group. They had to write a mock letter to parents in response to an issue

By Monday, we should receive the names of some candidates that would be a good match for the Curley (based on conversations that Cheryl has had with parents from the SSC and SPC).

Next week, we will start the interview process with the search committee of 3 teachers and 3 parents.

The week after, the recommendations go to Carol Johnson. She will do the final interviews on the candidates and make the final decision.

Hopefully a new candidate will be chosen by the middle of June for a successful transition.

Q & A:

Q: Will there still be time for teacher hiring? How does this process affect the teacher hiring process? Are the candidates from the BPS system?

The interim principal (Mirna) can hire teachers during this process. Positions that have not yet been filled will be filled by the new principal over the summer. Mirna assured us that she has HR experience and will do her best to select the most qualified candidates to fill any vacant positions.

Candidates for principal are internal and external

Q: How involved is the search committee? What information will they have access to? Will the materials for the 5 candidates be available to the committee only or to the general Curley committee?

We want this to be as open as possible – not decided on whether or not the community will have access to resumes and information.

Process for Curley principal search – specific to the Curley

Leah Barcan:

The SPC has been committed to finding a committee that meets all of the requirements (see below). We will have 3 voting members and will be inviting people to be non-voting members to participate in the process. SSC parents will meet today to decide who the 3 members will be.

There will be 3 community meetings, open to the entire community to express the concerns and details that are important to them with hiring a new principal.

The 3 parents must be:

- Representative of cultural diversity
- Someone who has a child in special ed or in ELL
- One elected parent from SSC or SPC

Striving for someone from upper and lower school AND able to attend the meetings quickly

Q: How are the teachers selected for the committee? All of the teachers voted to select the teachers that will be the voting members of the committee.

The teachers must follow the process beginning to end. The following teachers were chosen:

Waverly Kidd – ESL lower school

Linda Soloman Key – diversity upper school

Laurie Ciardi – lower school

Over the next few meetings the teachers will put a document together of priorities for the Curley and what worked and what didn't work. Everyone wants to have input and this will allow ALL teachers to have input on the selection process.

Q: Heshan asks that Cheryl reconsider the requirement that one parent be a member of the SSC or SPC because it is limiting the parents that can be involved in the process. The SPC and SSC parents already have a big voice in the process and this limits the ability to have a more diverse group.

Carrie: thinks that we are unable to meet all of the criteria with just 3 people.

Cheryl: this is a good place to start and there is a a lot of flexibility to how the committee will operate. The process is open with transparency, so there is room to define the process and make sure we get input from everyone.

Genevieve: feels good about the process because we are able to define the process .

Q: It seems that the search committee doesn't have a lot of flexibility with the choice of the candidates. Do we only have access to five candidates?

We can request as many candidates as we want. Cheryl will suggest 10 or as many as we want. Once they pass the screening process, we have access to about 5. We can request more.

SSC will meet today to decide on the candidates for the search committee today and a flyer/call will be sent out tomorrow.

Q: Sunny advocates for the committee being more involved in selecting the candidates.

Con: This may slow the process down. Pro: we have more say

Cheryl has identified 8 candidates as a good match. When the screening committee is identified, she said she would share the resumes with them as soon as possible.

FUNDRAISING:

Molly, co-chair of fundraising committee:

Plant sale was a big success. Kristin thanks everyone for their help. The weather was great and we sold more plants than last year. Please contact Kristin if you want more plants, she has them in her driveway – kjukoic@yahoo.com. She tried to get sponsorships this year and had some success with this. She went to Coldwell Banker and spoke about their opportunities to donate for this and then put a sign up at plant sale indicating that they are a supporter of the Curley. Need more herbs for next year, they were a hot item.

Kristin suggested having a “business liaison” who commits to building relationships with local business to support the Curley on a regular basis. Also, it would streamline more than one person contacting a company. It was suggested that Sue McConathy take this role. Heidi Brooks took down names to set up a meeting to get volunteers to work on this.

End of year back pack solicitation going out soon.

Friday, June 14, 2013 is second annual show at the Midway Café. Mark your calendars and get babysitters. Starts at 8:00. Cost is \$10 at the door.

Schoolyard Committee:

Genevieve – slow month because of vacation and principal search committee taking priority.

Commitment to have a big sign in front of the Curley by Wake Up the Earth day is on target to advertising the schoolyard campaign. We are debuting a capital campaign website, it's not ready yet, but we can link to it from the Curley website.

There are also Informal sub committees working on writing grants, etc. Also, there are school based fundraising efforts – reaching out to gym teachers and anyone who would use the field for sports, etc.

Heshan gave a demo of the new website for schoolyard fundraising. The site will contain all of the information about the campaign and a button to make a donation.

Kimberly created two line items on the budget to keep schoolyard and other fundraising money separated.

Schoolyard cleanup scheduled on May 5 from 12:00 – 4:00 for Curley community to pick up trash is being organized by Dan Barcan.

Schoolwide Cleanup in conjunction with Boston Cares is set for May 18

Q: What is the update of out 501 status?

Dave contacted Dominick to see what the status is. They are trying to connect with a lawyer. Dave suggests that someone from school yard committee work with Dominick to get this finished. We need a corporate lawyer who has experience working with non-profits to work pro bono to complete the process – it's not a lot of work, but a lawyer is the most efficient way to accomplish this.

Bill – a lawyer is needed for legal aspect – IRS stuff is done.

Next Meeting:

Dave update:

Elections will be held in June for both SSC and SPC. Dave will put together a packet of the different ways that someone could possibly volunteer. This will go out in everyone in a backpack letter.

There are 4 elected officer positions – put the word out for anyone who is interested.

The goal is to have the Sept meeting be a welcome meeting for new parents instead of having the elections then. This will allow for seamless transitions going forward.

Technology and Fundraising Committee:

Sunny Schwartz:

There is a movement to increase technology for kids. There are a few parents who are interested in getting a group together. We need a parent who has experience with educational software. Need to reach out to foundations.

The committee will meet and potentially looking at an instructor to “train the trainer” with teachers. The vision for the group is not clear, but the movement is to get more technology into the school and curriculum.

Anyone who is interested should contact: Sunnyschwarz@yahoo.com