Bureau Update



January 2015

BPS & BTU Agree on Extra 40 Minutes of Instruction Time

More time per school day used wisely will help, but what are the opportunity costs?

The Boston School Committee and Boston Teachers Union (BTU), with the Mayor's support, reached agreement to extend the school day by 40 minutes for academic instruction and enrichment programs in elementary, K-8 and middle schools that do not have extended programs. Teachers will an extra professional also receive development time each week. implementation, the Extended Learning Time program is estimated to cost \$12.5M More time used wisely is per vear. important for an urban school district, but this plan raises some concerns.

Extended Learning Time (ELT)

The ELT will apply to 55-60 K-5, Middle and K-8 schools and will be phased-in over three years starting with SY2015-2016. The agreement does not apply to any school now designated as an extended day school.

Instructional Time – Each school's extended time will be incorporated into the school's schedule with their existing start times.

- The agreement expects schools to think creatively about how to support student learning needs for instructional support and enrichment opportunities
- Salary grid will increase each teacher's salary by \$4,464 (\$37.20/hour for 120 hours). Paras receive their hourly rate.

Professional Development – Teachers will receive an additional 75 minutes of teacher-directed professional development time during the week divided between 40 consecutive minutes of planning and

collaboration time and 35 minutes of professional development time used as one block of 35 minutes or seven minutes a day.

Planning and Implementation Support – The BPS will allocate \$400,000 to help schools with planning and implementation of ELT. Training for planning of weekly schedules and effective use of collaborative time will be provided.

Reasons for Concern

The benefits of extended time used wisely and the political benefits of this agreement are understood, but the following concerns should be taken into consideration.

- The BPS is facing a FY16 budget gap exceeding \$90M and what programs will be cut to provide \$4M for ELT?
- Is \$12.5M for 40 minutes a prudent deal? \$37.20 per hour exceeds the hourly rate for Pilot, Innovation, Horace Mann Charter and Turnaround schools
- As written, the higher salary costs will apply to all schools over time, significantly increasing school spending at current extended day schools
- Agreement seems to be inconsistent with the DESE Commissioner's authority over Level 5 school salary decisions
- With budget cuts will the BPS have the personnel and financial capacity to effectively implement this agreement?
- The agreement is being touted by the BTU as the means to "derail" possible state legislation that may achieve more reform for less cost