

Citywide Parents Council

1975 - 1993; bulk: 1975 - 1982

Boston Public Schools: Desegregation-era Records Collection

[Collection Summary](#)
[Agency History](#)
[Scope and Content](#)
[Related Material](#)
[Acquisition Information](#)
[Access Restrictions](#)
[Appraisal Information](#)
[Container List](#)

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Records Commission (NHPRC)

Collection Summary

Creator: Citywide Parents Council
Title: Citywide Parents Council Records
Physical Description: 42 cubic feet
Language: English
Repository: City of Boston, Office of the City
Clerk, Archives and Records
Management Division
201 Rivermoor St.
West Roxbury, MA 02132
archives@cityofboston.gov

Abstract:

The Citywide Parents Council, Inc. (CPC) was a community/school based, non-profit, advisory organization established by Federal District Court mandate (Judge Arthur Garrity in the case of Tallulah Morgan vs. James Hennigan) in 1974. The CPC operated as an autonomous entity of the school system from 1974 to 2004. The Citywide Parents Council Records document the organization's mission to foster parental involvement in the schools, provide positive input into educational policies, and hold the Boston Public Schools accountable for providing a quality education to all students. This series contains the records of parent councils at all levels: citywide (CPAC, CPC); district (CDACs, DPCs); and school councils (REPCs, SPCs).

[Table of Contents](#)

Agency History

In the June 1974 decision for Morgan vs. Hennigan, Federal District Court Judge Arthur Garrity released a four-part plan linking quality education to desegregation in the Boston Public Schools. This plan was unprecedented in that it was the first time an education/desegregation case sought to improve quality of education as well as desegregate. Also, it was the first case a state level department and a citizen body monitored compliance with court orders. The mechanisms Garrity ordered for the plan were as follows: desegregate through reassignment of students and staff; decentralize through redistricting to eight community school districts and one citywide magnet school district; increase parent participation through citizen monitoring committees; utilize metropolitan resources via collegiate, and create cultural or business pairings with individual schools.

In two orders, issued in 1974 and 1975, Judge Garrity mandated that a three-tiered structure of citizen

participation groups be established to cover all levels of the school system from individual schools, to community districts, to the entire system. In October of 1974, Garrity ordered the creation of Racial Ethnic Parent Councils (REPCs) and a Citywide Parents Advisory Council (CPAC). Garrity stated that the function of these parent groups was to "insure adequate and impartial investigation and responsible recommendations on racially and ethnically oriented problems arising at the school; to create means of communication between parents, students, teachers and administrators regarding the solution of such problems; and to promote an environment of understanding and common purpose among the various elements of the community so that the best available education may be offered to all children." The CPAC was established to assist the REPCs in fulfilling their mission. In June of 1975, Garrity ordered the creation of nine Community District Advisory Councils (CDACs) to act as advisory groups to the districts. The three parent groups, CPAC, CDAC and REPC, comprised a three-tiered structure of citizen participation groups.

The first tier, REPC, dealt with school level problems at each individual school. REPCs were comprised of parents representing different races, with three parent representatives for each elementary school, four for middle schools and five for high schools. The second tier was the CDAC, which dealt with district level issues and monitored each district for compliance with court orders. CDAC had ten elected (chosen by REPCs) and ten court appointed members representing teachers, police school department, business, university and labor groups. The third tier, the CPAC, dealt with citywide issues and monitored student discipline. CPAC had a total of 22 elected parent representatives according to these court ordered racial guidelines: one Black, one White for each district, two Asian and two Hispanic citywide.

Monitoring the schools for compliance with court orders was an integral responsibility of the parent councils. The court divided monitoring into twelve areas: student assignments; school capacities/program locations; faculty/administrative desegregation; special desegregation measures; special education; bilingual education; vocational/occupational education; student transportation; construction/renovation and closing of school facilities; school safety and security; student discipline; institutional pairings.

Also of note, Garrity mandated the Citywide Coordinating Council (CCC) in 1975 to foster public awareness of the process of implementing the court's desegregation orders. In 1977, the Citywide Coordinating Council was disbanded by court order and its responsibilities were split between the Department of Implementation's External Liaison Unit and the parent/citizen councils.

In 1982, parent councils completed a self-evaluation study and reorganized the structure of parent councils with court approval. The new configuration included: School Parent Councils (SPCs) and School Parent Council Executive Committees (SPCECs) at each school; nine District Parent Councils (DPCs), composed of co-chairs of the SPCECs; and a Citywide Parents Council (CPC), composed of parents elected from among SPCEC members in each district. The CPC was the umbrella organization for councils at each level, which were required to have fair representation of Black, White, Hispanic, and Asian parents where possible.

The CPC operated as an autonomous entity of the Boston Public School System, although it was housed within it. The mission of the CPC was to foster parental involvement in the schools, provide positive input into educational policies and hold the Boston Public Schools accountable for providing a quality education to all students. Staff worked to provide information; assist with student assignments and transportation; advocate for facility improvements; and arrange conflict resolution sessions at schools. The Board of Directors worked to: empower parents to become effective advocates in areas of curriculum improvement; increase visibility of parents; strengthen SPCs; and foster effective communication system wide. The CPC sponsored educational conferences, trainings and workshops; published two newsletters called Intouch, and Parents United. they also sponsored a weekly television show with the Cablevision Answer Channel A24.

The Citywide Parents Council often collaborated with other community groups in Boston, including: the Black Ministerial Alliance of Greater Boston; the Urban League Community Mobilization Project; Roxbury YMCA; Roxbury Multi-Service Center and Project Right; Quincy/Geneva Housing Corp.; Boston Plan for Excellence Access; WEATOC; NAACP; Blue Hill and Elm Hill Housing.

In the Final Orders of 1985, the court ruled that CPC was to be funded for at least three more years. In the additional ruling of May 1990, the court confirmed the necessity for the CPC, but no longer required the school department to fund it. At its inception, the CPC had over \$700,000.00 in funding. This was slowly

reduced every year and by 1992, the CPC had a budget of a little over \$150,000.00. Today the CPC exists as a volunteer run organization with activities funded by grant money.

Sources:

Overview of Citywide Parents Council; 1974-1999. Citywide Parents Council. n.d.

Procedural Manual for Monitoring, Dispute Resolution and Modification of Federal Desegregation Court Orders in the Boston Public Schools. Massachusetts Department of Education. May 1983.

PEP Grant: Parents Empowering Parents. Citywide Parents Council. 1993 - 1994.

[Table of Contents](#)

Scope and Content

The Citywide Parents Council Records date from 1974 to 1993, and are arranged into five series: REPC and CDAC Papers; SPC Papers; CPAC Papers; CPC Administrative Papers; and CPC Monitoring Papers. Each series is arranged by subject.

The REPC and CDAC Papers, date from 1975 to 1982, comprise one cubic foot and contain correspondence; committee notes; principal evaluations; meeting minutes; monitoring files and questionnaires.

The SPC Papers, date from 1979 to 1993, comprise seven cubic feet and contain membership lists; field specialist files; monitoring files; election documents; administrative papers; district reports; and training materials including principal evaluations and monitoring.

The CPAC Papers, date from 1975 to 1982, comprise one cubic foot and contain: minutes; correspondence; monitoring files; budgets; manuals; reports; and staff evaluations.

The CPC Administrative Papers, date from 1975 to 1993, comprise fourteen cubic feet, and contain: board meeting minutes; documentation of advisory boards and committees; by-laws, general administrative papers; audits; budgets; evaluations; court orders; reports; correspondence; events; newsletters and media department files.

The CPC Monitoring Papers, date from 1979 to 1993, comprise seventeen cubic feet, and are arranged according to the following ten areas: Desegregation; Bilingual; Facilities; Faculty and Staff; Institutional Pairings; Parent and Student Organizations/Groups; Safety; Special Education; Student Assignments; Transportation; Vocational Education. Types of material found within this record group include reports, monitoring forms, correspondence, memoranda, notes, plans, training manuals and school publications. The Desegregation record group is arranged by topic as follows: Correspondence; Monitoring Activities; Chapter 636; Chapter 188; Basic Skills Testing; School Climate; Plans; Committees; Reports.

Note: box numbers are by series to accommodate any extant records that may be located.

[Table of Contents](#)

Related Material

[Desegregation-era Records Collection](#)

[Department of Implementation Records finding aid](#)

[Office of General Council Records finding aid](#)

Acquisition Information

The Citywide Parents Council Records came to the City Archives in two accessions -- one in 2003 and the other in 2004. They were previously stored in the basement of the Boston Latin Academy building.

[Table of Contents](#)

Access Restrictions

Some records within this collection are restricted as mandated by FERPA guidelines and the Public Records Law (MGL C.4, s. 7, cl.26). Contact archivist for further information.

[Table of Contents](#)

Appraisal Information

The collection was reduced from approximately 225 cubic feet. Duplicate materials, carbon copies, blank forms, personnel and personal papers were disposed of during processing. Meeting attendance sheets and election materials were sampled.

[Table of Contents](#)

Container List

Box Contents

I. Racial Ethnic Parents Council and Citywide District Advisory Council Papers, 1975 - 1982

[Table of Contents](#)

Box 1

Correspondence; Committee notes; Principal evaluations; Handbooks; Meeting minutes, 1975 - 1982

II. School Parent Council Papers, 1979 - 1993

[Table of Contents](#)

Box 1

Membership; Administration, 1979 - 1990

Box 2

Administration, 1984 - 1988

Box 3

Monitoring; Training, 1982 - 1989

Box 4

Field Specialist Files; Monitoring, 1982 - 1989

Box 5
Monitoring: District Reports, 1985 - 1988

Box 6
Monitoring, 1983 - 1990

Box 7
SPC Elections, 1982 - 1989

Box 8
SPC Executive Committee, 1986 - 1987

III. Citywide Parent Advisory Council Papers, 1975 - 1982

[Table of Contents](#)

Box 1
Absenteeism, 1977 - 1979; Asian Parent Associations, 1975 - 1980; Bilingual Education, 1976 - 1981; Budget, 1978 - 1980; CPAC Handbooks, 1977 - 1978; CPAC Meeting Minutes, 1977 - 1979; CPAC Monitoring, 1979 - 1982

IV. Citywide Parents Council Administrative Papers, 1975 - 1993

[Table of Contents](#)

Box 1
Board Meetings and Minutes, 1982 - 1993

Box 2
Board Meetings and Minutes; Advisory Boards and Committees, 1982 - 1991

Box 3
Advisory Boards and Committees; By-laws and Incorporation; Miscellaneous Administration Matters, 1985 - 1993

Box 4
Audit; Budget; Self Evaluation, 1983 - 1994

Box 5
Court Orders; Reports, 1974 - 1993

Box 6
Correspondence, 1983 - 1993

Box 7
Correspondence, 1983 - 1993

Box 8
Media Department Files, 1983 - 1992

Box 9
Events, 1987 - 1994

Box 10
Newsletters, 1975 - 1992

Box 11
Staff Reports, A-M, 1984 - 1990

Box 12
Staff Reports, M-N, 1987 - 1990

Box 13

Staff Reports, N-P, 1975 - 1990

Box 14

Staff Reports, R-Z, 1984- 1990

Box 15

Director's Office Files, 1983- 1989

V. Citywide Parents Council Monitoring, 1979 - 1993

[Table of Contents](#)

Box 1

Special Desegregation Measures: Correspondence; Monitoring Activities, 1983 - 1988
Training Materials: Monitoring Charts; Manuals; Plans; Annual Report; Media Relations, 1980 - 1988; Monitoring Sub Committee, 1988; Outgoing Correspondence of Monitoring Field Specialist, 1983; General Correspondence of CPC Monitoring, 1986 - 1988; Monitoring Activities, Meetings, 1986

Box 2

Special Desegregation Measures, 1978 - 1989
Chapter 636, 1982 - 1990; Chapter 188, 1986 - 1987; Basic Skills Testing, 1978 - 1987; Early Childhood Education, 1987; Hyde Park High, 1988; Charlestown High, 1983; Magnet Schools, 1984 - 1987; Desegregation, 1988; Aids Curriculum, 1988

Box 3

Special Desegregation Measures, 1983 - 1989
Desegregation Access Plan, 1984 - 1987; Desegregation Monitoring Committee, 1983 - 1984; Match Maker Project, 1988 - 1990; Screening Committee, 1992; Advisory Task Force, 1978; Educational Planning Group, 1982 - 1983; Boston Compact, 1982 - 1990; Boston education Plan, 1986 - 1987; School Improvement plans, 1984 - 1985; School Parent Council Report, 1984 - 1985; Hyde Park High School Report, 1989; Annual School Reports, 1985 - 1988

Box 4

Special Desegregation Measures, 1978 - 1990
Desegregation Monitoring Committee Report, 1983; Citywide Forum Report, 1987 - 1989; 5th Grade DRP Failure Report (Promotion Policy), 1986; Monitoring Report draft, 1987; Desegregation Monitoring, 1987 - 1990; School Profile Sheets, 1978 - 1979; Annual Report of School Progress, 1987 - 1988; School Climate Monitoring, 1987- 1990; Opening of School Monitoring, 1986 - 1988

Box 5

Bilingual Education; Facilities, 1983 - 1988
Bilingual Monitoring, 1987 - 1990; Bilingual Education, 1987 - 1988; Bilingual Education Task Force Study, 1984; Bilingual Report, 1984; Bilingual Issues, 1984 - 1986; Bilingual Training Packet, 1984; Bilingual Testing Policy, 1984; Bilingual Consolidation, 1988; Bilingual Monitoring, 1984 - 1988; Facilities Monitoring, 1986 - 1987

Box 6

Facilities, 1984 - 1989
Monitoring School Facilities, 1984, 1986; Facilities Capital Improvements, 1984; Unified Facilities Plan, 1985; Facilities Monitoring, 1986 - 1990; Facilities Department, 1988 - 1989; School Closings: Long Range Plan, 1984 - 1989

Box 7

Faculty and Administration, 1978 - 1990
Administrative Assignments, 1987; Classroom Teacher Absences, 1987; Faculty Desegregation, 1983; Faculty Promotions, 1985; Report on CPC Parent Survey, 1984; Parents state of Schools Report, 1986 - 1987; Personnel, 1978 - 1990; Principal Evaluations, 1976 - 1990

Box 8

Faculty and Administration; Institutional Pairings, 1975 - 1992
Parent/Student Questionnaires re Principal Evaluations, 1988 - 1990; School Based Management, 1984 -1985; Screening Committees, 1982 - 1990; Substitute Teacher Report, 1987; Union Contracts, 1980 - 1989; Boston Human Services Collaborative, 1983 - 1984; District 1/Boston University Collaboration, 1975 - 1976; Dorchester High Friends Collaborative, 1992; Interorganizational Coordination: BPS and Social Services, 1983

Box 9

Parent Inquiries; Parent and Student Organizations, 1982 - 1990
Parent Inquiries, 1986 - 1992; Boston High School Student Coordinators, 1982 - 1983; Compendium on Citizen Participation Orders, 1986; CPC Parent Survey of Schools, 1983; District A Parent Groups, 1988; A Historical Capsule: Parent/Community Involvement in the Boston Desegregation Case, 1986 - 1987; Manual for Parent Coordinators, 1981; Mayor's Proposal for Parent involvement, 1987; Monitoring manual, Parents as Organizers, 1987; Parent involvement Subcommittee, 1986 - 1988; Parent Participation in Urban High Schools, 1986; Parents Empowering Parents, 1993 - 1994; Parent Orgs. The Nature of parent Support, 1987; School Based Management, 1982 - 1983

Box 10

Parent and Student Organizations; Safety, 1982 - 1989
School Improvement Councils, 1982 - 1988; School Parent Councils, 1983 - 1987; Monitoring Code of Discipline, 1981 - 1984; Court Cases, 1983 - 1988; Dangerous Weapons, 1987; Daily Incident Logs, 1983 - 1989; Student Safety task Force Report, 1985 - 1986; Safety Notebook, n.d.

Box 11

Safety; Special Education, 1979 - 1988
Safety Services Incident Reports, 1989-1990; Safe Schools Commission Report, 1983; Safety Services Procedural Manual, 1979; Safety/Security Monitoring, 1986 - 1990; Task Force on Safe Schools, 1987; Student Dropout Task Force, 1986; Student Safety Sub Committee, 1987; School police, 1987; School Safety Report, 1983; Suspension Reports, 1978 -1985; Monitoring Advanced Work Classes, 1986 - 1987; Basic Skills Testing, 1980 - 1987

Box 12

Special Education; Student Assignments, 1977 - 1989
Monitoring Chapter 766, 1977, 1987 - 1988; Monitoring Chapter 1, 1984 -1990; Monitoring Special Needs programs, 1987 - 1990; Special Education Litigation, 1985 - 1987; Special Education Transportation, 1987; Advanced Work Class assignments, 1988 - 1989; Boston Education Plan, 1984 - 1987; Choice Assignment Plan Report, 1988; Dropouts, 1984 - 1989

Box 13

Student Assignments, 1984 - 1989
Exam schools, 1987; Freedom of Choice Plan, 1985; Non-Promotes, 1984 - 1989; Long Range Plan, 1984 -1985; Parent Questionnaires re Student Assignments, 1988; Promotion Policy, 1984 - 1989

Box 14

Student Assignments; Transportation, 1979 - 1990
Student Assignments, 1984 - 1989; Advanced Work Class, 1987; Student Assignment Plan, 1987 - 1989; School Capacities, 1981 - 1988; District Population Schools, n.d.; Controlled Choice, 1989; Freedom of Choice, 1984 - 1988; Attendance Reports, 1984 - 1985; Enrollment projections, 1984 - 1990; Bus Driver Strike, 1979 - 1988

Box 15

Transportation; Vocational Education, 1975 - 1993
Bus Driver Strikes, 1984 -1988, 1991- 1993; Bus Monitors, 1984 - 1988; Collective Bargaining/Unions, 1983 - 1986; Transportation Guidelines, 1975; Transportation monitoring, 1979 - 1989; Private Schools, 1991; Safety, 1985; Transportation Work Group, 1988; Monitoring Vocational Education, 1979 - 1990; ORC/Madison Park Merger, 1986 - 1990

Box 16

Coordinator's Files, Lucille Koch, 1983 - 1989
Affirmative Action, 1983 - 1984; Annual Reports, 1982 - 1983, 1975 - 1979; Asbestos, 1983;
Assignments, 1983; Budget, 1983 - 1984; Chapter 636, 1984; Civil Rights Coalition, 1983 -
1984; Contract Negotiations, 1982; Curriculum, 1983 - 1984; Desegregation, 1979 - 1984;
Educational Planning Group, 1983; Facilities, 1985 - 1986, 1988 ; Unified Facilities Plan,
1987; Parents, 1990 - 1993; Residential Trends, 1981; Safety/Security, 1983 - 1984, 1988 -
1989; Safe Schools Commission, 1983; SPC Problems, n.d.; Voluntary Lau Compliance Plan,
1984; School Governance, 1987; Project Promise, 1987

Box 17

Coordinator's Files, Lucille Koch; Boston Public Schools Publications, 1977- 1990
Outgoing Correspondence, 1983 - 1985; Office of Monitoring Coordinator General, 1982 - 1988
Annual Report: Boston Public Schools, 1982 - 1983
Annual Report: Boston Public Schools, 1983 - 1984
Boston Basic Skills Improvement Plan, 1980
Boston School Improvement Program: Guidelines for Coordinators, 1984 - 1985
Boston School Improvement Program Evaluation, 1985
Chapter 1 Handbook; Boston Public Schools, 1986
Chapter 1 Program Catalog: Boston Public Schools, 1989 - 1990
Citywide Testing Policy; Boston Public Schools, 1983
Class of 1982: a Follow-up Study (Boston Public Schools), 1983
Code of Discipline: Boston Public Schools, 1982
Dorchester High School Teachers' Handbook, 1985 - 1986
Escuelas Publicas de Boston: Plan de Promocion 1 -12, 1983
Meeting the Needs: Boston Public Schools Chapter 1 - ECIA, 1985 - 1986
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Minority Parents and Special Education, 1983
Parents Know Best!, n.d.
Parents State of the Schools Monitoring Report, 1986 - 1987
Promotion policy Grades 1 - 12: Boston Public Schools, 1983
Report to the United States District Court with Excerpts From a Teacher Attitude Survey, 1977
School Advisory Council Activity Guides: Interpreting and Using Test Results, 1980
School Pictures: Teach Them How to Fish; Stressing Basic Skills, 1984
The Student Leadership Resource Directory, n.d.
A Working Document on the Dropout Problem in Boston Public Schools, vol. 1, 1986
A Working Document on the Dropout Problem in Boston Public Schools, vol. 2, 1986

[Table of Contents](#)
