

The Professional Learning Advisory Board SY19-20

The Professional Learning Advisory Board (PLAB) is a working group of Boston Public Schools educators dedicated to the advancement and improvement of professional learning in the district in order to improve the learning and well-being of our students. Members of the PLAB are jointly appointed by the Boston Teachers Union and the Boston Public Schools.

PLAB:

- Ensures that teacher voice is heard, respected, and valued in decision making
- Co-creates strategy and structures for professional learning with BPS Office of Academics and Professional Learning, other central office departments, and the BTU
- Is the “go-to” advisory for professional issues related to educators’ practice
- Creates a venue for two-way communication between educators and the district

What will PLAB be focused on this year?

- [The Telescope Network](#) - BPS/BTU’s Educator-led professional learning project.
- [Teacher Leadership strategic planning](#). BPS is engaging in a year-long process to create a teacher leadership strategy, and PLAB will advise.
- [BPS Pedagogical Framework](#) - The Essentials, CLSP Continuum, SEL standards and more can be a lot for educators to keep in mind. How can we speak a common language in BPS and work on developing professional learning to share that common language and approach.?
- [Teacher Leadership Fund](#) - Review applications.
- Other projects as they arise.

How are PLAB members chosen?

Those interested in serving on the PLAB must complete an application. A complete the application [here](#). You will need:

- Resume
- References
- A 250 word statement in response to one of the following questions:
 - According to your knowledge and experience, identify one area where professional learning for educators can be improved, and explain what changes you would suggest to improve it.
 - Identify one professional issue that impacts the teaching profession or student learning in Boston, and explain what changes you would suggest to address this issue.
- Stipend of \$1000

How is it composed?

The PLAB will be composed of 10-15 BTU members who represent a broad and diverse cross-section of the membership, including its racial, ethnic, and linguistic diversity.

Administrators and central office employees may also regularly attend meetings, but PLAB has been created primarily as a venue for ensuring that educator voice is heard. Insofar as its mission is to help all staff better support the learning and well-being of Boston's students, the board should include representatives who work in non-classroom teacher roles including: nurses, paraprofessionals, and related service providers.

Who Should Apply?

elementary teachers	specialist teachers and librarians
secondary teachers	arts teachers
paraprofessionals	math teachers
nurses	science teachers
related service providers	social studies/history teachers
provisional teachers	English language arts teachers
content specialist/coach	world language teachers
peer assistant or consulting teacher	ESL/SEI teachers
special education teachers	early childhood teachers

Who should apply and what qualifications should they have?

Anyone who is interested in creating a culture of continuously improving professional learning for educators in the Boston Public Schools is encouraged to apply. Ideal candidates will have demonstrated effective professional practice in their current role as well as strong desire for and a demonstrated track record of collaborative work. Candidates who represent the diversity of our staff and students are encouraged to apply.

APPLICATIONS DUE BY: October 6th

Applicants may be interviewed by phone or in-person at the discretion of the Boston Teachers Union and/or the Boston Public Schools.

What is the commitment?

The PLAB will meet at least once per month during the school year. Members may also choose to work on specific projects or initiatives prioritized by the board. Meetings will be held on Tuesday evenings from 4:30-7 (educators at late schools are welcome to apply).

For the 2019-20 school year, meetings are tentatively scheduled for:

10/22

11/19

12/17

1/21

2/25

3/17

4/14

5/19

6/16

What does the PLAB do?

In previous years, the PLAB has:

- Planned and hosted 3 EdCamps
- Created the vision for the Telescope Network
- Co-designed The Essentials and some resources to support them.
- Created a grant-funded joint Union-District structure to re-envision professional development
- Met with district leaders to advise them on program design and priorities
- Offered feedback to content leaders on curriculum and professional development plans
- Created an Affinity Group program for educators with similar interests and professional roles to learn together
- Planned and held the annual Professional Learning Conference at the BTU

What if I have more questions?

Please contact

Paul Tritter at ptritter@btu.org,

Shakera Walker at swalker@bostonpublicschools.org