

## QUEST Timeline on Advocacy around Charter Schools (Jan.-July 2014)

Press action = pink;

Internal discussions = blue

Lobbying= brown

Public writing = purple

Social media posts and petitions = orange

Group/allies/rallies and advocacy = dark green

October 30, 2013: Diane Ravitch talk in Boston; talks about Charters; many in attendance from QUEST, Boston Truth, Parent Budget Group

In January 2014, started hearing and sharing more info about the budget.

March 1 meeting with Chris Faraone, reporter, from DIG Boston

March 6, BSC budget hearing, parent testimony re: budget shortfall and linking the shortfall to charter reimbursements and chapter 70 allocation. Chair of BSC says he's ready to go to statehouse alongside parents to ask for more money.

March 12, created MoveOn petition that had 2758 signatures, titled "Adequate Funding for Public Education and Maintaining the Charter Cap," addressed to Sonia Chang Diaz and Alice Peisch, Co-Chairs of the Senate Education Committee

March 15 Naama Goldstein (BPS parent) Letter to Editor in Globe

March 19<sup>th</sup> Megan Wolf (QUEST/BPS parent) letter to the Editor in Globe questioned, "*the judgment of policy makers who support a second system of education, one that is eroding the abilities of our primary system to educate all our students. Until we more fully understand the consequences of charter schools, the response to the call for more must be: Not now.*"

March 19<sup>th</sup> meeting with Senator Sonia Chang-Diaz with other parents

March 22<sup>nd</sup> shared funding inequities chart on Facebook

March 23<sup>rd</sup> Parent Imperfect blog post, titled "A Third Way or the Charter Way?"

March 24<sup>th</sup> Boston Globe article about QUEST petition and campaign to keep the cap writing, "*The campaign is believed to be the largest and most aggressive parent-driven effort in the state to stop raising the charter-school cap.*"

March 25 Statehouse protest with Boston Truth (Coalition) and other groups

April 8<sup>th</sup> Parent Bake Sale at City Hall Plaza regarding the budget

April 10<sup>th</sup> QUEST members and BPS parents Kevin Murray and Mary Battenfeld on BNN news to discuss the negative effect of charters on BPS and the budget cuts. Kevin discusses number of charter schools needed to create tipping point to ruin BPS.

April 13 Mary Battenfeld (QUEST/BPS parent) Op-Ed published in Washington Post

Mid April: Facebook page “Keep the Cap” was created by an ally, as was the twitter hash tag #keepthecap

April 17<sup>th</sup> Meeting with Representative Alice Peisch

May 20<sup>th</sup> QUEST press release *“Until funding inequities between district schools and charters are systematically addressed, until charters prove their ability and willingness to educate all children, until real accountability for charters is in place, the charter cap must not be lifted.”*

MAY 21 House votes in favor of raising the cap on charters; QUEST lobbies legislators and watches debate

QUEST and supporters take to twitter to thank reps that voted against the lift, calling them courageous

May 23<sup>rd</sup> Mary Battenfeld Op-Ed published in Globe stating, *“Charter schools diverge sharply from the road of publically supported “common schools. Thomas Jefferson first laid. Their bedrock is competitive capitalism, not cooperative civic democracy.”*

May 28 blogger Edushyster posts low numbers of male students of color graduation rates at charters

June 2<sup>nd</sup> blogger and BPS parent Kristin Johnson posts open letter to State Senators asking them to ask questions before the vote about timing, finances, budget and civil rights.

June 10<sup>th</sup> Kristin Johnson posts charts from Boston Collegiate Charter School displaying “deep dive” in enrollment

June 12<sup>th</sup>: QUEST Lobby Day; visited all State Senators and distributed information packets about charters documenting high drop/push out rates, low graduation rates especially for boys of color, funding inequities, and lack of parent and community in their governance

June 25<sup>th</sup> Meeting with Senator William Brownsberger

QUEST July 1<sup>st</sup> press release *“despite four years of “enhanced accountability measures,” charter schools continue to serve fewer Students with Special Needs and English Language Learners.”*

July 9<sup>th</sup> QUEST members and BPS parents Megan Wolf and Maura O'Toole appeared on BNN news, *"The consequences for our traditional district public schools are financial, practical and very real."*

July 10<sup>th</sup>: Lobbying with Boston Truth (now BEJA), visiting many offices and sitting down in formal meetings with some Senators or staff.

July 12<sup>th</sup> Second MoveOn petition created asking senators to *"Please support equity and sustainability in our public schools. Vote no on lifting the charter cap" (SM)*

July 16<sup>th</sup> more lobbying

July 16<sup>th</sup> Senate voted against lifting the charter cap!!