

February 2, 2022, 7-7:55pm

Participants: Abdel Sepulveda (principal, co-chair), Pam Pecchio (parent co-chair), Tina Lieu (parent rep), Karim Ahmed (parent rep), Michele Lippens (educator rep), Marissa Fried (educator rep)

Participants ~23

Note: There was no January School Council meeting.

To Do

Tina: Verify past SC notes are visible on the Peabody site now

Agenda

1. Snow updates
2. Covid updates.
3. School Mission and Vision subcommittee
4. National association for assessment (NEAP) for 4th graders
5. Equity Audit update from contractors
6. Equity Team (Ms. Jen to bring up)
7. Postpone to March agenda
 - a. School Improvement Plan

Snow Updates

Public Works is in charge of plowing sidewalks, and if they fail that, should the custodians clean it up? Mr. S is meeting w/custodians and the union to talk about the issue of the unplowed sidewalks this past storm. The sidewalks need to be clean because we are a walking school. Also our playgrounds are important to be cleared so we can be outside when the weather is nice.

Do caregivers have any feedback to pass onto the custodians?

- This is a very longtime problem
- Snow plows went around the school a lot (all day Sunday) but maybe they need clarity on what is important to clear

Covid updates

We have just started coming down from a COVID peak. We are not the “leading” school in numbers.

District changes in positive case reporting

- School will send a letter at the end of the week with the totals of the number of positive cases whether via pool testing or caregiver information. We are moving away from the email per case.
- FYI, Cambridge is doing far more than other districts. We give more details than other places.

Cambridge starting a new protocol for Feb. vacation. Each student and staff member will get a single covid test to be taken on Sun 2/27 before returning on Mon 2/28. If you test negative, no need to report, but if positive, you are asked to upload the result to the portal.

Cambridge will participate in DESE COVID testing program. **Parents and staff will have to sign another consent form via family portal or tell the family liaison (verbal confirmation is ok).** Pool testing will be Mon or Tues and students who opt-in will receive a rapid test to take Thur to then report on results on Friday.

For close contacts: will do 2 swabs, one in a pool and one in a vial and notifications will go out once a week.

Reasons for change in protocol: 98% of the tests were negative via pool testing and close contact testing is coming back negative. Former protocol is a large strain/stress on healthcare staff and teachers.

The fact that younger kids have gotten vaccinated has also reduced in-school transmission.

We will continue w/COVID team meetings and pool testing, but we have to realize that COVID will be with us for a longer time -- hence the revised protocol. Now as more are getting vaccinated, DESE is telling us we have to learn to live with COVID in our communities (even though we don't want to). The practice we have now is not sustainable and not uncovering what we need.

Kindergartener and Special Start in school will continue w/pool testing. If there is a positive pool then will do the 2 swabs where the 2nd swab is individually tested.

Change in communication:

- Used to send 3 letters (1 to community, 1 to homeroom w/the case, 1 to close contacts)
- This was confusing people especially during the peak
- Instead, school will send an "end of the week" letter with aggregated numbers.
- Will also help bring down anxiety level. -- By the time that letter with total numbers is sent, we have contacted all the close contacts via phone (not assuming people will read the email in a timely manner).

"Presumptive positive" = means when we get one pool testing come back positive. Means we presume one of the 5-8 swabs in that pool came back positive. (Could also be a false positive -- has happened 3 times before). Currently we will

1. Rapid test the individuals -- if all negative, then
2. Then do individual PCR test

**COVID vaccine rates --Peabody is encouraging families to upload or send a photo of vaccination cards to Nicole (right now up to 50%). It helps the school a lot. BOTH shots have to be shown on the card before you send/upload the vaccine card to Peabody

School Mission and Vision Subcommittee

Having trouble getting a majority of people together at a meeting time. There isn't a clear date that works for people.

Recommendation: Just go with a day that the majority of people could attend. And make it possible for people absent to also provide input.

Mission should be easy for anyone to recite (not too wordy). Use Google form to get input from staff.

Suggestion to have a meeting w/most people and then a 2nd meeting at a time when at least 1 person (from first meeting) is able to attend -- for continuity

4th Grade Assessment ([NAEP](#))

Every year the Federal Dept of Education randomly selects schools and different grade levels to test students on ELA or math. Peabody was contacted in July 2021 that we had been chosen. After the test, we get a nationwide letter grade on how our students are doing (to compare rural to rural and urban to urban areas or compare how we are doing as a nation vs other countries). Test coordinator is Mr. D'Ab. Parents got a letter 2 weeks before the assessment (to take place on Feb. 8) as instructed by NAEP. Parents have the option to opt out. So far only 2 have because of "too much testing" (we are about to start doing iReady and then there's MCAS.)

Those who opt out will get time in the library to read. Students are chosen randomly. People from Dept of Education will proctor the exam and provide laptops. The feedback we will get is an aggregate (not individual results).

Equity Audit Update - with contractors

Staff focus group happened last week (well attended ~25). Focus group for American Born Black and Latinx families was not well attended (only 1 family came). (Ms. Hedrington had contacted families individually in advance.) So will try one more focus group date, and if that doesn't have good turnout then will go to individual interviews.

Equity Team - work sponsored by the CPSD Office of Equity

It is confusing that the outside equity audit is happening at the same time as the equity team work sponsored by the school district, that is just how it is happening.

The school heard from a few people today about joining us on the equity team for the District. Possibility for caregivers to receive a stipend. Please help get the word out for those interested in participating to email Nicole Sullivan, Nadia Jeudy or Jen Hedrington. Commitment is once a month for 1 hour, but there will be an assessment with the assessment rubric so that meeting will be a little longer.

Open floor for feedback/questions

CPS Budget Meetings

Q. Anything Peabody needs parents to advocate for?

- Would like a paraprofessional in every grade level and one in each classroom
- Would like one more nurse (we have Nurse Bella and Nurse Asst Cindy -- who serve both Peabody and RAUC; there is a 2nd nurse asst that comes 4d/week)
 - They are overtaxed as they also handle the after school programs
- Would like to keep the literacy interventionist we hired w/the extra money from covid relief funds (ESSER), for a one year contract, but would like to make the position permanent. We have a lot of people but also a lot of need.

Current state:

Coaches - permanent

Reading recovery - permanent

ESSER - math interventionist (permanent) and literacy interventionist (would go away after 1 yr)

Social Contract

Q. Heard from a child that school is no longer doing the social contract after the announcements?

Mondays we do a mindfulness minute and in that case, we will skip social contract and do a self affirmation/self-talk/

Mr. S will also do an announcement if the particular day is significant for a culture (holiday etc.).

Parent feedback: Does not like the portion about "I take responsibility for my choices and actions" because it is unfair to a special needs child who may not be in the right situation/environment for them to be "their best self," and in that case they cannot take responsibility for their actions.

Last words

If you write to Mr. S about something and he doesn't answer. Send it again! Please continue to have grace for yourself. Although COVID has impacted us in different ways, we are all in this together.