

# April 13, 2022, 7-8:25am

[Link to draft agenda](#)

*Participants: Abdel Sepulveda (principal, co-chair), Pam Pecchio (parent co-chair), Tina Lieu (parent rep), Marissa Fried (educator rep), Nicole Sullivan (family liaison)*

*Total participants: 11*

*Next School Council meeting is May 11 at 7pm*

## Agenda

1. SIP/ SIP Budget Update
2. Equity Audit Update
3. Mission and Vision Update
4. Listening Conferences
5. Music Teacher Hiring Update
6. End of year activities update

## Action Items

- **Mr. S:** check with custodians about when outdoor water fountains will be turned on
- **Nicole:** Send email to families today letting parents if they have not been contacted by now for a listening conference, please let Mr. S know.
- **Nicole:** Reinstate weekly email on Mondays announcing the coming week's events

## Meeting Minutes and Notes

1. SIP/ SIP Budget Update

**Overhaul of K-5 report cards-** [W Chan Copy Grade 3.docx](#)

[Peabody: SIP & PD Budget forms 2021-2022](#)

Noticed: Report cards aren't consistent and aligned between grade levels, and isn't standards based.

Looked at other samples in the district and neighboring areas

Looking at the Chan example (Grade 3)

Moving to electronic from hand-written

Every grade level will use the same assessment language- M (meeting) P (progressing) B (Beginning) and

**SEL** assessed before the Academics taken from the Castle(sp?) curriculum

Every grade level has this, but subheadings may changes they grow and develop

### ELA

Feedback from teachers that we used to have more friendly-language than what is proposed for the new report cards, worry that families may be confused. There will be training for staff, and then the community to go over the changes. (e.g., during family listening sessions)

This helps differentiate significantly better—more detailed assessment, can see that maybe M in one area, but P/B in another

Q. (From a council member) Can we include a glossary or explanation of unfamiliar concepts in the report card?

A. We will go over that when we have the listening session with the community.

### **SCIENCE**

Much less detailed, very broad, because a lot of science is addressed in ELA

### **SOCIAL STUDIES (very broad—just Concepts/Skills)**

- Working with the district lead teacher (Adrienne Steng)
- Getting more input from teachers to keep working on this
- Chan's example is the penultimate draft

Vecchiarello/Lippens/Hedrington/Sepulveda are meeting tomorrow to further work toward finalization

### **MATH**

Three-legged stool: Conceptual thinking, problem-solving and computation.

Mathematical Practice Operations and Algebraic Reasoning (Fluency—we often judge ourselves by how fast our neighbors are)

Other subheadings, very detailed

Q. From parent rep: Can there be an open section for Comments?

A. From Mr S—Yes

Q. Can the Letters be Mapped Visually across the page so we can see in columns where they are doing?

And how will we know where they are in comparison to where they should be at a given point in the year?

- A. Both good points and well-taken. Fear we are so stuck with letter grading and we get stuck. More freedom in saying there's Meeting or Progressing as opposed to 0 or 1 out of X. Thinking of students new to the country or with disability, that this is more accurate and thoughtful. Will bring it up to the team.

Second point—listening conferences at end of May/early June and we will address that with parents. It's OK for kids to be progressing or meeting. If we were to assess at end of Sept, my hope would be that they would be M or B, but by the end of Term 1, teachers, students, and parents might have a better grasp of where they are vis a vis the entire standard.

Same to follow for Music, Art, PE, Health

Library and Tech do not have a grading grid, because we do not give a grade in library. Bourne doesn't want the library to be viewed as another class, but reading to be a welcoming experience. Principal does want parents to know if students are accessing the library.

Q. Reiteration from parents about the importance of a comment section, as it really addresses the individual child and helps parents understand.

- A. Principal–yes, we will have one, all the other schools we have looked at have them and we will do the same.

### **SIP/PD Budget Forms**

Looking at the budget spreadsheet (Living Document, a little may move from one line item to another as needed):

### **\$61,112 in the Budget**

\$2,500- Library bought a variety of diverse/inclusive books to expand the offerings

\$12,500 New item: Field Trip Transportation as a line item for students to get out of school and have a different experience that is part of the curriculum.

\$7,125: 19 Colleagues going to be taking Tier 1 instruction (Making Student Thinking Visible) self-paced PD, not mandatory, 19 people signed up to do it. Tier 1 is the type of instruction that every child gets. All the best practices, whether Number Talk, Read Alouds, Compare/Contrasting.

\$13,000: In-School Leadership Camp to come work with 4th & 5th graders

5th grades to prepare for middle school

4th graders–not a secret that they are amazing and strongest group that we have. 4th grade is currently the cohort who needs this the most. Prep them for next year when they move to the second floor of the building, but also want to make sure the issues (problem solving working collaboratively) to make sure they don't carry over to next year.

\$6112: Drum Circle Presentation: present to cohorts of students in June

They get very engaged, every child gets a drum. Has been very effective at all ages, he ties it to self-expression, working as a community, tune into heartbeat, and

Step to Elevate: Young Black-woman-owned business from Malden, also going to work with cohorts to introduce stomps/steps/choreography/sounds. Very engaging.

\$10,000: Strengthening Tier 1 Literacy and Math:

Instructional Materials: New gym mats, new art materials, Scholastic Magazines,

\$2000: SEL/Community Engagnement

Moving on Ceremonies for K and 5th grade–time for them to experience a community event

\$2000: SWAG for students, Peabody Pride shirts, new mission: To Love To Learn and To Read

\$5875: Stipend for educators Making Students Thinking Visible: compensate educators for the extra 20 hours they are taking to do this

## 2. Equity Audit Update

Manuel Fernandez (CPSD Chief Equity Officer) met w/Mr. Sepulveda and we are putting a pause on the self-assessment by the building-based equity team, as we have two equity audits going on (from consultant and from district) and it's a lot, so putting the district's audit on hold.

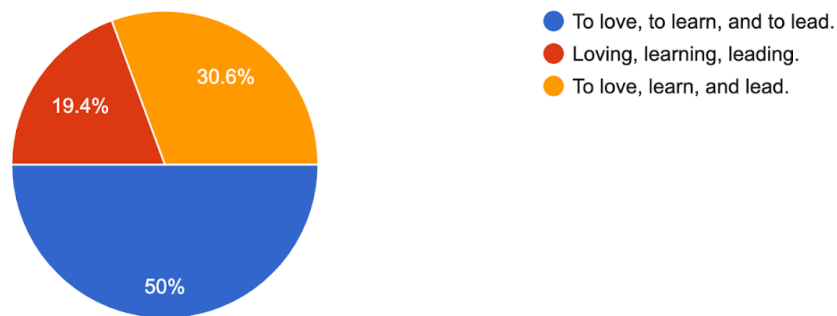
The consultant was going to meet w/our American Born Black/Brown families and then do the single interviews.

At the same time, the building-based equity team (BBET) will work on addressing issues of trust in the community. BBET not taking more members in until the current cohort has time to gel and problem solve issues in practices. Leslie Jimenez working w/Mr. S on working on the foundation of trust, so next step is for BBET to meet with educators and caregivers to do a "stories of self" to bridge the gap before continuing with the audit project.

## 3. Mission and Vision Update

Choose the most impactful and engaging version of our mission;

62 responses



Would like all kids to be leaders whether they have the charisma or if they are quieter, we want students to see themselves as leaders w/agency in their own lives. We are helping remove obstacles to their agency.

Subcommittee was to have met last week to finalize the report, but a chairperson had a family emergency, so it's been scheduled for after the break. SC rep Michael reports it was a really nice group to work with and feels they came up with a good mission and vision statement. Input for it came from the greater community (students, educators, families). Ms. Lippens was instrumental in putting together the word clouds, which ended up being a fantastic guide. The result encompassed what everyone was looking for. Had a diverse set of people (different countries, speaking different languages) who participated, but still reached out beyond the group membership for input.

## 4. Listening Conferences

They are happening right now and will finish by April 29. Today also an open house from 5-7pm. Teachers who are doing them after school or losing a prep to do them receive a stipend per district policy.

\*\*\*If any parents have not been contacted by now for a listening conference, please let Mr. S know. (The conferences are not required of parents, but the school must offer.)

>>Action: Send an email to parents today about the above so that people are aware. (Nicole)

Progress report cards going home today with kids.

## 5. Music Teacher Hiring Update

Must wait till teacher receives non-renewal letter to post the position. Hiring committee (to replace Mr. DeWitte) will include a parent from Peabody and one from RAUC and one student from RAUC. This is what was done for the replacement for the string teacher Ms. Phillips (going on maternity leave). The replacement teacher has a background in El Sistema.

## 6. End of year activities update

Celebration and performances (concerts) they will be able to happen according to the below.

### a. COVID Protocol Updates and Reminders from Yesterday's Admin Council -

Here's the latest COVID protocol updates shared with all district leaders yesterday.

#### i. Celebrations, Performances, Concerts

1. Should send a special message to families letting them know that the event will be able to happen if attendees comply with:
2. Anyone attending should be fully vaccinated or have an approved exemption -- *How to enforce? Will be the honor system*
3. Allow full capacity in spring of 2022 **with masks required regardless of vax status**
4. Guidance is subject to change depending on public health community numbers -- *Numbers need to stay below 5% positivity rate (might be even lower). At Peabody and RAUC we have plenty of outdoor space to do things, too if numbers are too high to do it indoors.*

#### ii. Use of Water Fountains

1. Custodians will start removing plastic from water fountains this week
2. Water systems will be flushed
3. A cleaning routine will be reinstated

### **Q. When will outdoor water fountains be turned on again?**

>>Action: Will check with custodians

### **Other items**

#### Outdoor wifi

The district has worked to reinforce our outdoor wifi access with additional outdoor hotspots to take advantage of good weather to take the class outside (helps with COVID prevention). Also we have a lot of greenspace (many other schools don't), so the wifi hotspot could be used in the back field.

Will start after April break and may shutdown when school isn't in session.

**Q. Is there any plan to reinstate use of the garden in the courtyard?**

A. City Sprouts has continued to work in the garden and push into classes. They were planting carrots the other day. It's great for the kids -- mental break.

**Q. Request to reinstate the hugely helpful weekly emails that Nicole sent last year on Mondays with just a list of what events are happening for the coming week**

A. Yes, will do.

New School Council Member Elections

Last time it was done by the School Council and Nicole. The district (Family Engagement dept) is looking for the official parent groups to be connected to the district to be trained about how to run and organize the elections. There will be a set format. And the school council members will also get training about how school councils function.

The handbook (Pam was part of the working group) has yet to be rolled out, but expecting it to be soon. It strikes a balance between consistency of how the School Council is run, between schools but also letting each school adapt to its own personality.

SC reps can serve 4 years max and are elected to 2 year terms. The idea is everyone is elected to a 2 year term, but they would be staggered so that the whole group of reps doesn't leave at the same time. In our case, all of us would end our terms in June 2022 (Pam at her 4 year maximum term limit, Tina is graduating and the other reps will have completed serving 2 years each).

**Final thoughts**

Today is pajama day for RAUC and Peabody, which is the first joint school event in a while. Mr. S is happy to report that both schools have been working extremely well together

The Cambridge Community Iftar will be at 6:15pm tonight. Dinner is served at sunset (7:23pm) and is at the Cambridge Street Upper School 840 Cambridge St.