

Graham and Parks Alternative Public School
a pre-kindergarten through 5th grade
Cambridge, MA public school

School Council Notes - DRAFT
Agenda for January 26, 2023
7:00 – 8:00pm via zoom

School Council Meeting Norms

- Be punctual & prepared
- Be mindful of air time
- Avoid side bar conversations
- Assume positive intentions

Attendees:

Administrative Appointees: Dr. Kathleen Smith – Principal; Lauren Morse – Family Liaison; Jodi Rich – Community Representative

Educator and staff representatives: Debra Gadsen – Co-Chair, Melissa Mihos, Kaitlin Baumann, Stefanie Gardner

Family and caregiver representatives: Christian Henry – Co-Chair, Shawdee Eshghi - Secretary, Vivian Colon Pales – Hiring Committee, Jessica Britton, Khalid Iqbal

1. Meeting Convened 7:00pm
2. Introductions, Greetings, Review of Prior Minutes 7:00 - 7:05 pm
3. Principal’s Report 7:05 - 7:15 pm
 - a. Staffing & Professional development updates
 - b. Facilities updates
 - c. Health policy updates

Goal: Keep the School Council informed of school happenings and areas of focus.

Outcome: This is an update.

Notes:

- We had a district wide Professional Development Day on January 3rd. Staff attended building-based professional development in the morning focused on community building through community circles. They were also provided de-escalation and positive behavior support training with Rob Kelly, district trainer and they prepared to complete progress reports. Staff were provided lunch and then attended district-wide PD in the afternoon.
- We are working on hiring additional support for kindergarten, given students with additional needs.
- We are also working on hiring an additional lunch aide.

4. Family Engagement Update 7:15 - 7:20 pm
 - a. Principal’s Coffee
 - b. District: School Committee & Events

2022-2023 Graham & Parks School Council Members

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c. Upcoming G&P events

Goal: Keep the School Council informed of family engagement efforts.

Outcome: Ensure procedures are in place to continue and expand on these efforts.

Notes:

- We had a Principal's Coffee on supporting caregivers in their ability to process experiences with their children.
- Alice Cohen, Lead teacher of social emotional learning, joined us and guided the conversation.
- Upcoming events:
 - We will have the Grade 3 and 4 Music Concert on Wednesday, February 1st.
 - The 100th day of school is February 10th. We will celebrate by having a "Mismatch Day" - students and staff are encouraged to wear mismatching outfits.
 - Our next Free Food market is February 15th.

5. Professional and parent understanding of student learning
Part I: MCAS & Review of data within the school

7:20 - 7:55 pm

Notes:

- We will focus on Math
- We want to acknowledge that MCAS is not unbiased, DESE is looking at questions and trying to improve them
- Despite that, in order to close gaps, we must consider what we can learn from this assessment
- In planning for this presentation, we looked at the performance of our students who are black and low-income, because these are the groups highlighted in entry interviews as groups we are not meeting the needs of at G&P.
- We reviewed the "Ladder of Inference" and the importance of staying low on the ladder while looking at data - meaning not jumping to conclusions, instead asking yourself - what do you notice, what do you see?
- MCAS is a statewide assessment administered to students in grades 3-8 and 10.
- It is a graduation requirement in Massachusetts.
- [Slides were shared to show the performance of students meeting or exceeding expectations in Math]
- In 2022, 60% of students met or exceeded expectations
- Subgroups: White (approx 75%); Black (approx. 15%); Multi-Race (approx. 70%); Asian, (approx. 50%) met or exceeded expectations
- Low-income students (approx 22%) whereas Not Low-income (approx, 80%)
- Other data was shared regarding the achievement percentiles by demographic groups

6. New business & community feedback

7:55 - 8:00 pm

7. Meeting adjourned

8:00 pm