

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

School Council Notes - DRAFT
Agenda for Thursday March 23rd
7:00 – 8:00 pm via zoom

School Council Meeting Norms

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

Attendance:

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, Vivian Colon Pales – Hiring Committee, Jessica Britton, Khalid Iqbal

Councilmembers absent: Shawdee Eshghi - Secretary

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| 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:

- *Staffing - Sylvain Gladu will join us as PE teacher covering Madelyn's Leave of Absence*
- *Mabel Covey has been hired as a new Lunch Monitor*
- *Erica Pain will be supporting us in Room 114*
- *Professional Development - Staff engaged in Social Emotional Learning training last Monday about the DESSA Screener (SEL)*
- *Staff attended a building based training on our new math curriculum, Illustrative Math and planning with a UDL approach*
- *Staff in grades 3-5 also attended a OEIB training about teaching through an equity lens*
- *Staff in grades JK - 2 attended a training introducing them to a new screener, mCLASS.*
- *Facilities - The internet went out on Wednesday, kudos to teachers for being flexible and resourceful, parents - thank you for your patience!*

2022-2023 Graham & Parks School Council Members

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- *We are working with facilities about plans for summer work in the building*
- *Health Update - we are continuing to follow our mitigation protocols, families can expect to receive COVID tests before April break.*

4. Family Engagement Update 7:15 - 7:20 pm
- a. Playground Issues
 - b. Summer Programs
 - c. Spring Conferences

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

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

Notes:

- Some students have been unsupervised after school. Please make sure you are paying close attention to what is happening after school, there have been some incidents on the soccer field.
- Summer program information was shared.
- Spring conferences are coming soon.

5. Reflection on 3 year anniversary of school closure: 7:20 - 7:50 pm

The news of the Coronavirus spread in March 2020 reached this School Council meeting in the form of an alert: Cambridge Schools would be shut for two weeks. 3 years later we are convening to recognize what it meant to go through that experience together and separately, how it impacted all of us - students, parents, and professionals.

- a. What do you remember?
- b. How did you cope with the challenge and stress?
- c. Of all the ways we were impacted by the pandemic, what were you surprised by the most?
- d. How do you respond now when you perceive conditions are changing?
- e. What do you (or can you) do now to take care of yourself, your family, and our community?

Notes: Meeting participants shared their reflections about the years since COVID began.

6. New business & community feedback 7:50 - 8:00 pm
7. Meeting adjourned 8:00 pm