



PUTNAM AVE. UPPER SCHOOL

School Council Meeting, Feb. 7, 2024

MEETING MINUTES (below, will be ratified in the next meeting on March 6th)

Meeting Time: 5:30 - 7 PM

ATTENDEES:

School Council members: Jennifer Elisa Betancourt, Nekeya Dancy, Keremu Dawed, Jodi Ekelchik, Betsy Vizcaino

Admin. & Staff: Dr. Phanenca Babio-James, Michelle Calioro, Kunjal Shah, Liam Doherty, Annabelle Tarek, Danielle Rivers, Marianne Bees, Meghan Papalardo, Maria Blair, Alison Swigut, Ray Porch (OEIB),

School community members in attendance: 4

AGENDA:

5:30-5:40 Welcome & Reflection

5:40-5:50 Community Agreements & Roles

5:50-6:25 School Improvement Plan (SIP) and Budget

6:45-7:00 Updates and Reminders

SCHOOL COUNCIL PRESENTATION LINK: [PAUS Feb.7 School Council Slide Show](#)

MEETING SUMMARY, QUESTIONS & NEXT STEPS:

Topics discussed are referenced in the presentation attached above.

- 1) Dr Babio-James welcomed all attendees and reviewed the Community Agreements and roles. Jennifer Elisa Betancourt will serve as Co-Chair, and Jodi Ekelchik will serve as Recording Secretary.
- 2) **Attendees were invited to share one item to learn about your student that would help us teach them better?** Examples shared included: moments of reflection, positive feedback and encouragement, and friendly competition.
- 3) **Grade Level Lead Teachers and Specialists** provided grade level highlights. Which included 6th grade Socratic Seminar in ELA for the book, *The Giver*, 7th grade NETPals visit and 8th grade assembly to meet with RSTA (Rindge School of Technical Arts) in preparation for highschool. Additionally, Student Government hosted a Cookies and Cocoa social gathering for all students after school, the baked goods & cocoa were delicious and well received, and sales were great. All went smoothly, with students having a good time socializing together.
- 4) **The next set of slides focused on the review of the test data that provided input to the School Improvement Plan (SIP).**
Instructional Coach, Marla Blair. kicked off by providing a summary about School Level 2023 Spring MCAS scores, which showed that PAUS is exceeding state level scores, and also, that there is room for improvement. PAUS school scores are showing an upward trend; by demographic group, it was noted that scores were lower in both ELA and Math for some demographic groups;

The next set of slides focused on MCAS scores of Putnam Ave. in comparison to the State averages (see Accountability Data). It was noted that in ELA, all students score = 3, which is classified as meeting expectations. It was noted that MCAS scores were higher in math, but also had room for growth.

The CPSD Outcomes Data Dashboard <https://www.cpsd.us/districtplan/outcomes> provided some further data across all Upper schools in the District. *Note: the site is being updated on the district end, and will be available soon.*

5) Coaches for ELA and Math discussed milestone progress, highlights, outcomes for Winter (Jan. 2024) and goals end of year, June 2024.

- **Literacy Coach**, Alison Swigut, provided a review of the next set of slides focused on the review of the **SIP (School Improvement Plan): ELA**.
Question: are one-on-one conferences between teachers and students happening in practice, and one that is inclusive for all students? It was noted that the Teachers were trying to meet with all students during the long blocks, but some acknowledgement about the time needed to complete for all students.
- **Math Coach**, Meghan Papalardo provided a review of the next set of slides focused on the **SIP (School Improvement Plan): Math**.
It was noted that the **Bridge to Algebra program for 8th graders** registration is open and the program will launch on Feb. 26. A 10-week self guided program with facilitation and support on site, every Thursday.
Question: can you clarify further what happens during a student intervention? Also, how can parents/caregivers support their students in iReady, and whether iReady was needed if no other homework?
- It was noted that student intervention looks different between Math and ELA. For math, it was noted that interventionists work in the classroom setting with students who need additional support and they work on what the classroom teacher works on. During the long block periods, the interventionist will work with students and focus on the foundational piece of the curriculum, to boost confidence of what is going on in class. Elective group meets twice a week outside of the math classroom, twice per week. In addition, the interventionist offers the opportunity to schedule time during the lunch block and work on math in the Design Lab.
- It was noted that for parents/caregivers, the school works with students, and if needed, the school will contact parents to provide an update. It was shared that an intervention is additional help based on the data collected, and to strengthen the student's skills in the subject.
Question: How can parents/caregivers see progress on iReady and their students progress? How can we give support from home if no homework is given? It was noted that parents/caregivers can log in to review iReady, and should receive communication soon once the results are available. Dashboard is difficult to navigate, Family Liaison, Kunjal Shah has reached out to the iReady team for step-by-step training and/or a possible workshop/presentation.
Question: Can the school share more if any resistance to an intervention from the students, and what is the communication with students, i.e., recently some students

pulled from their Elective block without their knowledge. Dr Babio-James acknowledged that there was an oversight this term (that recently started) where students were placed in their Elective, and then pulled to work with the interventionist. It is hoped that the conferences with students will help avoid this situation from occurring going forward, and add further support to this process to ensure a less difficult transition.

6) **Chronic Absenteeism**

Dr. Babio-James provided an update on the SIP focused on **Chronic Absenteeism**, and an overview of the strategies and action plan in this area, including a holistic approach of teachers, counselors, liaison and staff members in the building. It was flagged on steps being taken and interventions occurring regularly to avoid and minimize chronic absenteeism.

7) **Proposed FY2025 Budget**

Dr Babio-James reviewed the **FY2025 Proposed General population budget, and the School Improvement Plan and Professional Development budget**. Reference the slides for greater detail.

Question: what is allocated towards family engagement, and where is this listed in the budget? It was noted this was part of the Discretionary general budget. Also, funding is not listed as a line item, per se, and it comes from either the discretionary fund, fundraising via PAFAs or on occasion via district funding for specific initiatives from the OEIB office in the district through the outreach and efforts of the Family Liaison. A further question was asked why family engagement is not included in the school budget? Ray Porch, Family Engagement Leader at OEIB provided some further context, but also added that he would have to circle back with more information about how this is presented and structured. There was further discussion on how family engagement is handled and resource funding, and responsibilities.

- 8) For those presenting data about the test scores, the School Improvement Plan and the Budget, an invitation was made to bring feedback to the next meeting (or send to the School Council outside of the meeting) their wish list about areas they envision that can help support them. E.g., if I had X, that might help boost something worthwhile for our school.
- 9) Before the meeting concluded, Assistant Principal, Michelle Calioro reviewed the slides about MCAS Testing dates, Updates and Reminders, reference the slide deck;
- 10) **Next School Council meeting: March 6, 2023, 5:30-7pm**
- Behavior Support and Response Plan will be on top of the agenda for the March meeting (Presentation slides submitted in advance not reviewed);
 - Other topics for the March meeting agenda will be discussed with council members in advance of the meeting
 - Meeting ended at 7:10pm

GENERAL REFERENCE MATERIALS:

- Putnam Ave. Website about the School Council: [link here](#)
- CPSD [School Council Handbook](#)
- Putnam Ave. [School & Family Handbook](#)
- PAUS values: Commitment, Pride, Ownership, Balance and Perseverance; [link here](#)
- CPSD Outcomes Data Dashboard, [reference here](#). It was noted at the Feb 7 meeting that the site is being updated, and will be available soon.