



PUTNAM AVE. UPPER SCHOOL

School Council Meeting, April 24, 2024

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, Marianne Bees, Annabelle Tarek, Danielle Rivers, Marla Blair (Instructional coach), Alston Swigut (Literacy Coach), Meghan Papalardo (Math coach), Jennifer Amigone (Director of Assessment, CPSD), and Raymond Porch (Office Of Equity, Inclusion and Belonging OEIB)

School community members in attendance: 3

AGENDA:

- 5:30-5:45 - Welcome and Connection
- 5:45 - 6:00 - Team Updates
- 6:00 - 6:05 - School Community Updates
- 6:05 - 6:45 - School Climate Survey Results & Discussion
- 6:45-6:55 - Questions
- 6:55 - 7:00 - Reminders and Closing

Link to the Presentation shared during the meeting:

[APRIL 24 - SCHOOL COUNCIL PRESENTATION](#)

MEETING SUMMARY, QUESTIONS & NEXT STEPS

Topics discussed are referenced in the presentation attached above.

- 1) Dr Babio-James welcomed all attendees.
- 2) **The School Council was asked to approve the meeting minutes from the March 6 School Council meeting ([link here](#)).** It was noted that the minutes were shared with the Council, minutes have been shared by email with the PAUS Community, and have been posted on the website. Since there were no further updates, the minutes were unanimously approved.
- 3) **Updates were provided by the PAUS Teacher leaders.** **Summary by grade level is provided in the Slide Deck.** To note, from 8th grade, it was noted that the student-led Civic Action Project would be kicking off soon ([more info about this program can be found on the CPSD website here](#)). The Spring Concert is on May 22 at 6pm.
- 4) **Sports / Putnam Ave Swim and Wrestling Meet:** Find some fun photos in the slide deck, which followed a meet at the War Memorial Athletic Center on April 23. Spring afterschool sports have begun, Sign up on the Activity page here: [PAUS website here](#).

- 5) **Flagway/Save the date of May 18 to cheer on PAUS:** This year, the national championship will be held in Cambridge! Last year, PAUS won this tournament that was held in Miami and are the current National Champions. Come and cheer on Putnam Ave students on **Saturday, May 18**, held at the CRLS Field House. Further details will be forthcoming from the Math Coach.
- 6) **School Community/Caregiver Engagement Events:** Since the meeting, students and families have participated in a community wide event on Saturday, April 27 to clean-up Magazine Beach Park in preparation for the Spring in the City event. Students and families also participated in a Financial Literacy Workshop organized by Title I, Putnam Ave. and East Cambridge Savings Bank.
- 7) **Putnam Ave Family Association.** An update was provided on the recent discussion with Skyler Nash (CPSD Chief Strategy Officer), May 7 PAFA Meeting with additional guest speakers in the district, and an upcoming Caregiver Connect at the Community Center during the School Dance on June 7.
- 8) **Get Caught Reading Initiative April 29-May3:** This initiative happens multiple times a year, to promote the joy of reading at school. This week incentives for both students and staff, where they can get a raffle ticket when they are “caught” reading. Raffle awards will be shared in a schoolwide assembly. There was encouragement to have students bring in books from home, or pick up from the library or in their classrooms.
- 9) **Teacher Appreciation Lunch.** Teacher Appreciation week and luncheon planned, sign up for the Teacher luncheon on May10. **RSVP to bring in a favorite dish! [Link here](#)**
- 10) **Panorama School Climate Survey Results Winter 2023-2024:** Jennifer Amigone, CPSD Director of Assessment, provided a summary about the results from the School Climate survey. The Slide deck provides a summary from this presentation. The survey, in partnership with Panorama Education (selected through an RFP process led by CPSD), was conducted with input from families, students and staff. Ray Porch (CPSD) noted that this survey was a learning process that offers an opportunity across the District to have conversations, learn and improve.

During the presentation, the following questions and comments were shared:

- It was noted that questions shared in the slide deck is how the questions were presented in the survey itself;
- It was noted that survey participants were not asked about demographics, but the back end captured this information (similar to how captured during the iReady assessment);
- A question was asked about comparison with other schools in the district, and that behavior is consistent across the Upper schools;
- 48 staff members completed the survey, PAUS has about 54 staff members in total.
- Survey results can be reviewed at the group level by the school, not at the student level (the survey was conducted in confidence), and ensuring students felt comfortable taking the survey. About 80+ parents/caregivers took the survey, but the District does not have totals given the makeup of each family.
- A question was asked about the CPSD Communications Survey, and whether this will be stitched together with the data presented tonight? Jennifer noted that this is what is planend.
- Were there any qualitative questions that allowed for more feedback to be shared (e.g., what would you improve?). It was noted that this feedback was shared with individual schools, and it is up to each school to review.

- How are we supporting students with IEPs and providing the resources that students need?
- How do we as a community assess the data and address, what are the next steps?
- How are some of these issues presented tonight addressed between the District and the Teacher's union? Some discussion continued about how this is being addressed at the State level, and that this discussion was ongoing.

11) Reminders of upcoming school events and activities.

A listing of activities planned this coming month was shared in the slideshow, and is also reflected in the weekly emails "Take Home Communication".

12) Next School Council meeting: May 15, 2024, 5:30-7pm (Zoom)

- It was proposed that the agenda for the meeting in May be focused on the questions that have been compiled by the Council in the interest of learning more about school protocols and how the Council can support our school.
- Future meetings: June 12 (proposed).
- Feasible to add the upcoming Council meeting dates to the school page - ([website link](#)).

13) Meeting ended at 7:07pm

GENERAL REFERENCE MATERIALS:

- Putnam Ave. Website about the School Council: [link here](#) (meeting agenda and notes posted here)