



PUTNAM AVE. UPPER SCHOOL

School Council Meeting, June 12, 2024

Meeting Time: 5:30 - 7:00 PM

ATTENDEES:

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

Admin. & Staff: Dr. Phanenca Babio-James, Kunjal Shah, Danielle Rivers, Meghan Papalardo, Annabelle Tarek.

School community members in attendance: 3

AGENDA:

5:30-5:45 - Welcome, Introduction and Reflection

5:45 - 6:10 - Approval of prior Minutes, Team and PAFA Updates

6:10 - 6:50 - Q&A and Discussion

6:50 - 7:00 - Updates and Reminders

Link to the Presentation shared during the meeting:

June: [June School Council Presentation](#)

MEETING SUMMARY, QUESTIONS & NEXT STEPS

Topics discussed are referenced in the presentation attached above.

1. Welcome:

Dr Babio-James welcomed all attendees.

2. Approval of Meeting Minutes:

It was noted that some changes were made to the Minutes, and that this needed further review in advance of putting forward the minutes for approval. The minutes would be reviewed offline and approved at a later date.

3. Team Updates:

- **Summary by grade level is provided in the Slide Deck.** It was flagged that 6th graders met with 5th graders at the new family event last evening. The general saying on this floor is that the 6th graders are wonderful, and sad to see them go, and this year's 6th graders provided a reminder about how wonderful it is to be a teacher. 7th graders are heading off to Canobie Lake Park on June 14, and it has been a year of growth for our 7th graders. 8th graders have a trip planned to Faneuil Hall on June 13, the Awards Ceremony on June 14, Graduation on June 17 (1pm, all students in 6th and 7th grade will finish at noon) and a trip to Six Flags on June 20. We will miss our 8th graders as they move up to the High School!

- **PAUS Carnival Day on June 18:** This is the second year to host this festive day for kids to have fun at this all-grade Field Day during the school day.
- **PAFA/Putnam Ave Family Association:** planning meeting will be held this week to discuss engagement for the 2024-2025 school year. This year, we piloted with several incoming family/caregiver (5th grade families), and paired them up with an 8th grade family. This provided support by email and phone, and how to navigate middle school. Thanks were given to Christina Lively for her leadership at PAFA, and about to graduate from PAUS.
- **Family Engagement, reference the slide deck for a summary of activities:** To note, for the second year in a row, PAUS is the Flagway tournament champions!
- **Note!** Juneteenth: June 19, no school. June 24, all school dismissal at 12:55pm.
- **School Council Informational meetings:** This was shared with School Council members, and discussion followed.

4. **Q&A based on questions raised from School Council:**

The School Council submitted questions to PAUS Leadership in March 2024, and tonight's discussion focused on follow-up to the two remaining questions.

A) Technology Management/Reference Slide Deck

- Devices are collected at the start of the day, and returned at the end of the day.
- It was shared that students will be allowed to take their Chromebooks home starting next year.
- The School would welcome family support with managing online content and interactions.
- A question was raised about where is the gap, and note that some of our students still not following this policy. Could we host an introduction to ensure buy-in to this policy, and share this policy further? 80% of students comply. Could we offer a session on parental controls and phone usage and appropriate usage.
- It was noted that PAFA hosted a workshop on parenting, social media and mental health. It is anticipated that we host a new session next year. At the new family introduction session on June 11, we introduced the tools available to families, e.g., Parent Square, Aspen.
- It was suggested to consider a video about using technology, to help support usage and engagement.

B) Teacher/Staff Attendance.

- It was noted that some staff members were on leave this past year, and at times, some teachers attend professional development to learn new curriculum. The school ensures coverage through building subs, district sub-pool and specialties.
- It was noted that there are teacher shortages in general, and hard to fill some current open posts, but the school is persevering. It was noted that teachers are allotted 15 days a year/sick time. Discussion continued.
- More insight was provided about how the PAUS teaching team offers support in their lesson plans as presented to a Substitute, when the need arises.

5. Collective Vision 2024-2025

- The Slide Deck was presented with suggestions for next year.
- Zoom meetings preferred, but we want to open some meetings in-person, e.g., around Winter and Spring concerts. It was noted that we would hope to avoid reducing the time of meetings.
- The calendars are currently in review, and meeting dates will be proposed near the start of the school year. It was noted that our meetings may have to shift from Wednesday, due to change in time of the school days.
- It was noted that we did not have sufficient time to engage in discussion on this topic.
- A slideshow was shared, and a question was raised about how this is shared with the school.
- It was noted that planning meetings would be held in Sept and Oct.

6. Expanded School Day, SY24-25 / From our May meeting (copied as is, for reference):

An update was provided on the new School year in 2024 - 2025 and expanded school day, as follows:

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday: 8:45 AM - 3:15 PM

Wednesday: 8:45 AM - 2:55 PM

There will no be early release days. There are 4 days during the school year that this will differ (half days), and will be reflected on the calendar. Further information will be shared in advance of the New School year (by August), also refer to the Slide deck.

CPS District Calendar for SY 24-25 available [here](#)

7. School Council meetings 2024-2025:

It was proposed that we announce both School Council and PAFA meetings early in the year.

8. Meeting ended at 7:16pm

GENERAL REFERENCE MATERIALS:

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