

Graham and Parks
SCHOOL COUNCIL
Official Minutes

School Council Meeting: Thursday, September 19, 2024 (Library & Zoom)

Called for 5:45 pm at the Graham and Parks School, 44 Linnaean Street, Cambridge, MA 02138.

*The Co-Chair announced that this meeting will be recorded.

School Council Members Present: Kathleen Smith, Christian Henry, Lauren Morse, Aboma Dirbaba, Jodi Rich, Debra Gadsden-Holiday, Inbal Alon, Mason Gloudemans, Talia Greenberg, Gwen Savych, Mary Hermann, Nasrin Belali, Lilly Havstad, Guy Rosenzweig, Arjun Jaikumar

School Council Members Absent: Karima Cherguaoui

Also Present: Candace Bass, Robin Harris

With Kathleen Smith and Chistian Henry serving as the Co-Chairs

- This meeting of the Graham and Parks School Council is called to order at 5:45 pm. Would the Secretary please call the roll call for a vote to proceed.

A quorum of the Graham and Parks School Council being present, the Co-Chairs called the meeting to order at 5:45 pm and read the call of the meeting

The meeting proceeded with a roll call vote of the members present:

Kathleen Smith, Christian Henry, Lauren Morse, Aboma Dirbaba, Jodi Rich, Debra Gadsden-Holiday, Inbal Alon, Mason Gloudemans, Talia Greenberg, Gwen Savych, Mary Hermann, Nasrin Belali, Lilly Havstad, Guy Rosenzweig, Arjun Jaikumar

1. Approval of May, 2024 Minutes

5:45 pm

- Minutes from the May meeting will be voted on at the October meeting.

1. Introductions

5:45 - 5:50 pm

2. Welcome to the G&P School Council

5:50 - 6:45 pm

- a. Roles: Parent Representatives, Teacher Representatives, Co-Chairs, Secretary, Family liaison, Technology Support

- Co-Chairs: 2 members showed interest in this role. Each member spoke to their interest in the position.

1. Should we have two co-chairs?
 - a. Could be challenging
 - b. Each could rotate facilitating meetings
 - c. Could allow for more community voice in the agenda items
 - d. Does not violate Open Meeting Law

**Motion to Vote on Tri-Chairs: Arjun Jaikumar*

Second by Mary Herman

*Roll Call Vote: Kathleen Smith:Yes, Christian Henry:No, Lauren Morse:No, Aboma Dirbaba:Yes, Jodi Rich:No, Debra Gadsden-Holiday:Yes, Inbal Alon:Yes, Mason Gloudemans:Yes, Talia Greenberg:Yes, Gwen Savych:Yes, Mary Hermann:Yes, Nasrin Belali:No, Lilly Havstad:Yes, Guy Rosenzweig:No, Arjun Jaikumar:Yes
Karima Cherguaoui:Absent*

**School Council Vote:10 Yes, 5 No, 1 Absent to adopt tri-Chairs*

**Motion to vote for Christian Henry and Arjun Jaikumar as tri-chairs with Kathleen Smith: Mary Hermann*

Second by: Talia Greenberg

Roll Call Vote:Kathleen Smith, Christian Henry, Lauren Morse, Aboma Dirbaba, Jodi Rich, Debra Gadsden-Holiday, Inbal Alon, Mason Gloudemans, Talia Greenberg,, Gwen Savych, Mary Hermann, Nasrin Belali,, Lilly Havstad, Guy Rosenzweig, Arjun Jaikumar

Unanimous vote for tri-chairs Christian Henry and Arjun Jaikumar

- Secretary:Inbal Alon, Mary Herman, Lilly Havstad all volunteered to share this role.

**Motion to have tri-secretaries: Mason Gloudemans*

Second: Guy Rosenzweig

Roll Call Vote: Kathleen Smith, Christian Henry, Lauren Morse, Aboma Dirbaba, Jodi Rich, Debra Gadsden-Holiday, Inbal Alon, Mason Gloudemans, Talia Greenberg, Gwen Savych, Mary Hermann, Nasrin Belali, Lilly Havstad, Guy Rosenzweig, Arjun Jaikumar

sVote was unanimous to have 3 secretaries share the role

- Tech Support: Karima, Guy, Nasrin, Mason
- b. How we will collaborate (norms) School Council Norms were reviewed.
- c. Purpose (School council handbook, see [pages 2-3](#))
 - Review Budget
 - School Improvement Plan Development
 - Adopt Educational Goals for the school
 - Collaborate with the school community
- d. Open Meeting Law
 - Meetings are public
 - Post notice of the meeting
 - Keep minutes and post them
 - Adhere to quorum

Discussion:

- Question: Can we have subcommittees? Any Sub-committee meeting should be public, as they fall under open meeting law.
- Can we align our SIP budget planning with the district planning timeline?
- Can we explore ways to include questions into the meeting agenda?

- Can we consider our agenda and either extend the time, or include pre-work that could potentially keep us on time and leave room for community comment?
 - **Agenda items for future meetings**

3. Shared Responsibility & Organizing for Collaborative Work 6:45-7:00 pm

- a. Review and provide feedback on draft meeting schedule
 - March: CKLA could be less of a presentation on the curriculum and more community feedback specific to our school. School Council.
- b. Review budget process
 - Can the Budget discussion be earlier?
 - Can we add a budget conversation with the School Improvement Review agenda?

4. School Administration Report 7:00-7:10 pm

- a. Staffing & Professional development updates
 - CKLA roll out is here and educators will have ongoing professional development throughout the year
 - MCAS Pre-data was reviewed to support educators in developing their professional goals.
- b. Facilities updates
 - Repair to front entrance
 - Floor repairs to remove all of the asbestos from the building
 - Construction to create a larger space for our Multilingual teachers, as well as our Literacy Interventionist

5. Community Comment: In person and via Zoom 7:10- 7:30 pm

- Two hour meeting time should be considered. The agendas are long. School Council members could join virtually. There should be a stipend for staff members who are School Council members.
- Check with Open Meeting Law to confirm the Tri-chairs is legal under Open Meeting Law.
- Having Tri-chairs seems like a great way for us to move forward as a school working together. Turning the temperature down and coming together is important for us this year
- With respect to a longer meeting; Sub-committees could be a way to lesson the items on the agenda, and allow for more community input
- By-Laws probably need to be reviewed.
- Suggestion of having an SEI Sub-committee.
- Cutting down the agenda and finding ways to bring in more community voices
- Community Engagement Comment potentially being moved to the beginning of the meeting.
- Thank you to the staff and caregivers for volunteering for School Council.
- Could the meetings start earlier? Finding a stopping point is hard.
- Can the Principal Coffees also be a way to shorten agenda items in these meetings?
- Staff School Council Members were and continue to receive a stipend for their participation.

- Can we find ways to bring more resources and/or enrichment like clubs?
 - This could be brought to the Family Engagement committee.
- This was a very productive meeting.
- We are committed as a School Council to creating spaces and opportunities for community feedback and open dialogue
- Zoom Comment: This is the best meeting ever!
- The start to the school year has been exciting and we are off and moving in the right direction.

- Meeting Adjourned

Motion to conclude the meeting given by Talia Greenberg @ 7:30 pm.

Seconded by: Guy Rosenzweig

Approved by an Affirmative Vote