



Putnam Avenue Upper School

SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING - September 25, 2024

Meeting Details	
Date of Meeting:	09/25/2024
Time:	5:30 - 7:00 PM
Zoom Link:	https://cpsd-us.zoom.us/j/99471127486?pwd=8tFCRnBQaKfelqQhsYQ7Sq5RQ1BTIR.1 Meeting ID: 994 7112 7486 Passcode: 178772
Committee Members Present:	5 - Jodi Ekelchik, Jennifer Elisa Betancourt, Betsy Vizcaino, Sweta Joshi, Rozelle McBarnette 4 - Dr. Phanenca Babio-James, Xavier Pierre-Jerome, Hsiu Fei Hsu, Kunjal Shah (ex-officio)
Other Participants:	13 - Caregivers, staff & community members in attendance

Agenda Details
<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Welcome● Share Meeting Norms● Reflection● Agenda<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Introduction to SC and PAFA○ SC Members Introduction○ Highlights○ Announcements / Reminders● Accept Minutes from the Last Meeting● Next Meeting: Wednesday, October 23 from 5:30 - 7:00 PM (in-person) at PAUS

MEETING NOTES:

- **Sept. 25 Meeting Reference Slideshow:** [PAUS SC Meeting Slideshow Sept. 25](#)
- Dr Babio-James welcomed all attendees to the first School Council of SY24-25
- During reflection, all attendees were invited to share a thought about their student that would help PAUS educators team them better.
- Dr Babio-James reviewed the community agreements that were discussed and agreed earlier this year with the School Council newly appointed for their 2-year term. These were reviewed, as noted in the slide deck.
- There was discussion and an overview provided about the role of the School Council, Putnam Avenue Upper School's Vision and Mission, School Council and Equity Team, and overview of the Putnam Avenue Families Association (PAFA). PAFA kicks off this year with their first Workshop of the year to be held on October 1: Navigating Middle School. All parents and caregivers are invited to attend upcoming meetings and events in the PAUS community. The Slide deck provides additional information, including dates of upcoming meetings.
- There were introductions of members of the School Council, including PAUS leadership, parents/caregivers and PAUS Educators. The Slide Deck provides should be referenced for bios.
- The meeting was opened up to invite all attendees to ask questions, and discussion followed. *In brief, the following was shared (**Questions raised in bold**, and summary comments thereafter):*
 - **Re: Flex Block/added time to the school day:** this was being used for multiple reasons, including added time for recess and more learning and intervention.
 - **Re: Equity Academy:** several educators will meet with other District educators to share ideas and bring back best practices. They will return to PAUS for further engagement and discussion with students.
 - **Re: Peer Mediation:** this program is in its 3rd year, with the goal to help facilitate and resolve peer conflict by training PAUS students in this program.
 - **Re: Substitute teachers:** the question was asked around the Mandarin program, and it was shared that all teachers provide a substitution plan if they are out to support moving forward with lesson plans.
 - **Re: Greater representation of Father/Male representation on the Council:** it was noted that the School received two nominations for two roles, does not target any one group, and encourages greater participation from all parents/caregivers.

- **Re: How can we collaborate more effectively to boost excitement and joy in learning at PAUS?** It was noted that we encourage more families to be engaged this year, and it was noted that plans this year include working in partnership with caregivers, teachers, and students on improving our school climate and greater academic achievements.
 - **Re: What is the anti-bullying initiative for our school?** The PAUS leadership team provided an overview of the process and steps taken should an incident occur at school, and that all students should be aware that they can always talk to their Advisor or any trusted adult.
 - **Re: Frequency of updates to Aspen:** it was noted that teachers continuously update grades online, and is also dependent on students turning in their work.
 - **Re: Listening Conferences:** these have started, will continue through October 7, and there will be follow-up with grade level advisors to ensure they send the schedule to sign up for a conference.
 - **Re: MCAS score:** it was noted that results were shared in the district yesterday, that individual reports will be mailed directly from DESE, and that there will be data sharing at future School Council meetings.
- The next section of the meeting offered some highlights from the week, further updates and reminders (reference page 33 – 40 of the Slide deck). Updates included an all-school visit with Author Kelly Baptist, Astronomer Jeff Hoffman’s visit this week with 7th graders, a 3rd place finish for a PAUS 7th grader in the National Chinese Speech Contest, DESE recognition of PAUS, upcoming and more. Reminders about upcoming events in October, including the PAFA Workshop on Oct 1, school closure dates, grade level coffee chats and Picture day on Oct 18. Reminders are also included in the PAUS weekly update email.
 - The next School Council meeting is planned on October 23 (In Person), same time, to be held in the first floor conference room.

Action Plan (if needed):		
Action	Assigned To	Due Date
It was noted that the minutes from the last two School Council meetings will be sent with tonight’s meeting minutes, and put forward for approval at the October meeting.	Jodi	October 23
Sept 25 meeting minutes submitted, in draft	School Council	Approve at the next School Council meeting