Maria L. Baldwin School Council   **85 Oxford Street, Cambridge, MA 02138**

February 11,, 2025
Baldwin School Council Minutes
7:45 - 8:45 a.m.

School Council Members in Attendance
Parent Members: Caitlin Dube, Kate Flaim, Matt Meyersohn, Eugenia Schraa
School Staff and Community Members: Heidi Cook, Corianne LaBounty, Sara Oliveira, Susan Tiersch
Also present: Jen Nigro, Nicole Stone

Welcome

Proposed
Caitlin proposed that there be a budget subcommittee that includes someone from Friends, school council, staff member and a community member, to review the weekly budget communication from the district.

Agenda
       Family Engagement

Family Engagement
Last meeting, we started with a reflection prompt, "What did family engagement look like for you in your elementary school years?"

What would family engagement look like?

The district Design Lab could be used to go through a design process around family engagement. How to authentically approach Family Engagement? Angie UyHam is the Design and Innovation Coach of the lab. The Design Lab provides "an opportunity to collaborate on bold ideas" and "transform ideas into solutions."
Could AI Gemini help us with this?

Questions:
- Is there a quantifiable goal? Is there a survey result we are aiming to achieve?

- What is working well for families as our feedback from the last survey was excellent (highest in the district)?

- Are there families who need better access?

- What is the goal? Should we have focus groups to find out what is most helpful for families?

- Should there be a What's App for the classroom? How to connect those families? How do we know who is on What's App? Is this the best tool?

- Ideas about how to make family connections on non-school days (staff PD days and holidays)

- Should we have peer pals - mentor families connecting existing families with a new family? How can we provide that connection?

- How do parents support each other starting in preschool?

- Can we have something like Village Leaders for each grade level?

- What are the best practices for Room Parents? Could we spend a meeting talking/formalizing the role of room parents?

- Paper must be included in communication. (More use of flyers.)

Heidi and Susan will review Karen Mapp's *Beyond the Bake Sale* Family-School Partnerships by going through a checklist about the school environment, to help better understand barriers to family engagement.

Discussion about having a principal coffee. There will be a Virtual Principal Coffee, *Tuesday, March 4* at 9:00 a.m.

Next School Council Meeting and Meeting Schedule for the School Year
Next meeting is *Tuesday, March 11, 2025*
Meetings are in the morning from 7:45 - 8:45.

Remaining Meetings
- *March 11*
- *April 8*
- *May 6*

- *June 10*

School council meetings follow the open meeting law. Meetings are open to all.
Students are always welcome to come to the library and may go to the cafeteria for breakfast at 8:00 or they may stay in the library until the bell rings at 8:30.