

***March 11,, 2025***

**Baldwin School Council Minutes**

**7:45 - 8:45 a.m.**

**School Council Members in Attendance**

Parent Members: Caitlin Dube, Matt Meyersohn, Eugenia Schraa, Chunying Yun

School Staff and Community Members: Heidi Cook, Sara Oliveira, Kisa Tabery, Susan Tiersch

Community Member: Allegra Fletcher

Also present: Jen Nigro

**Agenda**

Family Engagement - Family School Partnership Models Self-Assessment by Karen Mapp

Having respectful partnerships between school and families is an essential ingredient to student improvement, and to school improvement.

Karen Mapp, an expert in Family Engagement, created a assessment tool to determine if your school falls into one of these categories:

- Fortress School
- Come-if-We-Call School
- Open-Door School
- Partnership School

Looking at the rubric, Baldwin is not in the Fortress or Come-if-We-Call School category. Overall, Baldwin falls between an Open-Door School and a Partnership School. The goal is to be a Partnership School. We are on our way, however, there are areas to work on.

We reviewed the categories of the rubric and each of the items under the category. Items with an (\*) have details below.

*Building Relationships - Open-Door School*

Teachers contact families once a year — we do more than once per year

Parent coordinator is available - ✓

Office staff are friendly - ✓

Staff contact community agencies when help is needed - ✓

*Building Relationships - Partnership School*

Family center is open and full of materials to borrow

Home visits are made to every new family - \*

Activities honor families' contributions -

Building is open to community use - ✓ \*

#### *Linking to Learning - Open-Door School*

Teachers explain test scores if asked - always  
Folders of student work go home occasionally - ✓  
Staff holds curriculum nights three or four times a year - \*  
Staff let families know about out-of-school classes in the community - ✓

#### *Addressing Differences - Open-Door School*

Office will find translator if parents ask in advance - ✓  
Multicultural nights are held once a year - \*  
“Minority” parents have their own group - district affinity groups ✓

#### *Support Advocacy - Open-Door School*

Principal will meet with parents to discuss a problem - ✓  
Regular progress reports go to parents - ✓  
Parent-teacher conferences are held twice a year - ✓

#### *Sharing Power - Open-Door School*

Parents can raise issues at meeting or see the principal - ✓  
Parent group sets its own agenda and raises money - ✓  
Partn group officers can use the school office - ✓  
A community representative sits on the school council - ✓  
Resource center for low-income families is housed in a portable classroom  
next to the school - ?

(\*)

Home visits are done for selected families.

The school building is open to the public - yes. CPS rents out their school buildings, however, it is not free to the community. There is a fee is for a custodian to open the building and clean up.

Linking to learning - At the fall Back to School Night Curriculum Night, curriculum information is provided to families. Teachers provide updates throughout the year. CKLA curriculum information is provided by the district. Teachers are to send monthly updates in their desired format.

Math Games Night, Poetry Night, STEM Fest, Art Day All Day, Concerts - all are for families to experience student learning. Fun Run, Field Day, even Dance Party at lunch can be included.

We offer targeted tutoring to students and the funding comes from the School Improvement budget.

#### *Linking to Learning - Partnership School*

All family activities connect to what students are learning - ✓  
Parents and teachers look at student work and test results together - ✓  
Community groups offer tutoring and homework programs - ✓ \*  
Students’ work goes home every week with a scoring guide -

#### *Addressing Differences - Partnership School*

Translators are readily available - ✓ (for the most part)  
Teachers use books and materials about families’ cultures - ✓  
Parent group includes all families - ✓  
Local groups help staff reach parents - ✓ (excellent resources in Camb)

#### *Supporting Advocacy - Partnership School*

There is a clear, open process for resolving problems - ✓  
Teachers contact families each month to discuss student progress  
Student-led parent-teacher conferences are held three time a year - \*

#### *Sharing Power - Partnership School*

Parents and teachers research issues such as prejudice and tracking  
Parent group is focused on improving student achievement - ✓  
Parents can use the school’s phone, fax, copier, computers - ✓  
Staff work with local organizers to improve the school - ✓  
Families are involved in all major decisions

Multicultural events - Mr. O'Connor brought this to our first grade several years ago and it is incredibly well received. It has become an annual tradition for that grade level. Students prepare information about their country, make flags and posters. Families bring food from there culture.

Conferences are held twice a year. Grade 2 and up does student-led conferences. Also listening conferences.

Teachers are great at building community within their classroom.

Concern about the work being sent home, not sure how the child is doing based on the work. Some don't see work sent home, however, in the upper grades, some work may be done online. Workbooks are usually kept in the classroom.

#### Addressing Differences

Years ago, the triad of schools, Baldwin, Peabody and RAUC (middle school) did parent workshops called Courageous Conversations, centered around race and equity. We participated in an equity audit of our school to see where we needed work.

There are affinity groups in the district, allowing groups to be together in community.

A few years ago, our school council had important and vulnerable conversations about race when Lawrence Neeley was the co-chair.

It is challenging and complicated to get families from all cultures to attend meetings.

Jen stated that many years ago in the school where her mother was the principal, parents were welcome to come to school breakfast. This brought many families and is something to think about.

#### Supporting Advocacy

Families are asked to call or email to make an appointment with teachers.

Heidi is very open to meeting with families and there is a clear process for resolving programs.

Student-led conferences are the gold standard however some families have a different feeling about this. Some want to hear only from the teacher. We allow time for that however the child is present and participates.

#### Sharing Power

For Math and ELA, the grade level standards are clear. The district sends out letters with the unity and what to expect.

Our library is an excellent example of how representative books can be by being incredibly inclusive.

Next step is to review the Family Handbook.

#### **Next School Council Meeting and Meeting Schedule for the School Year**

Next meeting was scheduled for *Tuesday, April 8, 2025. \*\* This date needs to be changed due to conflict. Will keep you posted on the rescheduled date.\*\**

Meetings are in the morning from 7:45 - 8:45.

#### *Remaining Meetings:*

- *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.