



Putnam Avenue Upper School

SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING - October 23, 2024

Meeting Details	
Date of Meeting:	10/23/2024
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:	4 - Jodi Ekelchik, Jennifer Elisa Betancourt, Sweta Joshi, Rozelle McBarnette, Apologies from Betsy Vizcaino, 4 - Dr. Phanenca Babio-James, Xavier Pierre-Jerome, Hsiu Fei Hsu, Kunjal Shah (ex-officio)
Other Participants:	7 - Caregivers, staff & community members in attendance

Agenda Details
<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Welcome● Accept Draft Meeting Minutes● Reflection● Agenda<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ SIP School Improvement Plan○ Updates, Announcements / Reminders○ Family Engagement Presentation● Next Meeting: Wednesday, November 20 from 5:30 - 7:00 PM via Zoom Link : https://cpsd-us.zoom.us/j/99471127486?pwd=8tFCRnBQaKfelqQhsYQ7Sq5RQ1BTIR.1 Meeting ID: 994 7112 7486. Passcode: 178772

MEETING NOTES:

- Oct. 23, 2024 Presentation: [Oct. 23 - Slideshow](#)
- Dr. Babio-James welcomed all attendees to the School Council meeting. The minutes from the September Council meeting were submitted, a motion to approve was put forward, and there were no objections.
- Dr. Babio-James provided an overview of the discretionary budgets, provided further context about the School Improvement Plan (SIP) budget, and presented current SIP budget allocations for this current school year. Refer to the Slide Deck for greater details.
- Questions and additional information was shared on the following: why specific staff are covered by the SIP budget (e.g., Instructional coach, cafeteria staff), plans for next year for some line items to be funded by other school budgets, how the SIP budget is determined (based on multiple variables at each school including demographics, ESL, IEP, other), why are families required to pay for middle school supplies (compared to elementary schools) and whether this is a financial burden on some families, how PAUS leadership is advocating for additional funding and sourcing supplies, limitations on teacher time to support students in the cafeteria, explore ways to provide greater visibility to incoming families on school supply needs.
- It was noted that the SIP budget does not carry over from year to year, and that it is key to monitor and ensure that PAUS uses all funds this school year to support PAUS learning goals. It was also noted that the District begins reviewing the budget in December, which is then finalized in February.
- There were some comments made about the reason that PAUS School clubs (e.g., Homework club, student government, etc) started later this school year. This was due to the fact that the funding also comes from the SIP budget. Through advocacy by PAUS Leadership, it is anticipated that the District will provide funding next year for the Instructional Coach, so that this does not impact the start of student clubs.
- It was noted that a teacher has applied for a grant to support programming that engages students of color and around topics focused on identity. It was also noted that a district-wide initiative for families of Asian background was seeking caregiver input around school needs, and that more information will be forthcoming.
- It is hoped that PAUS will identify funding for student kit (i.e., shirts) for student sports clubs.
- A presentation about family engagement at PAUS and a framework to support initiatives was given. The premise for the discussion was for the Council to think about what would be transformative at PAUS, and that we can all contribute to a discussion of how we define family engagement that is connected to student learning. Reference the slide deck for further information, and the “Karen Mapp Framework” [here](#). Discussion followed, and included questions around engagement vs. involvement, how family engagement is supported in the district and at the school level, and how we can leverage best practices from other school districts. This discussion will pick up again at a future Council meeting.
- A summary was given about upcoming events (as listed in the Slide Deck), which included the launch of the Bridge to Algebra math program for 8th graders.

- Meeting ended: 7:10pm

Other Topics for consideration at the next School Council meeting:

- Brainstorming Exercise focused on caregiver to school engagement strategies and ideas
- Student Voice on the School Council
- Bridge to Algebra program

Action Plan (if needed):

Action	Assigned To	Due Date
NEXT School Council meeting Other School Council Meeting Dates	PAUS	November 20, 12/18, 1/22, 2/26, 3/26, 4/20, 5/28, 6/18
Monitor SIP Spending / Review	School Council	March Meeting 3/26

GENERAL REFERENCE MATERIALS:

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