

\_\_\_\_Graham & Parks\_\_\_\_ SCHOOL COUNCIL  
Name of School

(Official Minutes)  
DRAFT

### **School Council Meeting**

Called for 5:45 at the Graham & Parks School, 44 Linnaean St, Cambridge, MA 02138

**School Council Members Present:** \_Nasrin Belali, Karima Cherguaoui, Aboma Dirbaba, Debra Gadsen-Holiday, Mason Gloudemans, Christian Henry, Mary Hermann, Arjun Jaikumar, Lauren Morse, Jodi Rich, Guy Rosenzweig, Gwen Savych, Dr. Kathleen Smith

**School Council Members Absent:** \_\_\_\_ Inbal Alon, Talia Greenberg, Lilly Havstad

**Also Present:** \_\_Robin / Fen\_\_\_\_  
Names

\_Christian Henry & Kathleen Smith\_\_\_\_ in the Chair.  
Name

A quorum of the Graham & Parks\_\_ School Council being present, Christian Henry\_\_\_\_ called the meeting to order at \_\_5:45 pm\_\_\_\_ and read the call of the meeting

The meeting proceeded with a roll call vote:

INCLUDE MINUTES FOR EACH ITEM ON THE AGENDA OF THE MEETING

**Date:** February 27, 2025 **Time:** 5:45 PM - 7:00 PM

## **1. Meeting Convened & Approval of Minutes (January 2025)**

- Meeting called to order at 5:45 PM
- Three members absent
- Motion to approve January 2025 minutes: Gwen Savych
- Seconded by: Jodi Rich

- Vote: Unanimously approved
- Christian Henry welcomed attendees
- Roles assigned:
  - Timekeeper: Jodi Rich
  - Secretary: Mary Hermann
  - Tech Support: Fen

## **2. Welcome & Introductions**

### **a. Feedback from January 2025 Meeting**

- Feedback varied considerably with many contrasting opinions
- Consistent theme: meetings need to end on time
- Next steps: Implement feedback loops during meetings
- Meeting facilitators will prioritize ending on time

### **b. Intended Outcomes**

- Previous meeting established goal to create process for subcommittees
- While progress was made, the process was not fully determined
- Intended outcome for today's meeting to establish the process and vote on the subcommittees creation

### **c. Roles for 2/27 Meeting**

- Co-Chair, Tech Support, Secretary, and Timekeeper roles established

## **3. School Administration Report**

### **a. Family Engagement**

- Community iftar planned for Ramadan during movie night
- Family circles continuing next week with positive attendance; new participants welcome
- Tentative principal coffee scheduled for April 1st
  - Plan to focus on screen time based on family interest in the topic
- Book fair scheduled for April
- Literacy night to coincide with book fair
- Grade 1 & 2 concert planned for April

### **b. Staffing & Professional Development Updates**

- CARES program being revamped to better integrate all students
- Planning taking place on how we continue this work into next year
- Staff engaged in unpacking values during professional development
- Follow-up meeting with Alice Coen (district-wide social emotional leader)

- Focus on providing educators with more tools such as helping dysregulated students
- Teacher collaboration time occurred on Wednesday
  - Part of this year's teacher contract providing collaboration opportunities
  - Example: "Stop the Bleed" training offered by school nurse

### **c. Facilities Updates**

- Renewed commitment to maintain a clean school
- Conference rooms have been thoroughly cleaned in recent weeks

**Note:** Christian announced that the meeting was being recorded and welcomed new member Tommy, as one committee member had given birth this week.

## **4. Graham & Parks School Subcommittees**

### **a. Potential Topics**

- Reminder: Subcommittees enable deeper collaboration and continued work between meetings
- Process for gathering community input:
  - Used Possip surveys (already translated with typically high response rates)
  - Approximately 50 initial responses and 23 follow-up responses received
  - 11 staff responses collected
- Discussion on Possip survey accessibility:
  - Question raised about extending the 48-hour response window
  - Suggestion to clearly indicate survey expiration in communications
  - Note: System allows one response per family for equity purposes

### **b. Process for Selecting Subcommittees**

- Budget subcommittee proposed based on community interest
- Discussion points:
  - How to include multiple topics within individual subcommittees
  - Timeline for subcommittees (current year vs. extending to next school year)
  - Suggestion for community unification committee
  - Proposal for student-centered committee
  - Need to engage all families, including those who do not always come to meetings
  - Staff responses focused on staffing concerns
  - Discussion of budget limitations regarding staffing (district-level issue)
  - Support for resource allocation to assist teachers
  - Suggestion to combine student experience with family engagement
  - Note that subcommittee membership not limited to council members

### **c. Subcommittee Votes**

- Motion by Arjun Jaikumar to create two subcommittees

**Vote to create Budget Subcommittee:**

- Nasrin Belali: NO
- Karima Cherguaoui: NO
- Aboma Dirbaba: YES
- Debra Gadsen-Holiday: YES
- Mason Gloudemans: Absent for vote
- Christian Henry: YES
- Mary Hermann: YES
- Arjun Jaikumar: YES
- Lauren Morse: YES
- Jodi Rich: YES
- Guy Rosenzweig: YES
- Gwen Savych: YES
- Dr. Kathleen Smith: YES
- **Result: Approved** (11 Yes, 2 No, 1 Absent)

**Vote to create Family Engagement Subcommittee:**

- Nasrin Belali: YES
- Karima Cherguaoui: YES
- Aboma Dirbaba: YES
- Debra Gadsen-Holiday: YES
- Mason Gloudemans: Absent for vote
- Christian Henry: YES
- Mary Hermann: YES
- Arjun Jaikumar: YES
- Lauren Morse: YES
- Jodi Rich: YES
- Guy Rosenzweig: YES
- Gwen Savych: YES
- Dr. Kathleen Smith: YES
- **Result: Approved** (13 Yes, 0 No, 1 Absent)

**d. Subcommittee Membership**

- Budget Committee: Arjun Jaikumar
- Family Engagement Committee: Gwen Savych, Nasrin Belali, Guy Rosenzweig
- Guy Rosenzweig volunteered to serve on both committees if necessary

**e. Subcommittee Responsibilities**

- Meet at least once between council meetings
- Establish goals
- Invite community participation

- Develop ideas and recommendations
- Follow open meeting law requirements:
  - Meetings posted on portal at least 48 hours in advance
  - Meeting notes must be taken and posted
  - May be virtual or in-person

## **5. Community Comment (6:40 - 6:50 PM)**

- Anna Shin: Expressed support for budget subcommittee, noting concern about library books in poor condition
  - Dr. Smith noted the librarian is working on a budget increase proposal
- Guy Rosenzweig: Reported concern from parent about potential discrimination against a child from Israel
- Anna Shin: Commented on addressing interpersonal conflicts and hate directly with students affected
- Fen: Offered assistance with restorative justice protocols and modeling positive behaviors for children

## **6. Debrief (6:50 - 7:00 PM)**

### **a. Positives**

- All voices were heard
- Agenda allowed for completion of meeting goals
- Appreciation for the work involved in survey implementation and data analysis to inform today's vote

### **b. Areas for Improvement**

- More energetic discussion desired with fewer awkward pauses
- Suggestion to use "rounds" format to hear more voices
- Note that some awkwardness may be necessary to ensure equitable participation

## **7. Adjournment**

- Motion to adjourn: Mary Hermann
- Seconded by: Arjun Jaikumar
- Meeting adjourned at 6:58 PM