

Graham and Parks  
SCHOOL COUNCIL MINUTES

**School Council Meeting: Thursday, May 1, 2025 (Library & Zoom)**

Called for **5:48pm** at the Graham and Parks School, 44 Linnaean Street, Cambridge, MA 02138.

\*The Co-Chair announced that this meeting will be recorded.

**School Council Members Present:** Kathleen Smith, Lauren Morse,, Jodi Rich, Debra Gadsden-Holiday, Inbal Alon, Mason Gloudemans, Gwen Savych, Mary Hermann, Lilly Havstad,Nasrin Belali, Guy Rosenzweig, Arjun Jaikumar, **Karima Cherguaoui**, Christian Henry, Talia Greenberg

**School Council Members Absent:** Aboma Dirbaba

**Also Present:** Robin Harris, Candance Bass

With Kathleen Smith and Christian Henry serving as the Co-Chairs

- This meeting of the Graham and Parks School Council is called to order at 5:52 pm.  
Would the Secretary please call the roll call for a vote to proceed.

A quorum of the Graham and Parks School Council being present, the Co-Chairs called the meeting to order at 5:52 pm and read the call of the meeting

Inbal - secretary

Mason - tech support

Arjun - Timer

The meeting proceeded with a roll call vote of the members present:

Kathleen Smith, Lauren Morse, Jodi Rich, Debra Gadsden-Holiday, Inbal Alon, Mason Gloudemans, Gwen Savych, Mary Hermann, Lilly Havstad,Nasrin Belali, Guy Rosenzweig, Arjun Jaikumar, **Karima Cherguaoui**, Christian Henry, Talia Greenberg

- Minutes for Approval (May 2024,)

***Motion made by Gwen to approve THE MINUTES OF THE GRAHAM & PARKS SCHOOL COUNCIL FOR (March 27, 2025)***

***Seconded by Inbal***

- ***Roll Call vote (all yes):*** Kathleen Smith, Lauren Morse,, Jodi Rich, Debra Gadsden-Holiday, Inbal Alon, Mason Gloudemans, Gwen Savych, Mary Hermann, Lilly Havstad, Nasrin Belali, Guy Rosenzweig, Arjun Jaikumar, Karima Cherguaoui, Christian Henry, Talia Greenberg
- ***Results: 15 yes***

- Welcome & Introductions 5:45 - 5:50 pm
  - Feedback previous meeting
  - Intended Outcomes and Meeting Norms
  - Roles for 5/1 Meeting - Co-Chair, Tech Support, Secretary, Relentless Timekeeper
  
- School Administration Report 5:50 - 6:00 pm
  - Family Engagement
    - May is busy with lots of events (Staff Appreciation Week and Lunch)
    - Market
    - Community Circles
    - Clothing Swap
    - Grade Level Playdates
    - Games and Cookies
    - School Council Elections coming up - sign up by Friday of next week, feedback from last year's election is being discussed and incorporated
  - Staffing & Professional Development Updates
    - postings for positions
      - Assistant Principal Position (not interim) - will be looking for families at the end of May.
      - 1 APT year Grade 1 position
      - Final for the year session with Henry Turner (consultant working in a variety of contexts and teams about cultural humility and racial identity development). Session worked on developing school culture. Equity teams worked on what our goals are and how we structure our professional learning.
  - Facilities Updates
    - Mice
      - deep cleaning during april vacation
      - This is a team effort - daily preventative practices (minimizing food in the classroom, breakfast in the cafeteria)
      - traps are there when kids are not
  
- Graham & Parks School Improvement Plan Update 6:00 - 6:40 pm
  - (5 Min) Introduce Template SY 2025 - 26 - SY 2026 - 27
    - Every school will get to identify an area
    - Still waiting on timeline from the district for the development of the SIP
    - (5 Min) Clarifying Questions
  - (10 Min) CPS District Targets and G&P Student Learning Goals
    - New goal around family engagement to replace the chronic absenteeism goal
    - also add a 5th goal particular to each school
    - District goals and priorities
      - Educator Effectiveness and Professional Learning
      - Improve Literacy Outcomes and Curriculum Implementation
      - Improve Math Outcomes (goal 100% of students meet math targets, by 2025 aim for all students make at least moderate growth)
      - Family Engagement and Partnerships
      - Behavior Response Protocols

- School Climate and Culture Goal
  - Social Emotional Learning
  - Early Childhood programming
  - SIP Funds will be more closely tied to SIP goals
  - Choice Course plans - each school needs to identify 3 courses to offer teachers in service of the SIP goals (still provided as options to teachers)
  - School based professional development planner
  - See slides for SIP plans for Adopted Targets
- (5 Min) Clarifying Questions
- Who sets the grade level expectations for reading and math
    - set by the state
  - Aspirational goal seems unrealistic - what is the intention?
    - very few students have disabilities that prevent them from reaching expectations, so when we look at students who are not meeting expectations, many have the cognitive ability to achieve at a higher level.
    - ML students are making high growth in ACCESS testing. How do we measure growth for students who are meeting expectations - we want all students to make a year's growth.
  - Do we allocate the entire SIP budget or do we keep some for issues as they come up? Usually, no - keep some unallocated fund to be allocated as needs arise.
  - Are staffing and facilities included in the SIP budget?
    - no, about \$100,000 set aside to teach SIP goals
- (15 Min) Council Discussion: School Based Priority Goal:
- Questions the Council may consider (start in a round):
- What data might we consider?
  - What is missing from the other four goals?
  - What information do we need to know to be able to generate a 5th goal?
  - How do we know if all students are making progress?
  - What might our focus area be?

Ideas from the council:

- Data we looked at how students felt about themselves - looking at SEL data for students to inform our 5th goal - early learning, the way students feel about school and themselves is an important piece of data
- Looking closely at how boys are doing at school - research about boys falling behind in school
- Taskforce - what is our thing at G&P that unites us a community
- More ongoing feedback from students, staff, and families so we can reflect on our goals as we live them.
- School Climate data is coming up for 3-5 graders, but how do we think about our younger students also giving feedback about how they feel about school
- Physical learning (PE), or music, or art - enrichment opportunities and how these programs support physical, emotional, and artistic development
- Must the 5th goal come out of data we have, or can we collect some street data that leads us into that goal, and look at disaggregated data
- ELD - English Language development - new curriculum in SEI and ESL
- Facilities - our students really know about our building needs and can help inform what we need, student voice is important in how we can make our school a better place for students

- Would be good to have a member of our specials (art, music, PE, library) community included in school council so we can also support students who shine in these areas
- How do we support students who are significantly below grade level - if they keep advancing, will it not be harder and harder? Is there a solution, or will it continue like it, it might impact their social wellbeing.
- What makes the school unique - alternative school, project based learning (is this where we shine and draw people)
- Facilities related
- Number of Committees - connect or review the committees to see what is missing, perhaps a summit that can find which area is missing
- Science and social studies - what data we would need to collect
- Focusing on our Multilingual Learners - supporting students as they transition out of SEI into General Education.
- Task Force and other teams - what is unique and can be disaggregated from other goals
- Support Arts, Science, Social Studies, Specials - make the school unique

- Subcommittees Update 6:40 - 6:45 pm
  - Family & Community Engagement Subcommittee
    - met twice
    - put a guideline about homework expectations for families across all grades
    - Task Force - 2 awesome meeting and a planning meeting - what do we consider a successful G&P student, history of G&P, Expeditionary Learning and Responsive classroom
  - Budget Subcommittee
    - Focused on creating a process to increase clarity and consistency for discretionary funding requests
    - Remaining Funds (as of March 23rd) - what is not allocated yet and how can we spend it? Deadline is coming up May 2nd, but we should try to figure this out soon, especially if there are still unmet needs
    - Committee members have talked about contracts with outside facilitators and have some questions about the amount spent, why OIEB was not used, and feelings from staff to provide anonymous feedback from staff on all PD initiatives moving forward
    - Would like to open up lines of conversations between FAC, School Councils and Friends of G&P

- Community Comment 6:45 - 6:55 pm
  - Thanks to the committee chairs for all the work and to bring things to the table
  - Subcommittees are welcome to attend friends meetings and discuss issues on the agenda
  - Question about encumbered funding?

- Debrief 6:55 - 7:00 pm
  - Plus: What worked well?
  - Delta: What can we do better?
  - Got through agenda items, covered a lot
  - great ideas for the goals
  - Great attendance from community members

- 1 hour and 15 minutes is not enough time - to develop a new SIP we will not have time
- The speed was too much and it distracted from the conversation
- Subcommittees were only given 5 minutes after all the work we have put into these documents, more space to do the work
- End Meeting

Motion to close - Christian , second - Debra

- **Kathleen Smith, Lauren Morse,, Jodi Rich, Debra Gadsden-Holiday, Inbal Alon, Mason Gloudemans, Gwen Savych, Mary Hermann, Lilly Havstad,Nasrin Belali, Guy Rosenzweig, Arjun Jaikumar, Karima Cherguaoui, Christian Henry, Talia Greenberg**
- without objection the motion carries