

September 18, 2025

Baldwin School Council Minutes

7:30 - 8:45 a.m.

In-Person Meeting

School Council Members in Attendance

Parent Members: Caitlin Dube, Jackie Hayes, Matt Meyersohn, Jen Nigro, Andrew Verardo (virtual), Chunying Yue

School Staff and Community Members: Heidi Cook, Ben Geiger, Elena Haro, Karin Kugel, Sara Oliveira, Susan Tiersch

Absent: Eugenia Schraa Huh, Corianne LaBounty

Also in attendance: Sarah Happel, Margot Iverson, Anna Shin, Ouleye Warnock, Korleen Cosgrove (Ms. Heidi's fall principal intern)

Agenda

Meeting Calendar

Back to School Night Share

School Improvement Plan SY 2025-2027

Public Comment

Gratitude

Thank you to the families for coming to Back to School Night. Huge thank you to the teachers and staff who attended a staff meeting after school and also prepared, hosted or helped provide childcare for Back to School Night.

Housekeeping/Action Steps

- School Council Meeting minutes to be reviewed by Heidi and Chunying before posted to the Baldwin Brief and the School Council website. August meeting minutes need to be reviewed.
- Back to School information discussed in the August meeting was shared with faculty.
- The Student and Family Handbook was shared with families in the Baldwin Brief (9/5 and 9/12) and posted on the Baldwin School website.
- The one-page handbook was distributed in hardcopy to students on 9/4/25.
- The school implemented the approved new snack policy

Meeting Calendar - School Council Meeting Schedule for the School Year

Per the School Council Handbook, meetings are to be held once a month on consistent days with the time determined by the availability of the school community. Baldwin School Council meetings will meet on the third Thursday of each month. Most meetings will be in the morning, in-person. We will have three

meetings during the year that will be evening, virtual meetings, hopefully to include more attendees. In-person meetings will also have the on-line option for those who cannot make it in person.

October 16 - 7:30 a.m.

November 20 - 7:30 a.m.

December 18 - evening virtual meeting

January 15 - 7:30 a.m.

February 26 - 7:30 a.m.

March 19 - evening virtual meeting

April 16 - 7:30 a.m.

May 14 - 7:30 a.m.

June 17 - evening virtual meeting

Back to School Night Share

Last evening was Back to School Night. Attendees were asked to share their thoughts.

Love the principal address video and the ability to view with others or on their own time - very respectful of parents' time.

Specialist teachers were available in the lower level to meet families however it may be nice to include them on future videos.

Childcare divided by grade bands was great.

Very clear information shared in the video - loved it.

The teacher presentation was excellent. Would have liked a bit more time.

Missed opportunity - school council should have done a video to include in Ms. Heidi's video like the Friends of Baldwin did.

The child greeter at the front of the building was awesome.

Although big gatherings have a wonderful community feel, the video avoids the masses rushing to the classroom presentation.

Would love an exit ticket where parents can contribute a word on their phone that then creates a word cloud.

As a parent who has been to five back-to-school nights, this was the best one yet. Happy about the video option. Was in and out with no chaos.

Seems like a well-oiled precision machine. Childcare for all CPS students should be included in the wording.

Overview of the School Improvement Plan (SIP) Goals

The goals are built on what is happening at a district level. The school's goals are aligned with the district goals.

There are five (5) areas: School Climate, Family Engagement, Priority Goal, ELA (English Language Arts) and Math.

School Climate: We are working and documenting our response protocols with a new tool called Educator Handbook. This is a way to gather data, a helpful process for measuring supports.

Family Engagement: This is a focus of the district. It's not just about how we involve parents, it's helping parents understand how their child is doing at school. The focus is on academic partnership.

Priority Goal: Based on the Panorama survey data (last spring), teachers are seeking additional meaningful feedback. The building leadership will be more intentional on how feedback is given to teachers. Everyone needs feedback, even veteran teachers.

ELA: Key goal. We have high achievement overall, however, we need to focus on students who are having less success. Continue to improve growth for targeted students including black and multilingual learners. This will include supporting teachers with small group instruction during W.I.N blocks as well as additional professional development for teachers in the new curriculum.

Math: Increase math language to stretch growth for all students. We have more multilanguage students this school year. We need to be mindful and responsive to student language development.

Looking at the spending plan and how it relates to the goals:

- Interns
- Coaches for before and afterschool tutoring
- Afterschool clubs
- SEL curriculum (Second Step)
- Academic support in the morning (targeted)

The plan is still in process. Principals are to submit their plan to the district on September 30.

Questions / Comments on SIP Plan/Process

The teachers at Baldwin have done very well not losing the things about Baldwin that are so special and important while implementing the new district-wide curriculum. How will that continue?

Teachers are working through the new more structured CKLA ELA curriculum. As this is the second year, they will be able to “pump it up” so it is not so dry.

What are the Wednesday meetings for staff?

Ms. Heidi explained how the Wednesday afternoon meetings are scheduled:

They are until 4:25

- One week a month is 90 minutes for teachers to collaborate as a team level or work on report cards, etc.
- One week a month is a building-based meeting, where Heidi will lead the agenda.
- One week a month is a district-based meeting, where someone from the district comes, and it is done at all schools, to help align schools to have a shared vision.
- One week is a 30 minute teacher collaborative time.

Public Comment

A parent who spoke with Ms. Heidi suggested a topic for a future meeting about phone culture. Parents of older grade students are coming together to learn about flip phones to offset the need to get their child a smart phone. The ‘Wait Until 8th’ is a popular topic among parents. How can kids connect without the

smartphone culture? This is aligned with the screetime conversation we had last school year at a school council meeting. Although we don't see phones at school, this topic may be of interest to discuss.

<https://www.waituntil8th.org/why-wait>

Next Meeting

Thursday, October 16, 2025

7:30 - 8:30 a.m.

Baldwin School Library

Agenda:

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.

Parents are welcome to come when they can, leave when they wish.

Documents:

Baldwin SIP Overview SY2025-2027

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1YiLOuPQm2bsHpuUgNRYKsLoOvimMXq2S/view?usp=sharing>