



Putnam Avenue Upper School
SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING - Sept. 24, 2025

DRAFT MEETING MINUTES

Meeting Details	
Date of Meeting:	09/24/2025
Time:	5:30 - 7:00 PM
Zoom Link:	https://cpsd-us.zoom.us/j/94656195630?pwd=mdYlt7aTdMfQHNdbtz7zGeIOhbLYPJ.1 Meeting ID: 946 5619 5630 Passcode: 915391
Committee Members:	5: (Caregiver Advisors) Sweta Joshi, Rozelle McBarnette, Pam Mindell, Anne Coburn, Xing Tian 5: Dr. Phanenca Babio-James, Kunjal Shah (ex-officio), Staff advisors - Xavier Pierre-Jerome, Colleen Barnhart, Sarah Lincoln (Community Advisor)
Other Participants:	11 - Caregivers, staff, community members in attendance

Agenda Details
• Welcome • Accept Draft Meeting Minutes • Reflection • Agenda - Introduction to PAUS School Council - Intro to PAUS SC Members - Intro to PAFA (Putnam Ave. Family Assoc.) - Highlights & Updates - Open Discussion

It was noted that the Meeting Minutes will be approved at the next meeting in October.

- **Next Meeting:** Wednesday, October 15 from 5:30 - 7:00 PM via Google Meet: meet.google.com/tdj-fjku-usz

MEETING NOTES:

- **Sept. 24, 2025 Presentation:** [Sept-2025 Slideshow](#)
- Dr. Babio-James welcomed all attendees to the School Council meeting. Community norms, a reflection/connection was shared and discussed amongst the attendees (total 21 attendees including the SC).
- A presentation was shared, with an overview of the CPS & PAUS School Council, Introduction to PAUS SC Members from the Caregiver Advisors, Staff Advisors & Community Advisors.
- PAFA (Putnam Ave. Family Assoc.) was introduced. AN update was provided by the outgoing PAFA leader, along with a call for nominations/elections for several open positions for PAFA Leadership Team.
- The Minutes from the June 2025 meeting were submitted for approval, but due to lack of time for a review, a vote for approval was postponed to October.
- Dr. Babio-James shared insights on the school's changing mindset from "students to scholars." Setting a higher expectation, builds identity & pride, affirms potential and supports dignity and pride.
- An update on highlights from PAUS were provided:
 - A welcome to 6th Grade Event in August for new/incoming families.
 - Sept 17, Back to School Block Party was a success with over 300+ attendees, staff and community partners.
 - Followed by grade level Coffee & Connections events on Sept 29 (7th), Oct 1 (6th), Oct 3 (8th). This is to ensure multiple avenues to connect with staff and caregivers.
 - Family Conferences are ongoing and will end on Oct 10.
 - PAUS Afterschool Programs start Oct 6: Around 18 programs available for scholars over the course of the school year.
 - Matilda Jr. Musical Auditions 1st week of October!
 - Community Book Activity with Climmable.
- There was an opportunity for open discussion and Q&A
 - 6th grader has 38min in their lunch block instead of 40, why is that?: Yes scholars have a block of 40min for lunch and recess - we have to account for transition time to and fro from class to recess/lunch and back, hence the 2min

buffer.

- Were SC Members elected or appointed?: Nominations/Call for Entries were sent to the 3 triad schools and PAUS in May 2025. There were 3 open seats and 3 nominees, and since there was parity the nominees were elected under the supervision of PAFA.
- Is it safe for growing scholars to have limited access to food?: For safety and sanitary reasons, it is not recommended to snack during class. However it was acknowledged that sometimes growing scholars need their fuel, and it was clarified that there are opportunities for scholars to grab a snack from the basket of fruits/snacks in the cafeteria, or main office, and the school nurse, in addition to breakfast and lunch in school.
- Does the cellphone policy apply to smart watches?: Yes, it applies to tablets, smart watches, phones, headphones, airpods etc.
- Question about playground equipment?: While sometimes recess time might be shared/overlap between MLK and PAUS, scholars are not prohibited from using playground equipment, soccer field or basketball courts depending on the weather.
- There was a question about CPS policies towards advanced math learners, and what is available at PAUS?
Here is a clarification about the advanced math opportunities at PAUS: We want to share our clear plan for supporting scholars in partnership with our math department and the district office. After evaluating iReady testing scores, and data points, several scholars at PAUS have been identified as ready for advanced work. Teachers, & Coaches will provide them with robust support through targeted instruction during WIN/Flex time, and enrichment programs, math olympiad lunch club, and before/after-school opportunities. Caregivers of scholars have been contacted by the PAUS Math Coach.
- Meeting ended at 6:55pm

Action Plan (if needed):

Action	Assigned To	Due Date
NEXT School Council Meeting	PAUS	Oct 15, 2025
Other School Council Meetings Dates		2025: 11/19, 12/17 2026: 1/21, 2/25, 3/25, 4/29, 5/20, 6/17
Approve Meeting Minutes and Appoint Caregiver Co-Chair	School Council	Oct 2025

GENERAL REFERENCE MATERIALS:

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