

Baldwin School Council Meeting Notes

Tuesday, September 19, 2023

Attendees

Parents: Justin Bennett, Lauren Budd, Caitlin Dube, Kate Flaim, Mayan Kedar Peled, C.A. Webb

Staff: Heidi Cook Maria Flores (principal intern), Sara Oliveira, Susan Tiersch

Agenda

- Review the schedule of the meetings for the 23-24 school year
- Understand the family and staff stipend for School Council
- Discuss communications and idea gathering
- Discuss possibility of sub-committees
- Learn more about the new elementary scheduling guidelines and implementation at Baldwin

School Council

Meetings are always open to all. Baldwin School Council meetings take place on the 3rd Tuesday of each month at 8:00 a.m. in the library. (The February and April meetings are on the 4th Tuesday of the month due to vacation week.) Families are invited to bring their child with them to the library. Students can stay in the library until the start of the school day. Please look for the meeting agenda in the Baldwin Brief. If there is a topic you are interested in, please come. You are welcome to join when you can, leave when you wish. It's a great way to hear from Ms. Heidi and learn about what's happening at school. Notes from the meeting are posted in the Baldwin Brief as well.

School Council Members

Parent Representatives

Caitlin Dube (co-chair)

Kate Flaim

Matt Meyersohn

Eugenia Schraa

Chunying Yue

Staff Representatives

Heidi Cook (Co-Chair)

Corianne LaBounty, JK Teacher

Sara Oliveira, K Paraprofessional

Susan Tiersch, Family Liaison and recording secretary

Community Representative

(open)

Scheduled Meeting Dates 2023-2024 School Year

10/17, 11/21, 12/19, 1/16, 2/27, 3/19, 4/23, 5/21, 6/18

Link to the district School Council Handbook:

https://cdnsm5-ss5.sharpschool.com/UserFiles/Servers/Server_3042785/File/departments/administration/equity/cps_school_council_handbook.pdf

Stipend Pilot

The district is launching a pilot stipend for parent members of the school council as a way of saying thank you. They will pay up to 5 parent members \$250 for each half of the year. Staff members are compensated if they are working outside their contracted hours.

School Council Communications and Idea Gathering

This year, the meetings will be held in-person. The district also wants an online option to be available for a hybrid meeting. Those attendees would have to register to get the link.

Should we have a student member? A 4th/5th grade student, perhaps as a reporter from the 5th grade student council. Sara suggested the students could possibly create a video of what they are doing in 5th grade student council.

There was a table set up at back to school curriculum night. Caitlin created a school council website that will have a place for families to “submit an idea” for school council. The website will be available to families soon. Families are also encouraged to reach out to Caitlin if they have an idea.

School Council Subcommittees

Should we have subcommittees? An equity subcommittee? A SEL (social-emotional learning) subcommittee? What are other school councils doing? This is something we will think about.

Elementary Schedules

Raymond Porch from the district was supposed to be with us at this meeting. He is not here and we haven't heard from him.

CPS has a school day that is similar to other districts in the state and we are not the shortest, however there are districts that have longer school days. We have to be very thoughtful on how we spend our time because **every minute is precious**. For example, second grade's PTT, Play's The Thing, a time for students to make choices and make new connections, is a very important time for students and we will not sacrifice that time. We are a Responsive Classroom (RC) school. Social Emotional Learning is as important as academic learning. We are fortunate to have a district RC trainer on our staff, Amy Moylan, and we are proud to practice RC at Baldwin.

CPS hired consultants to look at the schedules in CPS. New SolutionsK12 did an audit of K - 8 schedules. The audit was done to better understand how time is spent to support student learning. Their findings show there is letdown time or less scheduled time in school schedules. There are guidelines for the amount of time for math and literacy instruction is grades 1 - 5. The guidelines are 60 minutes/day for math and 120 minutes/day for literacy. In addition, there is a new "WIN" (What I Need) block suggested by the district. WIN block is time for students to get additional support for math or reading without missing their class math and reading time. The goal is to make the best possible use of time. Baldwin is a Kodaly school. Kodaly is a high frequency music school (for K - 2) that has a suggested time for music instruction. Taking all these time guidelines into account, something has to give. At Baldwin, hardly anything has changed. We value lunch and recess times. We've worked hard to figure out how our students receive what they've had in the past. Mr. Roderick supervises lunch period to help ensure seamless transition back to class. Our teams look at individual students and their individual needs to make sure they get what they need. Families will be notified if their child is 'pulled' for intervention. For special education, a guideline in this scheduling is not to pull a student from the classroom during reading or math, and also not to pull out from specials.

Also the district is looking to be sure there are consistent opportunities across the district. Recognize that the district scheduling update came down over the summer is concerning. It would have been optimal to have teachers involved in what's best for kids as well as conversations with the public. We need to acknowledge that as a community, we need to find a balance of what families value. Some families value more time for lunch and recess, however, there are families whose child is not reading that want their child to spend more time learning. Independent schools have more lunch/recess/downtime, however, they have a longer school day. It's difficult to find a healthy balance in the length of our school day.

Discussion of the attendees about scheduling:

- Atrocious that the teachers were not at the table to discuss the schedule.
- It will be helpful for parents to hear that teachers do have some flexibility. (Heidi will speak about this at Curriculum Night.)
- Teachers are the most important advocates for the students and they should have been front and center in this discussion.
- Is there a possibility of science and social studies learning outdoors?
- Would like to acknowledge that Heidi is protecting our school community and allowing the building professionals to do what they do which is incredible individualized knowledge of their students' needs.