

Graham and Parks School

Cambridge Public Schools JK-5

Steering Committee

23 September 2021

7:00 – 8:00 pm

Steering Committee Meeting Norms

- Be punctual & prepared
- Avoid side bar conversations
- Be mindful of air time
- Assume positive intentions

Committee members in attendance:

Administrative Appointees:

Claudie Jean-Baptiste - Interim Principal
Jennifer Lavalle - Interim Assistant Principal
Lauren Morse - Family Liaison
Jodi Rich - Community Representative

Teacher Representatives:

Karima Cherguoui
Mary Gallagher
Katie Lynch - Co-Chair
Melissa Mihos

Parent Representatives ([bios here](#)):

Kris Dickson - Co-Chair
Christian Henry - Secretary

Other Attendees:

Laura Priani
Arrin Katz
Ena Valenzuela
Andy Wang
Mildrid Gedeon
Sarah Kilonsky
Amber Fisher
Hanwen Yang
Muna
David Weinstein
Nick Nelson
Mariana Emontero
Mapenzi Raha
Saori Goto
Phil & Esther Rheinbay-Hsu
Sontan (Semir)
Lindsey Encinas
Anna Bell Shin (Tempel)
Drew Thorne - G&P Teacher

Not in attendance:

Jessica Britton - Hiring Committee
Representative
Erin Garcia

Meeting Convened, Introductions & Greetings | 7:05 pm

1. Principal's Report | 7:09 pm

a. Staffing/Professional Development Updates

The school hired or promoted staff into the positions of literacy coach, instructional technology technologist, 3rd grade teacher, and building substitute teacher.

Darren Graves did a workshop on identity for staff in the first few weeks of school on, Schooling for Critical Consciousness.

b. Facilities Update

Significant work is underway mounting solar panels on the building rooftop.

c. COVID update

So far this year there have been 3 COVID cases within the extended school community so far. Positive cases are detected by the school via pooled testing by class, and also by parent notifications of positive cases at home. In those cases, nurse Bonnie Walsh

contacts family, Jim Malone is contacted, family close contacts are identified, and individual email messages are sent by school messenger, and calls and letters are sent to close contacts. Post-positive COVID identified, testing procedures as outlined in prior district level messages are being adhered to, including wearing masks throughout the school day, and quarantine.

The average in the district for family consent to testing is about 65%, after 95% consent had been received. A procedure is in place to notify families when their consent has not yet been received.

2. Cambridge School Committee update | 7:25pm

This year is an election for Cambridge School Committee. On October 6th My Brother's Keeper is hosting a forum for discussion, the Cambridge Neighborhood Association is hosting a School Committee candidate debate. Current items are continuing adapting to COVID and helping provide access to vaccinations when different age groups are available.

3. Family Engagement Update | 7:28pm-7:45pm

Steering Committee elections: SC at G&P is comprised of 5 teacher representatives, 5 parent representatives, and administration. People are also welcome to come even if you aren't on the committee (all on Zoom this year). Elections for this year will happen in the next few weeks. There is room for 5 parents - you would attend meetings, ask questions, let the committee know about parent concerns, and review notes from each meeting. Let Lauren know by Monday if you are interested in running. She will send a short questionnaire to fill out letting people know why you want to be on Steering Committee. Election will begin on Oct 7th (Curriculum Night), though working on how we'll do this in COVID year (likely paper). Election will run until following Monday. Newly elected will come to the next Steering Committee meeting on Thur Oct 14th - the first of the new committee.

Ways to get involved at G&P form sent out to families today. Fill out and send back in if you are interested, and Lauren will connect you with relevant people.

Curriculum Night - will be virtual on Oct 7th (Special Start - Grade 2: 6:30 - 7:15pm | Grades 3-5: 7:00 - 7:45pm).

Important that everyone figures out how to log onto the Family Portal as the district is moving towards having all school-based forms go through that portal. (Parent indicated the portal was having some glitches this past week, but they should have been fixed as of today.)

4. Assessments and Screeners for G&P Students | 7:45pm-7:46pm

Jen/Karima overview: 2 screens for all students (FAS - younger kids; iReady - older kids); these are being done over the next few weeks. This will help get a baseline on all kids' reading levels. Parent (Ena) shared that iReady is supposed to generate reports that will be sent to parents. Vice Principal Jen shared not clear when those will go out to parents. Tests are still ongoing, and should go out after.

5. Community questions | 7:46

Anna - for the opt-in testing form, it says not to be tested if you have recently had COVID. We should clarify this. Also, Bonnie said she is keeping track of that herself, so parents should still fill out the form. But this seems to be an informal tracking, and would be

better to have this be formalized. It was clarified that the stay and test policy pertains to close contacts.

<https://cambridgemasks.org> maks bulk orders are due by 9/30.

Meeting Adjourned | 7:52 pm

This meeting is an open public meeting. Please join us at 7pm on the 2nd Thursday of each month September-June, exclusively by zoom until further notice.