

# Graham and Parks School

Cambridge Public Schools JK-5

## Steering Committee

12 November 2020

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:

Tony Byers - Principal  
Claudie Jean-Baptiste - Assistant Principal  
Lauren Morse - Family Liaison  
Jodi Rich - Community Representative

#### Teacher Representatives:

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

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

Kris Dickson - Co-Chair  
Christian Henry - Secretary  
Xing Tian  
Shaundraya Elder

#### Other Attendees:

Angela Chang  
Ela Ben-Ur  
Ena Valenzuela  
Hannah Hudson  
Rachelly Normand  
Mildrid Gedeon  
Jackie Kehoe  
Barry Unger  
Max Nelson  
Pete Mellor  
Karolina & Shahid Jabbar  
Robin Chen

#### Not in attendance:

Jessica Britton - Hiring Committee  
Representative

Meeting Convened | 7:03 pm

1. Introductions | 7:05 pm
2. Principal's Report | 7:08 pm

#### *a. Staffing/Professional Development Updates*

For the staffing needs in the current school configurations:

- a) remote 'virtual learning' stance for all students since mid-September, and
- b) in-person learning for the past month for the JK, K, 1st grade and select 2nd and 3rd grade students,  
the current staff positions are currently filled.

#### *b. Facilities Update*

Cement pads will be poured on the Walker Street side of the school to support solar panel roof installation, which will absorb some of the available teacher parking.

#### *c. In-person & remote learning update*

Students have adjusted through the first month of in-person learning. Thanks to parent Trumbull Barrett and student Gus for their delivery of tree stumps, and to Jackie Kehoe for power washing the courtyard cement tiles, all in support of outdoor classroom spaces.

### 3. Family Engagement Update | 7:26pm

A 'curriculum night' series of events was held throughout the week of October 26th. The virtual zoom meeting space allowed more families to participate. Recommendation for improvements around messaging and scheduling were invited. For families with 2 students, the evening felt less rushed, it was easier to tell which parents belonged to which classmates, and there was more opportunity to ask questions of the teachers.

New students are enrolling at G&P continuously, which means technology orientation.

Food for Free is offering gift cards monthly starting soon, and the weekend backpack program is starting again.

Remote student materials pickups are happening every-other week, and last week families could reserve and pick out library books as well.

Internet Essentials offers free internet connectivity for eligible families; please contact the family liaisons for access.

G&P's anti-racism work continues, with staff training being facilitated by Melinda Barbosa this fall. A facilitated parent group will be offered by Melinda starting soon. In addition a Family & Staff Anti-Racist Discussion Group is convening the 1st Thursday of each month starting December 3rd, 2020 to discuss Ibram Kendi's book [How to Be An Antiracist](#). All Graham & Parks family and staff are welcome.

Virtual School Tour videos of 2 minutes are planned to quickly highlight the features of each school. Live zoom information sessions for new prospective families are planned starting in late November through the winter. The online format will also allow tours to be offered in Spanish, Bangla, Amharic, and other languages in collaboration with other CPS elementary schools.

### 4. Cambridge School Committee Updates | 7:34pm

The Cambridge School Committee list of meetings is [here](#). Tonight (Nov 12) the School Committee is discussing the proposal advanced by the Building and Grounds Subcommittee around adjusting the metrics for school closure. Today the second of three thresholds being monitored for community COVID-19 testing was met, prompting a move to planned move to all-remote learning. See the "School Reopening Dashboard" [here](#). Depending on how the School Committee votes later tonight, the first possible remote day would, in theory, be Tuesday 17 November. A large number of scheduling shifts for specials and services need to be implemented, with a focus on asynchronous content delivery with paraprofessionals checking in with students. Planning for such a shift has been underway for weeks, so that the transition isn't unnecessarily disruptive.

Former CPS Principal Robin Harris, now Director of Family Engagement for the district spoke at the recent Governance Sub-Committee meeting about her efforts to initiate a 4-month process to collect data on the makeup and composition of School Councils (this Steering Committee is Graham & Park's school council), the diversity of the members, the representation of the various programming offered at the school on the councils, the time of day and frequency of meetings, how the School Improvement Plans are addressed by the Councils, and the goals and areas of focus for the councils. She plans to hold a series of stakeholder meetings to identify best practices, the regulatory guidelines [here](#), and generate recommendations for the district and School Committee to foster and support School Councils.

Principal Tony Byers mentioned his participation at the district principals meeting.

5. *New Business* | 7:47pm

Parent Barry Unger asked about plans for programming looking ahead to summer 2021. This past summer, the students who needed more got more: Vice Principal Claudie Jean-Baptiste and Katie Lynch and Karima along with a team of teachers ran tailored programs with directed targeted instruction for students with qualifying needs this summer.

Would there be any opportunity for special programming, like language instruction, at Graham & Parks given the remote learning context that wouldn't be normally available? The sense is that everyone is at full capacity, and recognizing there's little room for extending even more enhanced offerings at the moment.

There are grade-level collaboratives in place across the district to support curriculum design for remote and Graham & Parks teachers are creating a tremendous volume of curriculum material, with official leadership roles in 1st, 2nd, 4th, and 5th grades, with others contributing significantly to cross-district resources. It could help bring the difference CPS schools closer together.

Meeting Adjourned 8:00 pm

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