

Graham and Parks School

Cambridge Public Schools JK-5

Steering Committee

13 January 2022

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 Lavallo - Interim Assistant Principal
Lauren Morse - Family Liaison

Teacher Representatives:

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

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

Kris Dickson - Co-Chair
Shawdee Eshghi - Secretary
Christian Henry
Vivian Pales - Hiring Committee Rep
Jessica Britton

Claudie

Melissa

Maia

Christian

Amber

Kathleen

Mary

Erin

Nick

Hannah

Mildred

Jessica

Yi

Hank

Solomon

Ayalew

Ena

Vivian

Attendees

Karima

Kris

Lauren

Shawdee

Jen

Meeting Convened, Introductions & Greetings | 7:01 pm

1. Introductions

2. Principal's Report | 7:09 pm

- Para floater hired
- No update on Principal's search - everyone is busy with COVID, maybe after Feb break
- Claudie is retiring in June :(

- Budget
 - should be determined end of January
 - very good to have a second interventionist and a second building sub this past year - these were funded by a grant and not sure how much funding is left from this source
- Health sub?
 - Health person from Baldwin will be transitioning to G&P end of January
- 3. School Committee updates
 - parents can reach out to teachers, Claudia, Jen to advocate for interests - in the past parents have advocated for full time liaisons
- 4. Access testing
 - access testing is underway - 4th and 5th grade started this week, other grades to follow
 - state mandated test for ELS students - important for placement for the following year
 - 4 domains - listening, reading, writing and speaking
 - state extended the window through March 4
- 5. iReady update
 - Round 1: Grades 3-5 tested in October
 - Round 2: Winter window just opened on Monday - will close Feb 18
 - preliminary feedback is that it's not taking as long this time around, which is the hope
 - in the fall, it took 3-4 blocks to finish, now it's 1.5-2
 - now we can assess growth
 - Lower grades will test in FastBridge beginning in February
- 6. Family engagement updates

School based equity teams

 - will be forming at every school
 - G&P already has one but it's just staff now
 - there will be an equity self-assessment
 - parent training was last night. Slide deck used is [here](#)
 - they are looking for at 2 parent representatives
 - meetings will begin end of this month/early Feb
 - Equity Team Guidelines [here](#)
 - Meetings will probably be Friday at 745 am. Kids can hang out in cafeteria before school starts

Masks

 - big push to get everyone to wear high quality masks
 - Cambridge mask group donated 300 masks to G&P
 - new mask is NOT a requirement, but new masks will be offered to students whose masks are not sufficient
 - Cambridge mask group currently NOT planning another re order
- 7. COVID updates
 - quarantine and isolation policies have changed
 - Kids who test positive can come back to school on Day 6 but have to mask from day 6 to 10
 - Staff have been letting teachers and families know what day kids can stop wearing masks outside

- Important to upload vaccination cards
- Q: Can we test vaccinated students?
 - Rapid test availability has not been a problem so far but if we were to test all of the close contacts regardless of vaxx status we may not have enough
- We are lucky that Nurse Bonnie and assistant Nurse are still standing, in some schools Principal and Assistant Principal are administering tests
- Throat swabbing is not possible for rapid tests at school - this is an off label use
- Q: are we caught up with the back to school positive tests?
 - Claudie thinks yes but it was a tremendous effort; they worked all weekend
 - G3-5 tested Monday → results Tuesday
 - GK-2 tested Tuesday → results Wednesday
 - staff tested Wednesday → results Thursday
 - Today all staff pools were negative, yay!!
 - Lots of spreadsheets to track all the close contacts
- Q: How do you handle indoor lunch?
 - all extra spaces are used for lunch so students can maintain 3ft distance
 - Melissa (teacher perspective): lunch feels pretty safe when they have to eat indoors, windows are open, in K classroom, kids are good about wearing masks to throw stuff out, etc
- Some discussion around students who come back on Day 6 post positive test
 - G&P follows DESE guidelines so not a lot of freedom here
 - can we test these students?
 - students should only come to school on Day 6 if they are completely free
 - Lauren has been following up with families before Day 6 to check in and plan for return to school
- Families can expect updated communication from school department in the next few days
- Rapid test availability has not yet been an issue for families as Lauren's office has some but it may be a problem in the near future
- Lauren: yes it's a crisis and everyone is beyond capacity but individual staff and teachers are looking out for each and there's a great team spirit