

Graham and Parks School

Cambridge Public Schools JK-5

Steering Committee

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

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

Kris Dickson - Co-Chair
Christian Henry - Secretary
Jessica Britton - Hiring Committee
Representative

Other Attendees:

Ena Valenzuela
Mildrid Gedeon
Jackie Kehoe
Pete Mellor
Robin Chen
Maia McAleavey
Nick Nelson

Not in attendance:

Xing Tian
Shaundraya Elde

Meeting Convened | 7:03 pm

1. Introductions | 7:05 pm
2. Procedural Approval of Minutes | 7:11 pm
3. Principal's Report | 7:11 pm

a. Staffing/Professional Development Updates

An additional paraprofessional was hired for the 2nd grade remote classroom.

b. Facilities Update

Solar panel roof installation work and roof leak repairs continue.

c. In-person & remote learning update

All learning is remote as of today because 2 of the district level metrics exceeded their thresholds. The absolute number of COVID-19 cases is relatively low, and there is very minimal spread happening in the school context. However, in the case where staff are either contacts of a positive, test positive, or experience COVID-like symptoms, anyone in those categories is isolated from the classroom, it has dramatic effects on the ability of the school to run in-person school.

4. Family Engagement Update | 7:23pm

Internet Essentials is a city-supported program, has been offered up as an option for families without internet access, but many families still struggle with

connectivity, and the quality of the connection is low, especially for families with many students in the district who might be using many zoom sessions simultaneously. Internet issues brought to the utility have encountered issues: families are told by Comcast they need to pay for higher speed.

Parents commended the district's IT Help desk for, among other things, helping adjust school-level controls for keeping the chromebook browser tabs consistent across sessions, which helps sometimes when the internet connection fails and restarts are necessary. Older chromebooks suffer lower speeds and have some issues with screens turning green.

Parent feedback included positive experiences around the transition to remote generally, and specifically around the materials sent home. There are more backordered items at the district level due to be distributed. Comments received included how well remote Special Start is working, all things considered. It was very helpful to have a parents' Zoom listening session over the weekend to share our thoughts and feelings about the challenges.

There's no defined plan or date from the district for 4th and 5th (or any older) students to return safely to in-person school at the moment, with space issues providing the biggest hurdle..

Kindergarten registration season is currently open for next year, with virtual tours and information sessions happening.

Food for Free is offering gift cards monthly for about 60 families through the weekend backpack program, with the Season of Giving invitation going out to G&P families to contribute gifts of local grocery shopping gift cards. The district has told the school that they need to use school funds to pay for stamps to mail these cards.

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

A student winter reading celebration is coming up in December.

G&P's anti-racism work continues. Firstly the G&P, Haggerty, and Tobin elementary schools are jointly holding a reading group of the book [Me & My White Supremacy](#) starting January 6th book club focused on inviting white families to come to the race discussion. Secondly, a facilitated G&P parent group will be offered by Melinda Barbosa in January and February. A Family & Staff Anti-Racist Discussion Group has started convening on the 1st Thursday of each month to discuss Ibram Kendi's book [How to Be An Antiracist](#). All Graham & Parks family and staff are welcome.

Family feedback is being solicited from the district. Families are encouraged to apply.

Students have received literacy screenings for fluency and accuracy using the FastBridge screener. This helps track student growth year-to-year in the building, and inform both the teaching team discussions around how to support students and the parent-teacher conferences that have been happening this past month.

Meeting Adjourned 7:59 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.