

Graham and Parks School

Cambridge Public Schools JK-5

Steering Committee

11 March 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:

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
Shaundraya Elder
Christian Henry - Secretary
Xing Tian

Other Attendees:

Jackie Kehoe
Pete Mellor
Midred Gideon
Ena Valenzuela
Lauren Cosulich
Jared Cosulich
Jessica Greengage
Etsegenet
Kayoung Kim
Jessica Greengarden
Ms. Nyandai
Natsuho Tohyama
Robin Chen

Not in attendance:

Jessica Britton - Hiring Committee
Representative

Meeting Convened | 7:01 pm

1. Introductions | 7:04 pm
2. Principal's Report | 7:05 pm
 - a. *Staffing/Professional Development Updates*

Teachers have had the chance to begin getting vaccinations starting today, and perhaps 50% of teachers have had a first appointment scheduled or completed.

b. Facilities Update

A significant roof leak happened over the Walker Street entrance that was repaired in the last month.

c. In-person & remote learning update

4th and 5th grades have been brought back into the school starting March 1st, 2021. The in-person pooled testing program has started with 95% of families consenting and will continue every Monday, with kudos to nurse Bonnie and assistants. 220 pools testing across the district, with 1 testing positive. If there's no news, it's good news (only classrooms that have a positive test will get a rapid antigen test to locate the specific source of the positive pooled test). There are [resources](#) on the CPS website demonstrating how the testing happens.

3. MCAS and School Report Card | 7:14pm

The timing of the standardized test has been shortened for many students, and rescheduled for May and June instead of March.

Each year each public school and school district in Massachusetts receives a report card from the Massachusetts Department of Elementary & Secondary Education (DESE). Since students did not take MCAS in spring 2020 the scores in the current reports (below) are from 2 years ago. Just as your child's report card shows how they are doing in different subjects, these report cards are designed to show families and caregivers how our schools and our district is doing in different areas.

- Graham & Park's state "[school report card](#)"
- Cambridge Public School's state "[district report card](#)"

4. State mandated in-person learning | 7:20pm

Subject to lots of changes to come, commissioner Riley proposed to the Massachusetts Board of Education to move toward in-person learning by April 5th by declaring that hybrid learning hours may not count toward structured learning requirements, with districts in violation subject to substantial fines. This may mean Wednesday remote days may return to in-person for those students who are in-person.

However, IEP meetings, student support teams, grade level meetings all happen on Wednesdays under normal non-pandemic conditions. To allow that critical business to happen under all-remote conditions, Wednesdays in remote-learning were structured as 'self-paced'. This preserves the quality of the programming overall.

Remote-opted families will receive an additional survey soon on willingness to return to in-person to help the school respond to the compliance directives from the state of Massachusetts. The state is saying there's no remote option for 2021-2022 school year except for those with a traditional medical mandate as applied to prior to March 2020.

There is some policy flexibility around which direction desks face which is especially important for the youngest students. Kids played together outside on the patio today, and figuring out how to do that in the early education classes more often is important.

5. Family Engagement Update | 7:47pm

G&P's anti-racism work continues for staff with Melinda Barbosa, focused on belonging and building community, with a next session on March 23.

A Courageous Conversations and Building Equity Bridges collaboration group is hosting a workshop on Opportunity Hoarding available to parents in the district.

A Mind-Matters curriculum will be launched on zoom for parents and children on Tuesdays and Thursdays, and dads-only group on Saturdays, geared to parents of children ages 3-8.

The Equity Committee capped off Black History Month celebrations with a live reading of *Respect* by Aretha Franklin, and that continues daily for International Women's History Month. A suggestion to share with families which prominent figures are being highlighted was shared.

6. New Business/Community Feedback | 7:52pm

A parent suggested that more parents would come to these Steering Committee meetings if we could share "What I get out of steering committee meetings". It was proposed that there be reimagining of the format of the meeting, with recordings allowing key presentations like school improvement plans and MCAS results to be accessible to more parents and students which is not available except by showing up at the meeting.

Meeting Adjourned 8:02 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.