



Haggerty School

Nancy Campbell, Principal
110 Cushing Street • Cambridge, MA 02138
ncampbell@cpsd.us • 6173496555

Haggerty School Advisory Council (SAC)

Friday, March 21, 2025

7:45-8:45

Haggerty Library & Google Meet

Agenda:

- Introductions & Welcome
 - Roles - Note Taker
 - Check-in: What we're hearing - What's on Top? Peaches & Pits? (anything that is not on the agenda and needs time or planning will be tabled for another mtg or a subcommittee)
- Minutes from February Mtg
- Budget Updates
 - Insights into start time
 - SCALE (social, communication, academic and life skills education)
 - Staffing Changes

Attendance: Christopher Cullen, Missy Page, Nancy Campbell, Lissa Galluccio, Kevin McGonegal, Andrea Flammia, Aline Kassabian and Katie O'Connell (virtually)

Notes taken by Lissa

Peaches and Pits:

- Haggerty Used Book Fair - there was so much excitement around the Fair and kids really enjoyed it, every kid got 3 free books! We also were able to raise some funds for Friends of Haggerty!
- Flatbread fundraiser next week - FOH fundraiser where a certain amount from each pizza will go to Friends of Haggerty coming on Tuesday, March 25!
- An alumni student (now in High School) came in to visit Nancy last week and some of her former teachers here at Haggerty. We love seeing our former students.
- Billerica HS graduation invitation also this week to Nancy and Laura E. - brings so much joy to know students remember and feel connected to their foundational elementary years!

Budget

Enrollment Based Adjustments in Budget Presentation ([Slide 93](#))

- In this slide it looks like Haggerty is losing a Preschool classroom, but to clarify that Preschool classroom was budgeted for this year (2024-2025 - the 4 year old classroom), but we didn't have enough in terms of enrollment to fill it this year. This budget is taking that classroom officially out of the budget for next year (2025-2026). We do have an integrated special start classroom this year (that is also a CPP classroom) and a DHSP preschool classroom.
- Our special start classroom will remain at Haggerty for next year. Heard feedback that it would be nice for Cambridge to have a central location for preschools, as it is hard to be a lone preschool classroom in a building, although we love having a special start classroom here at Haggerty. A number of preschools from other schools will move to the building on Broadway that Tobin is moving out of (old Longfellow) for next year, although it's not yet clear which preschools are moving.
- The Kindergarten cut for next year is a big shift for us. Our Kindergarten classrooms have not been fully enrolled in the last few years. From a numbers perspective it is understandable.
- We have SCALE classrooms coming - they are substantially separate classrooms. ([Slide 98](#)). As context for these classrooms over time, in 2010-2011 there were 29 students in SCALE classrooms and next year it's projected to be 179 students. The need for these classrooms has grown significantly. These students are included in the general education setting as well, as appropriate, and determined by their IEP teams.
- We will have two SCALE classrooms moving from FMA and one SCALE Kindergarten classroom will be created for next year at Haggerty. These students also typically take up an "enrollment seat" in a general ed classroom because they may push in for inclusion in the general education setting throughout the school day.
- Programmatically and historically, we have attempted to design our co-teaching model and determine classroom placement with the principle of natural proportions - Natural proportions, in the context of inclusion, refers to the principle that students with disabilities should be placed in general education classrooms in a way that reflects their prevalence in the broader student population. This year, we're at 25% of the Haggerty enrollment being students who are identified with a disability. We have worked hard to design for this and create co-teaching with special educators and general education teachers so that all of the students' learning needs are met.
- We're excited to welcome SCALE students to Haggerty and it fits well with our model of inclusion and motto "Everyone is Different Everyone Belongs". The challenge will just be the timeline.
- The classrooms spaces will be confirmed soon and will be determined by the space that's best suited for the students' needs, as well as what construction is feasible given the timeline, building layout, etc.

- SCALE classrooms have certain requirements, and different furniture for example, as well as additional staff that will need office space.
- The home-base program that is housed at Haggerty, will be getting relocated. They are currently in the basement.
- The 3 SCALE classrooms will be for Kindergarten, grades 1 & 2, and grades 3 & 4.
- ([slide 99](#)) Current SCALE classrooms are at Tobin, FMA and King Open, CSUS, and CRLS. Next year -([slide 101](#)) - there will be two new strands at the Darby Vassal Lane Upper School and Haggerty - which will move more programs to the West/North side of town. Demographically a lot of these families live in North and West Cambridge.
- *Question:* Do you have a sense of the PD that will be in place for the whole staff for this shift? *Answer:* We are starting to have these discussions now. We are also thinking about ways we can learn from other schools that have SCALE classrooms. We need to prioritize and create a timeline for Professional Learning. Desiree Philips & Siobhan Reardon will help us with this process.
- ([Slide 100](#)) - This Slide outlines the goals for expanding the program - including spreading out the classrooms. As well as having less classrooms in one building which generates a greater access to inclusion, and it also helps with the matriculation pattern.
- *Question:* Have we heard anything about the DHSP preschool program leaving the building? *Answer:* No, it's been a discussion through the years, but likely one that would take a while to determine and finalize.
- The Superintendent last year, when he was COO, was trying to consolidate into 2 start and end times across the elementary school, instead of 3. Having three times across the District is really hard. Our 7:30 am start time has been tough. Our start time is one barrier for us, as well as access to afterschool, which we believe has been one reason for the lower enrollment in our Kindergarten enrollment pattern. The schools with a middle start schools (8:15) have been surveyed and those results have not been shared. It would have us starting a little later and going a little later - but the later time schools start would not alter (Baldwin and Peabody would continue with the same start/end time) It is on the table for next year, although we recognize that the timeline may not work for next year given that it's almost April. We'll wait for more information and share it as it becomes available.
- Would these new classrooms impact our ability to advocate for more staffing? Schools don't have any power to create positions, per se, as those are set. Sometimes too much scaffolding is not helpful to students, and we intervene too quickly. So too many adults can be developmentally unhelpful. It can reinforce learned helplessness. Although, if there's a need for something that we need and we have the data to support it, we always have the ability to advocate for it, especially throughout the budget process. At this point, it's hard to know what we'll need, as there are too many unknowns.



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- The budget proposes adding Professional Development to the building substitutes for buildings with SCALE classrooms, which will help with coverage when those staff are out sick.
- We need to find the space to surface all these questions with the upcoming changes.
- *Question:* I appreciated the highlights from the District budget. Curious about the timeline for discussing the Haggerty SIP budget? *Answer:* Our current SIP plan doesn't take us past June 2025. On the recent staff PD day, we read through the new SIP template to offer feedback. We will have an increase in our SIP budget from this year because we will have more high needs students next year. The SIP budget has to be aligned to the SIP, and the SIP's not written (yet). It'd be helpful to hear from the principals with SCALE programming to understand the budget implications/practices around that program so that we can consider the resources needed for the SCALE success. All of the funds in the budget need to be aligned to the School Improvement Plan. Family Engagement will be a priority for the District - with a train-the-trainer model for a program that I predict will be linked to our Family Engagement SIP goal, although I'm not clear on the resource allocation for that yet. What buckets those funds are coming from will be confirmed soon. The timeline to create the SIP doesn't always align with our SAC dates or even the school calendar, although we can revisit whether some work together over the summer is reasonable?
- *Question:* Can we put the SIP on our agenda for our next meeting? *Answer:* we can put it on a future agenda, but I'm not sure I'll have more answers by or April Mtg.

Next Meeting - Thursday, April , 7:45 - 8:45 am - need to change it!

*Picked a new date of **Thursday, April 17, 2025 at 7:45am** to meet to plan our next community meeting.*

Meeting adjourned at 8:57am