

Call to meeting 5:47

Welcome by Kathleen

Members Present: Kathleen Smith, Ira, Lauren, Guy, Jodi, Karima, Matt, Erin, Valerie, Nasrin

Members Absent: Lily, Arjun, Rabell, Fen

Also Present: Paul Mcknight

Roles: Kathleen and Ira - Co-Chairs, Lauren - Technology, Jodi - Secretary

Minutes: from 3/26/26 approval unanimous by those present

Review of G&P School improvement Mini Grants

1. Focus Tool Library

Submitted by OT Staff

Proposal to create a Focus Tool Library for students/ teachers to borrow from as needed

Question: Do we have to weigh the cost of each grant? No, we set aside enough funds for 10 mini grants.

Question: Will we receive a breakdown of what will be purchased/costs? No, they will buy what they need within the \$500.

2. Building Literacy Through Family Engagement

Proposal to provide workshops for current Kindergarten and Preschool families about early literacy strategies. Funds will be used to purchase materials for the event and to pay for collaborative planning time.

Submitted by Interventionists/Family Liaison

Question: Will there be one workshop for both grade levels or would they be separate?

One workshop. All families will be invited with specific targeting of students who have already received literacy intervention. Maybe in the morning or on Zoom. Plan to help multi-lingual families to feel comfortable with language development in any language.

Comment from Zoom: Great idea, especially as an additional event added to another celebration, why isn't it for other age groups? Data shows that the summer slide impacts K to 1st grade transition.

3. Supplemental Books

Proposal to provide additional reference materials to supplement the American Innovations unit in CKLA. This is a new unit that's been added this year. They are looking for books/resources about innovators who may be lesser known due to barriers women and people of color faced in obtaining patents and recognition for their ideas.

Submitted by 4th grade team, and G&P Librarian, Laura MacNeil

There are a lot of digital resources available but would like if books could be included as part of the unit.

Don't want to overinvest since this is a new unit. There will be room to build on what to do in the future. We can also expand with more mini grants in the future.

Question: Are the grants all set at \$500? What if it goes over? If something goes slightly over we will still pay the additional cost. Karima had previous experience with OEIB where they paid overage of a similar grant.

4. CKLA Vertical Alignment

Students in LBLD are in a cohort that spans 2 grades. Students in those programs need specialized instruction. This proposal is for collaborative time for the LBLD team to create a scope and sequence for the CKLA Knowledge domain specifically aligned to the needs of students in the LBLD (language-based learning disability) classrooms.

Submitted by Melissa Brimmer, Erin Garcia, Alyssa DiLorenzo

Question: Does CKLA have a specific curriculum for LBLD students? No. Need to look at the different standards to create appropriate content. OSS (office of student support) is already being consulted on this project.

This is a critical need that will obviously be more work than 3-4 hours. Some of this time will be onboarding of teachers.

Follow Up on 5th Grade Proposal from last meeting

- Reading will happen outside of school time/ 30 minutes during homework
- Part of book club
- Hadn't thought about Health teacher/social worker help support but they liked that idea
- Book has been reviewed and it is age appropriate
- Proposal is moving ahead

If any money was left what will happen with it? The money from this year is already allocated. Money used this year for curriculum materials from the SIP budget. This has been corrected for next year. We have one more meeting left this year in May. Might make sense for us to update the Mini Grant application. Agreement to put that on the agenda.

Update and Discussion of G&P Field Trips

- A request was made to talk about field trips
- Every grade level has some consistency with field trips
- Grade 2 has shifted their curriculum which has shifted their field trips, winter field trip to Museum of Science was new, also went ice skating
- They will also go to Chinatown as part of CKLA curriculum
- The request to talk about 5th grade trips
- 5th grade visits HMNH multiple times
- Also to Alewife wetlands and universal design playground in Cambridge and beach trip
- Guy brought up request to discuss 5th grade trips, not sure what happened before COVID
- COVID brought a stop to overnight field trips at other schools
- Some CPSD schools have brought them back, these trips are challenging due to cost and planning
- Other countries often start overnight trips in 5th grade, they build character, and foster friendships

- Some kids get to middle school having had the experience and some don't, this is an equity issue, missed opportunity that students won't have this experience
- This has come up every year, it is difficult to navigate because we need buy in from teachers to make this happen
- In the past some families didn't want their children to stay over night, that's why our previous trips were to Thompson Island, families had the option to only have children go for the day and not stay overnight
- Other schools that do it with extensive fundraising from their Friends group. We would also need buy-in from Friends to move forward.
- Don't think anyone is using SIP funds for these trips
- Does it have to be all 5th grade teachers? How are they compensated?
- One teacher did share that she was against it because of the amount of extra work involved.
- Guy thinks Friends would be interested.
- One parent would not like to support this, children are very young, they might not be able to take care of themselves, they are not prepared until Middle School
- There is the same issue with sleepovers, that's why you give the parents the choice
- Not going to form a subcommittee now, Guy will do some work to gather information from other schools

Community Comment

None

Motion to close by Karima, seconded by Matt and Erin

All present unanimously close the meeting.