



MINUTES

KIDS' COUNCIL Meeting

September 27, 2012

5:00 – 7:00

In Attendance: Steven Swanger, Vice Mayor Simmons, Sally Benbasset, Claude Jacob, Susan Flannery, Mayor Davis, Susan Lapierre, Lori Likis, Tina Alu, Neal Michaels, Louis Depasquale, Shubam Dhital, Marc McGovern, Charlotte Avant, Lena James, Robert Haas, Michelle Godfry, Heather Weiss, Dean Blasé, Jessica Daniels, Ellen Semonoff, Andrea Collymore, Nancy Tauber, Nadia Davila

❖ **Call to Order (5:08)**

- Welcome & Introductions
- Public Comment

❖ **Updates & Announcements**

- Flu shot schedule is up on Cambridge Health Alliance website
- Cambridge is one of 11 finalists in Robert Wood Johnson Foundation 'Roadmaps to Health'
- Membership Updates
 - Susan Lapierre – Business rep – Cambridge Savings Bank
 - Heather Weiss – University rep – Founder and Director of Harvard Family Research Project
 - Michelle Godfry – Early Childhood Rep – Director of Center for Families and Co-Chair of Community Engagement Team and 0-8 Council
 - Isobel Schpeiser – YIS co-chair and senior at CRLS
 - 2 membership openings: 1 community-at-large (Humbai Song will not be returning) and 1 youth opening
- Youth Involvement Sub-Committee
 - Nadia Davila, new YIS coordinator: CRLS grad, worked with Youth Underground Theatre this summer and has worked with Peace First/Peace Games
 - Currently recruiting new members
- Kids' Council Meeting Minutes
 - Nadia will be taking minutes
- The Kids' Council is the Community Council for the 21st Century 21st Community Learning Centers grant that CPS is applying for. The KC acts as oversight so that there is deliberate connection with the community.
- School Committee Roundtable on October 4th will be a discussion with Karen Mapp, Author of Beyond the Bake Sale

- ❖ Presentation and discussion of Kids' Council Membership Report (5:28)
 - PowerPoint by Nancy

- ❖ Discussion of proposed Kids' Council Operating Guidelines
 - Does the 5 o'clock meeting-time work best?
 - Many people turned out for the 5:00 time – a measure that people can make it?
 - Allotting fifteen minutes for snacking and chatting (i.e. 5:15 members gather; 5:30 meeting begins)
 - Some members believe an hour and half meeting will allow for more targeted meetings while others believe two hours meetings are meaningful
 - Topic to be re-visited during January meeting
 - **Please let Nancy know of timing, parking or food issues**
 - Is "Family Engagement" more than a one-year project?
 - Develop short term, intermediate and long-term outcomes
 - January self-assessment will be needed (20 min agenda item)
 - Work in sub-committees is crucial
 - On-going sub-committees for next year
 - It should be made clear to new members that the work is ongoing and there is a plan in place.
 - Making most of meeting times (staying on track and focused)
 - Stating objective in beginning and keeping it visible
 - Posting an agenda that includes the time for each item on the agenda
 - Posting mission statement at each meeting
 - Bridging and acknowledging others working on 'Family Engagement'
 - Using their language
 - Being mindful during planning time of what we are asking people on the ground to do
 - Adding to 'Proposed Member Agreements'
 - "Each person will contribute to the collective "plan", and then each individual will commit to how he/she will
 - Joining subcommittees is optional
 - Members can ask people who they know are working on related fields to join
 - Nancy will re-draft the 'Operating Principles' and 'Member Agreements' to present and be adopted at next meeting
 - Attached is a list of 2012-13 Kids' Council Membership

- ❖ Presentation and discussion of the Environmental Scan of Family Engagement in the City of Cambridge (6:15)
 - PowerPoint by Nancy

Discussion points included:

- Important to **co-create** with families
- Working within our budget: Make progress with current budget and then quantify possibilities for more success. Keep the city manager in the loop.
- Connecting with more families:
 - Set up tables at different events with family volunteers who speak many languages
 - Continuing to use institutions and their resources
 - Think about 'outreaching the outreach'
 - Think about in-reach just as much as outreach
 - Continue to use agencies working on the grassroots level to gather information from families
 - Use agencies to get families to attend a social event (i.e. a dinner) and directly collect input and information
- Unpacking "Family Engagement"
 - Family engagement means different things to different people (i.e. not always participating in school committee meetings; not knowing there is an expectation in this country to be engaged)
 - Need more perspectives to expand definition. **HW: if can, talk to whomever and ask: What do you do to support your children's learning? What are you doing at home? What are you doing in school? How can the city/community help you to do that more?**

❖ Next Steps

- Next Kids' Council meeting will be a retreat on October 18th (5:00 pm-9:00 pm) at 344 Broadway – 2nd floor conference room.
- Will go over the Kids' Council Vision of Successful Family Engagement in Cambridge and proposed Areas of Focus for 2012-13

❖ Meeting Ends at 7:06

Scheduled Kids' Council Meetings for 2012- 2013:

Thursday, **October 18th**: **5:00 – 9:00** (*Retreat*)

Thursday, **November 15th** 5:00 – 7:00

Thursday, **January 17th** 5:00 – 7:00

Thursday, **February 28th** 5:00 – 7:00 (This is the 4th Thurs rather than the 3rd because of school vacation.)

Thursday, **March 21st** 5:00 – 7:00

Thursday, **May 16th** 5:00 – 7:00