

## **PAS School Advisory Committee (SAC) April 2025 Meeting Minutes**

**Monday, April 21st, 2025**

**3:45PM-4:45PM**

<https://pennalexander.philasd.org/school-advisory-council/>

**In attendance:** Lauren Overton (Principal), Tiffany Talbert (Assistant Principal), Ann Kreidle (PAS Partnership Manager), Dr. Bethany McCabe (Principal Resident), Susie Pierce (HSA President, parent), Vidya Plainfield (SAC assistant chair, parent), Chanell Bates (SAC chair, parent), Rebecca Geller-Puchalsky (SAC Member for SHCA, parent), Liz Wing (SAC Secretary, parent), Andrew Ziv (parent)

### **Approval of 3/25 minutes**

Liz motions to approve minutes, Susie seconds. Minutes approved.

### **Principal Report**

- PSSA Testing ELA begins tomorrow 4/22 grades 3-8.
  - Kids practiced the format in Tech class
  - Next week will be Math & Science for 5th & 8th grades
- 8th graders take Keystone mid-May
- Boys volleyball team starts games this week – see calendar for dates
- PAS art show May 21st
  - Volunteers needed to hang artwork
- Afterschool clubs to resume next week
  - Email notifications go out this Thursday
  - Homework club is new this spring for middle schoolers
  - Despite 6 meetings, YMCA afterschool planning had staffing changes and is being shelved for now
  - We are in talks with Philly tutoring project; plan to introduce in the fall
- 8 weeks of school left! Many events coming up
  - Frozen Jr. coming up
  - We are looking for a graduation/move-up ceremony speaker
    - Graduation June 10th, will be inside the school
  - Track team started w/Mr. DiMatties
  - 5K will be June 8th
  - Student council meeting today
  - Yearbook is coming together
  - Career day coming up
    - Ms Knight & Mr DiMatties do upper grades, Ms Koplove does lower grades. We are looking for community connections
- PD week this August/summer includes special trainings for many teachers
  - PD weeks starts the week of August 18th
- Lateness is becoming an issue; we are going to start handing out late passes now
  - Students need to get cafeteria breakfast before 8:30, as lunch prep starts immediately after

### **Open Forum: Supporting Family Connection**

- What has worked?
  - 4th grade capture the flag
  - Kindergarten playdate, uniform swap
    - Having a SAC/HSA rep at these events can help with involvement
  - Room parents
  - 8th grade class pool party
  - Informal class playdates held by teachers
  - Bike Train
- Typically attendance wanes after February
  - In-person events generally have waned post-COVID
- Can we hold a school-wide potluck, something with food, that is inclusive of the whole community?
- Can we have SAC or HSA meetings during times of day when more people can participate?
- Does SAC need better branding?
- We already have high engagement at our school, at different tiers and in different ways
  - Let's map out our community assets that already exist
  - Let's define what doesn't work and what is working
- What does connection to the school look like?
- We will continue with Equity Circle potlucks
  - We moved away from Affinity circle dinners this year, but they were popular and may come back in 2025-26
- Let's have a retreat this summer to map out what's happening, what we can emphasize and what we can pare back on
  
- EOY, Summer and Fall 2025 Planning (Part 1)
  - Menu of ideas for room parents to do
  - Planning retreat for the 25-26 year

### **Enrollment Discussion: Kindergarten Enrollment**

- There are currently 6 open spots for kindergarteners in the 2025-26 school year
  - This is after the lottery closed on February 7th, and before the recommended last day of registration on May 31st
- Faculty used to be able to apply for open spots for their kids at this school
  - Parents voted against this when PAS went to lottery enrollment
- Can we offer a limited amount of spots for faculty to enroll their kids in kindergarten at PAS, if there is space?
  - This would not preclude kids in the catchment from enrolling their kids
  - There is a huge benefit for faculty to have their kids enrolled at the school where we teach
  - Whose decision is this to make?
  - How can the school do its due diligence to demonstrate that we make a concerted effort to get kids in the catchment to enroll?

- ADDENDUM 1, BELOW: Form letter for parents to sign in support of enrolling children of staff & faculty
- ADDENDUM 2, BELOW: Proposed steps to ensure transparency of process

**Reminder: Next Meeting Dates**

5/19

Grade	Current Waitlist (4/21/25)
K	11
1	6
2	21
3	30
4	34
5	29
6	36
7	18
8	19

Waitlist numbers are posted monthly in the SAC notes. For questions about the waitlist, contact the PAS office at 215-400-7760. Please see the school's statement on enrollment here:

<https://pennalexander.philasd.org/enrollment/>

*ADDENDUM 1: Form letter for parents to sign in support of enrolling children of staff & faculty*  
<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScWiS0m0MN-JiHTs2FmGitkHB03bGb-JwifODcjwUXZZ0Cw4w/viewform>

LETTER TEXT

Tony B. Watlington Sr., Ed.D.  
Superintendent, The School District of Philadelphia

Dear Dr. Watlington,

We're writing to you as parents of current, future, and former Penn Alexander School to express our collective support for our school leadership's proposed change to the policy for the enrollment of children of teachers and staff at Penn Alexander School.

The strength of our school are the amazing teachers and staff who are deeply invested in our children and our community. With this policy change, if additional student places remain after the completion of the initial Kindergarten Registration Period, staff with kindergarten-aged, Philadelphia School District eligible children will be able to enroll at PAS. This policy shift would not impact the enrollment lottery. We know this change is an important investment in retaining our amazing staff and enabling them to invest even more deeply in the success of our school.

In community,  
Parents of Penn Alexander School

*ADDENDUM 2: Proposed steps to ensure transparency of process*

1. Notify SDP
2. Addition to SAC Bylaws
3. Community notification of enrollment period & lottery process:
  - a. School website & social media pages (Facebook & Instagram)
  - b. Community listservs (clarkparktotlot, ???)
    - i. Can we identify specific community groups to notify?
4. If there are available spaces for kindergarten enrollment after the lottery has closed and before the recommended enrollment date, we will offer those spots to staff & faculty