

Program Excellence Committee Update

April 18, 2015

The members of the Program Excellence Committee are: Zach Perin (TFA Administrator and parent of 2nd grader), Evika Strudivant (1st grade teacher), Lindsay May (2nd grade teacher), Tiffany Grant (Assistant Director, Middle School), Raenel Duncan-Edmonds (Assistant Director, K-4), Renee Prillaman (Assistant Principal for Teaching and Learning), John Heffernan, John Haws (invited, Researcher and parent of 6th grader).

The general charge of our committee is to figure out how we measure and assess students based on what we value at CPSC. In short, while benchmarks like EOGs measure certain kinds of abilities of students, these measures do not capture the goals and hopes we have for children at CPSC.

Our committee has met 4 times since January. Our first order of business is to clarify our charge in relation to the work of the staff driven Learning and Measurement Committee. The Learning and Measurement committee has been working over the past year to identify school-wide assessment tools with a focus on writing and oral communication. The Program Excellence Committee would like to help support their work and provide accountability to their goals.

Our meetings so far have included discussions about how what we value at CPSC needs to drive what we measure in student achievement. Some of the concepts we've discussed include students' love of learning, having a powerful voice in both oral and written communication, and students' ability to collaborate, among other concepts. Our committee includes content experts outside CPSC who have offered reflection and feedback about how to approach our work. In our most recent meeting, we identified a potential focus for the next calendar year: to clarify the "profile of CPSC graduate", which would provide an end goal for assessment tools and curricular goals.