The meeting convened at 6:04pm.
In attendance: CHINCHILLA, CORDERO, DAVILA, DEL VALLE, Gorski, marT, Newman, pavichevich, reynolds [appointed 6:20pm], Vega [arrived 6:24pm], yee, Zehren
Not attending: Pedersen

At the beginning of this meeting, there is one vacant parent representative position.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Sarah Makela discussed the school garden project sponsored by Grow on October 20. Amundsen will also be hosting the Grow high school fair on October 11.

Ms Hitomi Kameyama, the new Japanese language and culture teacher, introduced herself.

APPOINTMENT TO VACANT PARENT REPRESENTATIVE SEAT

Stephen Reynolds, Melody Cerna, Melvyn Collins nominated themselves for the vacant parent representative seat.

The LSC entered closed session at 6:10pm to discuss the candidates for the vacant seat. The LSC returned to open session at 6:19pm.

Mr Newman moved to appoint Mr Reynolds to the vacant parent seat. The motion was approved unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Ms Davila moved to approve the minutes for October to March, seconded by Mr MarT. The motion was approved unanimously.

PRINCIPAL’S REPORT

We have 25 new-to-Amundsen staff this year, to support our growing enrollment. 17 of these are certificated staff, including 5 special ed teachers, plus 6 SECA’s. We also have two temporary assigned teachers, for staff who are taking extended time off.

All staff are programmed for the year, and our enrollment is 1,297 at this time. This is slightly over the 1,291 enrollment we had budgeted for in our high-end expectation, so
we have hired for all of the “maybe” positions that had been authorized by the LSC but not necessarily expected to be filled unless we reached this enrollment target. Classes are almost leveled, and we are at 113% of official CPS capacity, which technically makes us over-enrolled. Staff-wise, class sizes are about what they should be, and we are just a little pinched on lunch room capacity.

We have some new systems and structures on programming, to include some significant cross-training and cross-responsibility for outcomes, to make sure there is a diversity of ideas about how to achieve our goals, to minimize points of failure, and to expand accountability. We also are building a focus on a proactive customer service model: important information is going to be pushed out to stakeholders, especially students and parents, before they ask for it. Importantly, parents are going to be contacted before a grade of D or F hits the books. We’re also pushing a more regular parent newsletter to support this proactive stance, at the request of the LSC.

We are making some changes to the dress code, in light of the state of the world and the “me too” movement, but also accepting the reality of what clothing options are available in stores. We also also trying to make the dress code more gender agnostic.

We’re also making a policy change about allowing students to arrive late with a hot or cold drink. We are allowing students who arrive timely to keep those drinks, and students who arrive late will be required to leave drinks behind at the door and they can reclaim it at lunchtime.

We have arranged for Prom to be held at Carnivale downtown, instead of at a hotel by O'Hare. We anticipate the same cost as last year.

We’ve installed distance learning labs over the summer, and we are asking for more capital investments going forward.

There are a number of proposed updates to the budget. We have about $135K in unallocated funds. Most importantly, the district decided to fund the special education case manager position, which our LSC had previously approved to fund out of local funds.

We are proposing changing the position for David Chinchilla from a clerk to tech coordinator, with an increase in about $7,800.

We are also proposing to bring in a partnership with “Gear Up”, which is normally free but limited, to pay for additional resources from them to support our counseling team.

Parents are complaining about the lack of instruments for the band, so we are proposing to purchase some additional instruments.

We have a yearbook sponsor (a teacher who will coordinate the process), and will pay a sponsor a stipend to manage that program as a club.
We also propose to add a $4K stipend to our athletic director. He is working wild extra hours, especially to fill in for some coaches who have taken a long time to pass the new mandatory background checks.

The council discussed a proposed larger stipend for the special olympics coaches, to be more consistent with the other major sports teams coaches. Ms GORSKI expressed, and others agreed, that special olympics coaches should get pay parity with the other coaches, but that they should also have parity in expectations: these coaches must organize the special olympics teams with the same level of preparation and practice, skills-appropriate rigor, teamwork, and participation as any other sports team sponsored by the school. They cannot simply accompany the students and coach them at the competitions.

Ms DAVILA moved to approve three $5000 stipends for special olympics coaches, conditional on the stipend recipients provided and delivering a training schedule that is satisfactory to school administration, seconded by Ms ZEHREN. The motion was approved unanimously.

Ms DAVILA moved to approve a $1500 stipend each for the coaches of the cheer and dance squads, seconded by Ms ZEHREN. The motion was approved unanimously.

Ms DAVILA moved to approve $18,380 for various stipends for other activities, seconded by Ms ZEHREN. The motion was approved unanimously.

Ms DAVILA moved to approve changing one clerk position to a technology coordinator, seconded by Ms VEGA. The motion was approved unanimously.

Ms DAVILA moved to approve up to $50K to GEAR UP to provide supplemental counseling services for students, seconded by Ms ZEHREN. The motion was approved unanimously.

Ms DAVILA moved to approve $10,617 for band instruments, seconded by Ms ZEHREN. The motion was approved unanimously.

Mr NEWMAN moved to approve $18K for graduation at the Lyric Opera House, seconded by Mr MARTEL. The motion was approved unanimously.

PROFESSIONAL PERSONNEL LEADERSHIP COMMITTEE

An organizational meeting was held. We will be focusing on multi-tier system of supports this year, and providing different ways of delivering high quality PD opportunities.

ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 7:56pm.