

# LSC Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, March 14, 2017

Held in the Library, Amundsen HS



**AMUNDSEN**  
Local School Council

The meeting convened at 6:08pm.

In attendance: CHINCHILLA [arrived 6:32pm], DAVILA, GORSKI, MAHONEY, MARTEL, NEWMAN, PAVICHEVICH, PEDERSEN, REED [departed 7:40pm], VEGA

Not attending: DANAHER, SOTIROVA, ZEHREN

## PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Sarah Makela from GROW Community shared that Hawthorne Elementary hosted an event for Amundsen and Lakeview on March 7. About 300 people attended. 21% of the families who signed in had 8th graders. 26 different elementary schools were represented, including 14 of the 17 identified elementary feeder schools, plus private and parochial schools. Lots of positive feedback from the community. After the event, at least 10 attendees also attended a recent tour of the school.

## SPED CLUSTER

Dr Keenan, the Deputy Chief of the Office of Diverse Learners Support and Services, attended our meeting to discuss the SPED cluster that will be coming to Amundsen for the next school year. The cluster program services mild to moderately severe intellectually handicapped students. We do not know all of the implications of having this cluster program, which was only very recently assigned to our school. There are some significant logistical [notably bussing] and staffing challenges, and the budget for SPED is far from simple or transparent.

Similar SPED cluster programs already exist at Von Stuben, Sullivan, Westinghouse, and Schurz. These programs are near capacity, and this cluster is being created because of the number of candidate students in the area (a 2 mile radius, not our regular attendance area) that are in the 8th grade. We've already identified 9 students for this program for next year.

Letters announcing the SPED cluster were sent to parents before Ms PAVICHEVICH was informed that this cluster would be located at Amundsen; we learned of it by being contacted by a parent, not from CPS.

*CPS indicated that the installation of this SPED Cluster at Amundsen does not require LSC approval, and no vote on this topic was taken.*

## FUNDRAISING

The football team will be conducting a fundraiser selling Amundsen apparel; the team gets a portion of the sales.

*Mr MARTEL moved to approve the fundraiser, seconded by Mr NEWMAN. The motion passed unanimously.*

## INTERNAL ACCOUNTS AND SPENDING

Internal accounts reports are now managed by to the CPS central office. Mr NEWMAN asked about progress in getting *Joy of Teaching* grants spent in a timely and appropriate fashion. We don't know if these grants will be made in the future; Mr Jorndt has not yet contacted us for this year.

*Mr MARTEL moved to approve the internal accounts from January and February, seconded by Ms VEGA. The motion passed unanimously.*

## APPROVAL OF MINUTES

*Ms MAHONEY moved to approve the minutes for the November and December 2016 meetings, seconded by Mr PEDERSEN. The motion passed unanimously.*

## PRINCIPAL REPORT

We getting a SPED Cluster (see above).

We are targeting a Freshman class of 350 for next year. Because our attrition rate is so low, that level of enrollment will allow us to achieve our optimal student numbers; gone are the days when we enroll 500 freshmen. To meet our enrollment goal, we are focusing on recruiting local families.

The SAT is coming up, on April 5, which will be only 11th graders.

The students are having an unexpected reaction to the computer monitors in the school hallways. They don't understand how CPS can be broke but still make capital investments in technology.

## PARENTS ADVISORY COUNCIL

We are working with students and teachers to revive "International Night".

## FRIENDS OF AMUNDSEN

On March 30th, we are hosting a celebrity bar night fundraiser.

## STUDENT FEES

The council discussed the setting of student fees for the upcoming academic year. We currently assess a flat fee of \$125, with no added amounts for participation in any academic activity. Roosevelt is \$150, Senn is \$150, Lincoln Park is \$325, Lakeview is about \$250. All these schools also add extra fees for individual classes: music, art, science, etc.

Although some programs have specific costs (e.g. music students need individual mouthpieces), we don't want to charge extra fees to participate in academic pursuits, so as to encourage students to take the classes they want to, and not see the fees as a burden.

The council also discussed the possibility of denying seniors the opportunity to attend Prom if they have outstanding unpaid student fees. As Prom is not a core academic activity, this is something which can be withheld; we will not and legally cannot withhold diplomas. On the other hand, we want kids to go to prom, and enjoy it, as it is a rite of passage experience. Ultimately, the LSC took no action to change this policy.

*Mr REED moved to set the base fee at \$150 for the 2017-18 academic year, seconded by Mr PEDERSEN. The motion passed 9-0-1, with Ms PAVICHEVICH abstaining.*

## ADJOURN

*The meeting was adjourned at 7:54pm.*