

LSC Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, February 10, 2015

Held in the Library, Amundsen HS



AMUNDSEN
Local School Council

The meeting convened at 6:10pm.

In attendance: COHEN, KARASTANOVIC, MILOTEVIC, MUÑOZ, NAEEM, NEWMAN, PAVICHEVICH, REED, VEGA [arrived 6:26pm]

Not attending: CHINCHILLA, PEDERSEN

There are two vacant parent seats.

The council had a quorum in attendance.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Due to the appointment of Ms KARASTANOVIC as chair, the position of vice chair became vacant.

Mr REED moved to appoint Mr COHEN as Amundsen LSC vice chair, seconded by Mr NEWMAN. The motion was approved unanimously.

SPENDING AND INTERNAL ACCOUNTS

Mr COHEN moved to approve the internal accounts for January 2015, seconded by Mr NEWMAN. The motion was approved unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr COHN moved to approve the minutes for January 13, 2015, seconded by Mr REED. The motion was approved unanimously.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Our "Freshman On Track" rate for the prior semester was 94.6%. This represents a huge increase over the low-70% figures that the school earned prior to the arrival of the current administration. Much of the credit goes to Julie Lyons, the administrator overseeing our freshmen efforts.

We have hired some additional office support to assist, especially in the attendance office. Two security guards have left (one dismissal, one resignation) and we will hire one security guard to backfill.

Our rollover funds will be approximately \$87k, vs. about \$8k that was forecast. We would like to direct some of these funds to hire a college and career coach. We had a counselor go out on FMLA leave with no notice, and we were already running lean on counselor staffing.

Last Saturday, three Aldermen (Pawar, O'Connor, Tunney) held a press conference to announce the "Grow Community" effort to direct support towards Lakeview and Amundsen High Schools, and build a coherent local K-12 educational system. Perhaps 200 people attended.

The capital investment with TIF funds has been approved, to build the CTE labs investment, the basic gym structure, ladies locker room, and weight room. We are seeking an additional investment through state IDECO grants to fund additional capital improvements.

The process for the polling for the student LSC position is starting this week. The ACT boot camp is up and running. The Saturday camp has seen a notable bump in scores, the Thursday camp less so, at least so far.

We have 2 Posse Scholars, out of the 7 finalists for the program.

We want to change the "cut score" for the IB program. The current cut score is 537; we are thinking of increasing the cut to 650. The cut score is a guideline for accepting students into the program, not a hard-and-fast rule. Students who live within the school attendance boundary get +50 points on this measure. By increasing the cut score, we signal that we are enrolling qualified students and make the program more like a "selective enrollment" program although with a still fairly relaxed admission process.

We are likely to receive a grant from the David Lynch Foundation to run a pilot program for transcendental meditation for students. This will hopefully help reduce stress levels, especially among IB students.

Ensemble Espanole dance troupe will come to work with students. On April 28th there will be a community performance. Northeastern paying for this program.

Lumity is coming each Friday into AVID classes, to help with job skills, etc. They are also providing a STEM speaker each month, and 4 site visits per semester so students can visit workplaces and see what they are like (e.g. United, CDW, BMO Harris).

On February 21st, ten students will visit GE Capital downtown. They will do a project where they help improve the web presence for a neighborhood nonprofit or small business.

Some of our students have created an “app” that may be a commercially viable software product. An investment company has offered to purchase the app, and the school is investigating the possibility of pursuing this opportunity.

Our enrollment projection for next year is 1140 (vs. current enrollment of 1138). This is good, and represents a turnabout from recent years where enrollment projections dropped from year to year.

Mr REED moved to approve of the proposal to expend part of the rollover funds on a college and career coach, seconded by Ms NAEEM. The motion was approved unanimously.

STUDENT REPORT

There has been positive feedback on the student’s LSC facebook page. One student recommended having a study hall available during lunch, as well as before and after school. A number of students supported this idea, especially to allow IB students to do tutoring and earn service credit hours.

There was a concern about the student’s printing capability at school, especially for IB students who need to write (and print) a lot.

The NHS has been working on the jean drive, to collect jeans for charity.

Ms NAEEM also recommended that students (notably juniors) need to get a head start on writing college application essays, and that since the ACT exam was early this year, that might be an opportunity to use the time after the exam well.

ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 7:26pm.