

LSC Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, May 14, 2013

Held in the Library, Amundsen HS



AMUNDSEN
Local School Council

The meeting convened at 6:10pm.

In attendance: COHEN, D’ALESSIO, JOHNSON, NEWMAN,
PAVICHEVICH, PEDERSEN, REED, VEGA

Not attending: EVANS, MUÑOZ

There is one vacant parent seat, one vacant student seat, and one vacant ESP seat.

The council has a quorum in attendance.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was no public participation.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr COHEN moved to approve the minutes as amended for the regular meeting in April, seconded by Mr PEDERSEN. The motion was approved unanimously.

Ms D’ALESSIO moved to approve the minutes for the special meeting in April, seconded by Mr COHEN. The motion was approved unanimously.

PRINCIPAL’S REPORT

Ms PAVICHEVICH introduced her leadership coach Ellen Estrada (former principal at Walter Payton), and Beth Rollander (former Asst. Principal at Mather), the clerk who has been handling the very old records in the basement.

So far, 67 boxes of records have been organized, dating from as early as the 1930’s. The oldest records are sorted alphabetically, and more recent (since 1970) are not organized at all. The records are incomplete, and this need to be corrected. Moreover, these old records cannot be destroyed, and cannot be shipped to CPS until the organization is complete.

The budget is still not in from CPS. It needs to come out soon, but who knows...

Interviews for athletic coaches have been completed. The final decision on these positions remains with the principal, but she will take the advise of the interview committee into account.

The Prarie State Achievement Exam (PSAE) was administered. Results are not in yet, but we did have 98.8% attendance for the first two days of the exam, one of the highest rates in the network.

Courtenay Elementary will be holding graduation at Amundsen. Coonley Elementary is holding their school play in the Amundsen auditorium.

The REACH deadline is coming up; all observations must be completed by next Friday.

The rest of the year is going to busy: graduation, prom, a luncheon. The senior contract has been very effective at keeping senior attendance up. Some students will be excluded from events because of disciplinary problems. The Amundsen musical is coming up in the first week of June.

We submitted an extensive list of requested capital investments to Alderman O'Connor. We are also going to have a professional technology audit on the 31st to plan future investment in technology, and hopefully improve our technological education.

The grant from the Chicago Community Trust via NEIU is not finalized yet, but we are already thinking about how to implement a literacy education plan.

We will not accept most out of boundary students who want to enroll at Amundsen. Applicants will be allowed to leave their information at the office instead of meeting with the principal.

CHAIR'S REPORT

The council members were invited to cast ballots to elect representation to the Local School Council Advisory Board.

PPLC REPORT

The literacy project is going to be the focus for next year.

We also need to figure out a better way to communicate with parents. Possibly there should be a single point person for managing communication with parents, especially when there are policy changes that need to be communicated. Ms PAVICHEVICH noted might consider using twitter or other social media, but that the staff is not well trained in using technology to its fullest potential.

There was some discussion in particular relating to phone numbers for parents. Three problems were identified: the school does not have a centralized database of parent's phone numbers; there is a significant language barrier for teachers who do not speak spanish; and there is nowhere for teachers to sit and make calls.

INTERNAL ACCOUNTS

The LSC received a draft proposal for additional spending items for the remaining “extra” unbudgeted rollover funds. A mathematical error was detected in the list, which resulted in an oversized request. Mr Williams planed to bring a revised proposal to the LSC in June for final approval.

Mr REED moved to approve the internal accounts for April, seconded by Mr NEWMAN. The motion was approved unanimously.

SCHOOL UNIFORMS

The LSC discussed school uniforms. The existing policy is that the school uniforms are a white t-shirt and jeans, although this often ends up with kids not dressed in clean and presentable clothing at school. We began an informal policy this year of not enforcing the dress code so long as students wear their IDs, and this has generally improved the climate and culture, although there are periodic concerns with individual students wearing inappropriate clothing. The council generally agreed that the new policy seems to be working well. Ms PAVICHEVICH said that she and the staff would come up with a specific dress policy that the LSC could implement in the near future.

ACTIVITY FEES

Last year, student fees were \$60 plus a separate \$11 fee for locks. Three proposals were put forth to set the fees, at \$80, \$90, and \$100. About a quarter of students have the fees waived for financial hardship, or simply because they refuse to pay. The council felt that fees should be kept low, and that there should be a payment plan available, so that the fees can be spread out over the year.

Mr NEWMAN moved to set the total per-student school fees for the 2013-14 school year at \$80, seconded by Ms D’ALESSIO. The motion was approved unanimously.

PRINCIPAL EVALUATION

Mr NEWMAN moved to enter closed session under 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1), seconded by Mr REED. The motion was approved unanimously.

The LSC entered closed session at 8:07pm.

The LSC reconvened in open session at 8:19pm.

Mr NEWMAN moved to finalize Ms PAVICHEVICH’s annual evaluation as prepared at the prior meeting (“Exceeds Expectations”), seconded by Mr REED. The motion was approved unanimously.

ADJOURN

Mr NEWMAN moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr REED. The motion was approved unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 8:25pm.