

# LSC Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, January 14, 2014

Held in the Library, Amundsen HS



**AMUNDSEN**  
Local School Council

The meeting convened at 6:12pm.

In attendance: CHINCHILLA, D’ALESSIO, JOHNSON,  
KARASTANOVIC [arrived late], PAVICHEVICH, PEDERSEN,  
REED, VEGA

Not attending: COHEN, MUÑOZ, NEWMAN, RODAS

*There is one vacant parent seat. The council has a quorum in attendance.*

## PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was no public participation.

## INTERNAL ACCOUNTS

Approval of the accounts was tabled until the next meeting.

## APPROVAL OF EXPENSES

Mr Williams requested the approval of the expenditure for the senior class lunch cruise. This is an annual event, to be held this year on Thursday May 29, 2014. The total cost, payable to Mystic Blue Cruises, will be \$13,851.90. After approval by the LSC, technical approval is also required by the CPS Law Office.

*Ms D’ALESSIO moved to approve the expense, seconded by Mr REED. The motion was approved unanimously.*

## APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Ms D’ALESSIO noted that no seconder was noted in the council’s approval of the internal accounts for the prior month. This should be corrected.

*Mr REED moved to approve the minutes of the meeting held on December 10, 2013, seconded by Ms VEGA, subject to the correction noted above. The motion was approved unanimously.*

## PRINCIPAL’S REPORT

The new network requires that the Principal make a “state of the schools” report to the LSC.

We are making adjustments to school calendars, to accommodate unscheduled weather-related closings.

A meeting with Alderman O'Connor: he is very interested in bringing a unique or interesting program to Amundsen to give our school a boost, and promote it versus other public and charter schools in Chicago.

AP Minh Nguyen presented some data on the state of the school, titled "Education for a Better World."

One of the primary questions asked on our report card is do students feel safe, for which we receive a very good score. We also saw a huge drop in the number of misconducts resulting in suspension from 2012 to 2013, alongside a substantial increase in student (and, to a lesser degree, teacher) attendance.

We have focused this year on the new performance policy standards that will measure the school going forward, and we are confident that we will do well on those measures as well.

The IB diploma program has been running since 1999, one of the longest running such program in the city. The IB Middle Years program was approved in 2003, and the AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination) program was added in 2008, which helps less advanced students build their skills for learning. We also have a partnership with the City Colleges to grant dual credit towards college as well, with curriculum and teacher standards coming from the junior college. In terms of the performance policy, IB, AP, and dual credit all count as the same.

We have a BAM (Becoming a Man) and WOW (similar, for women) programs as well.

Amundsen's IB scores are outstanding when compared to CPS district-wide scores and pass rate. We were third in the city in the number of IB diplomas granted. Last year, our IB graduates received \$2.5 million in financial support to attend college.

Our current cumulative attendance rate for the year is 90.77%. A projection based on trends from last year is that this will put us just below 90% by the end of the school year; keeping attendance up and particularly keeping the number above 90% is a major priority for the administration.

Our Freshman On Track rate this year is near 90%, much higher than in the past (it was 75% last year). Such a dramatic swing is often a red flag for a data error, however in this case it is very much real: our new Freshman On Track coordinator is looking at grades and identifying problems weekly, which we have not done in the past. The constant, daily monitoring and intervention is making a major change.

The Network is going to start doing some joint activities between Elementary Schools and High School LSC's, to help build linkages.

## **CHAIR'S REPORT**

There was a brief FOA meeting recently to discuss rebuilding momentum. They may want to move their focus away from fundraising towards building awareness and community involvement.

## **PPLC REPORT**

The PPLC continues to focus on how to get students to take the "Day 2" test seriously.

## **PAC REPORT**

One of our biggest events of the year will be the College and Career Fair, in February. There was some discussion about how to drive attendance at this fair by both students and parents.

## **STUDENT FEE STRUCTURE**

Ms PAVICHEVICH noted that our annual student fees remain well below the norm for other CPS high schools, and asked for a subcommittee to be formed to discuss the pros and cons of raising the fees.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

School administration had a meeting with the top level executives in the CPS Office of Accountability. They agreed that it appeared that our attendance was recorded incorrectly, and they agreed to investigate the attendance data anomalies to the best of their abilities. If they can prove that the attendance was recorded incorrectly, the records will be updated.

## **ADJOURN**

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

*The meeting adjourned at 7:06pm.*