

# LSC Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, October 8, 2013

Held in the Library, Amundsen HS



**AMUNDSEN**  
Local School Council

The meeting convened at 6:02pm.

In attendance: COHEN, D'ALESSIO, JOHNSON, KARASTANOVIC, MUÑOZ [arrived 6:14pm], NEWMAN, PAVICHEVICH, PEDERSEN, REED, RODAS, VEGA

Not attending: CHINCHILLA

*Prior to this meeting, it was determined that Ms EVANS no longer has a child enrolled at Amundsen, and thus became ineligible to serve on the LSC.*

*On September 25 2013, the Board of Education appointed Mr CHINCHILLA to fill the ESP seat on the council.*

*During this meeting, the LSC appointed Ms KARASTANOVIC to fill a parent seat on the council.*

*At the beginning of this meeting there were two vacant parent seats. At the end of this meeting there was one vacant parent seat.*

*The council has a quorum in attendance.*

## PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was no public participation.

## VERIZON COMMUNICATION ANTENNAS PROPOSAL

Kathleen Kwak (CPS Real Estate), Deb Hill (CPS Outside Counsel) and Verizon Wireless representatives requested the LSC give permission to go ahead with a proposal to install cellular communications on the roof of the school building.

Amundsen currently has three sets of antennas: US Cellular, Sprint, and AT&T. Under existing contracts, these installations will bring \$110k in revenue to CPS, although under the new CPS funding regime, Amundsen High School's budget will see only \$36,719; the remainder will accrue to CPS more generally.

US Cellular in Chicago has been acquired by Sprint. CPS has been informed that Sprint plans to terminate all antenna leases where they now operate two co-located antennas; Amundsen falls into this category and so we should expect to see at least one existing antenna lease terminate this year.

Verizon will hire a 3rd party consultant to conduct a radio frequency (RF) analysis to ensure that the new antenna will not exceed any FCC safety requirements. Sprint did a

similar study when they changed equipment at Amundsen a year ago, and found that the total RF footprint was 16x below the FCC recommended maximum.

Mr JOHNSON asked the CPS representatives for an explanation for the reasons behind the change in funding allocation policy for cellular equipment. They were able to confirm that the policy had changed (from schools receiving all of the revenue, to schools receiving only 1/3 of the revenue from such leases), but they were not able to give any details about why.

The new contract with Verizon (as with all new such contracts CPS-wide) will bring \$24k in revenue in the first year of operation, and scale up over time. Because any terminated contract for an existing antenna is several years into its lifespan, the terminated contract will be for a large amount, creating a small net decrease in total revenue even if this proposal is approved.

Mr NEWMAN asked if there was any action the LSC could take, other than a yes-or-no vote on the proposal, to guarantee that CPS would not be able to change the funding formula in the future so as to take all of the revenue for itself and leave none at the school. Mr JOHNSON asked why we have authority to grant or withhold approval at all. Ms Hill indicated that the CPS Board of Education has instituted a policy that said LSC approval is required; but the Board could unilaterally change that policy without LSC input if it so desired. It is possible that a proposal could be taken to the Board of Education that would “guarantee” the funding split for the next year, however the board would still be able to return and amend its own policies.

Mr REED asked where the antenna would go if the LSC declined to allow the antenna on the school. The Verizon representatives indicated that if approval was not forthcoming for an antenna on the roof of Amundsen, their second choice would be to approach the park district for permission to construct a freestanding tower in Winnemac Park immediately adjacent to school grounds.

Mr REED asked whether the placement of the antenna on the school established any special “local community business” relationship with the school, that might result in other support for the school (discounts on services, etc.). The Verizon representatives answered that they are already an ingrained part of the community, with antennas every few blocks. Moreover, Ms Hill said that CPS actively discourages companies from seeking favor with LSCs by offering any discounts or other arrangements beyond the standard lease contract, so that all schools receive equal consideration.

Mr JOHNSON asked about a deadline for the approval. Verizon representatives shared that there is no formal deadline, but that they would like to move forward as soon as possible. Ms Hill shared that she had seen other schools lose opportunities for contracts when the LSC delayed the approval process.

Ms D’ALESSIO asked whether there would be any disruption to school activities. Ms Hill said there are strict rules preventing any disruption of education activities. Mr REED shared that past installations happened seamlessly.

Mr NEWMAN asked whether the installation of new Verizon equipment on the roof might create the opportunity to upgrade other mechanical and electrical systems for the school simultaneously, harnessing economies of scale. For example, by simultaneously adding the electrical equipment necessary to install air conditioning in the school’s top floor cafeteria. The CPS and Verizon representatives said this idea was appealing, and that they would investigate.

Mr REED asked about whether the new antenna will improve cell phone reception inside the building. The Verizon representative said the poor reception here is why they want to upgrade here.

Mr COHEN asked whether Verizon wanted to co-locate at Amundsen, or if they were doing it simply because of the legal requirement to do so. The Verizon representative said both.

*Ms D’ALESSIO moved to approve the installation of the Verizon antenna placement on the building, seconded by Ms VEGA. The motion was approved unanimously.*

<b>BUDGET REPORT</b>
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The budget revisions are not complete. We do know there will be no rollover money next year.

Each department will receive \$5,000 to be spent at the department’s discretion (had previously been budgeted as \$10k for the year). These funds will not require principal approval.

<b>APPROVAL OF SPENDING</b>
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*Mr NEWMAN moved to approve the expenditure of \$4853.32 for the purchase of scientific equipment under a “Joy of Teaching” award, seconded by Ms D’ALESSIO. The motion was approved unanimously.*

<b>INTERNAL ACCOUNTS</b>
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*Ms VEGA moved to approve the internal accounts for September 2013, seconded by Mr NEWMAN. The motion was approved unanimously.*

## APPROVAL OF MINUTES

*Ms D'ALESSIO moved to approve the minutes of the meeting held on September 10, 2013, as amended, seconded by Ms VEGA. The motion was approved unanimously.*

## PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

We are finally having a big Northeastern party.

Ms Eilers and Ms PAVICHEVICH have started the REACH evaluation process.

We have made Level 2 under the CPS performance policy. We have not yet gotten official goals from CPS for next year.

The school facebook page is active, thanks in large part to the help of Wendy Vasquez. So far, there are 301 likes. There is also a twitter account under the handle "amundsen\_hs".

Construction on the new computer lab has stopped due to a wiring problem.

Asst Principal Cybil Ortiz is taking the lead on restarting the Bilingual Advisory Council (BAC). The first meeting of the BAC is targeted for October 30.

We are also planning to host a community open house on October 30, possibly involving a "trick-or-treat" or "haunted school" feature.

Representatives from Waters Elementary School visited. They are very excited about Amundsen, and are trying to change their boundaries so that all their students can come here. They suggested a small open house special for their feeder schools. We are also expanding our concept of "feeder schools" to some additional elementary schools outside the attendance boundary footprint, which nevertheless send a decent number of students to Amundsen.

The Instructional Leadership Team (ILT) has recommended programs for CTE ("Career and Technical Education") offerings next year: game programming, and web development. These were chosen among a variety of choices (e.g., Cisco networking, Oracle database development) because: (1) the game programming curriculum incorporates the best, newest technology; and (2) it may be easiest to entice girls into the web design.

The cohort size for CTE could be as large 5 classes of 25 kids next year. It could be a distinct program at the school, to which students apply and to which some special commitment and dedication can be requested from students.

## CHAIR REPORT

Mr JOHNSON and his wife assisted at the “Hidden Gems” fair. It was a great opportunity to talk about the school, and highlighted the need for a co-ordinated communications plan.

The LSC cross-pollination may be piloted with Coonley. Mr JOHNSON will go to Coonley’s LSC meeting in November.

Friends of Amundsen (FoA) are hoping to hold meetings immediately after LSC meetings. Last year, FoA sponsored a meeting at St. Mathias (during the lockout) where the “champions” of feeder schools (public, private, and parochial) are invited to talk about Amundsen. They hope to have a similar meeting this fall.

Fall Baseball was launched in Winnemac Park, in partnership with Amundsen, Winnemac Park, and Welles Park. They also want to have an elementary track-and-field day, sometime in the spring, in conjunction with the school and Winnemac Park, having Amundsen students as leaders for the day.

## PPLC REPORT

Teacher driven professional development continues to be a priority.

## PAC REPORT

The kickoff Parent Advisory Committee meeting was held last month. It was reasonably well attended.

The budget for the PAC was re-presented to the LSC (it was detailed in a previous meeting), but it does not require LSC approval.

## APPOINTMENT TO FILL VACANT PARENT SEAT ON LSC

Merima KARASTANOVIC, the parent of a freshman, nominated herself to the LSC.

*Mr NEWMAN moved to seat Ms KARASTANOVIC on the council, seconded by Mr PEDERSEN. The motion was approved unanimously.*

## NEW BUSINESS

Mr COHEN inquired about the Performance Policy rating of Amundsen. There was an anomaly in the historical attendance data. If corrected, the change might retroactively lift us from Level 3 to Level 2 for last year. This would be significant, because it would mean that this year is the 2nd year at Level 2, and thus the school would now be officially off of probation, restoring full administrative powers to the Principal and LSC.

We have petitioned the CPS Office of Accountability to fix the error. That office is quite busy now because of new complaints from other schools.

Mr PEDERSEN shared that the Passages (Asian Human Services) Charter School is considering an attempt to expand the charter school into high school grades. A scheduled community meeting to discuss the change was cancelled at the last minute.

<b>ADJOURN</b>
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*Mr REED moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr PEDERSEN. The motion was approved unanimously.*

*The meeting adjourned at 7:58pm.*