

# LSC Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, February 13, 2014

Held in the Library, Amundsen HS



**AMUNDSEN**  
Local School Council

The meeting convened at 6:04pm.

In attendance: COHEN, D’ALESSIO, JOHNSON [arrived 6:07pm], KARASTANOVIC, NEWMAN, PAVICHEVICH, PEDERSEN, REED, RODAS, VEGA

Not attending: CHINCHILLA, MUÑOZ

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

## PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was no public participation.

## INTERNAL ACCOUNTS

*Mr PEDERSEN moved to approve the internal accounts for December, seconded by Ms VEGA. The motion was approved unanimously.*

*Mr NEWMAN moved to approve the internal accounts for December, seconded by Mr PEDERSEN. The motion was approved unanimously.*

## APPROVAL OF MINUTES

*Ms D’ALESSIO moved to approve the minutes of the meeting held on January 14, 2014, seconded by Mr PEDERSEN. The motion was approved unanimously.*

## PRINCIPAL’S REPORT

We have been moving along with Ms PAVICHEVICH’s professional development grant. This grant is a good opportunity to help make sure that lessons from PD are moving into the classroom.

We started the Junior ACT bootcamp. We had more applicants than originally envisaged, but we enrolled all comers. The sessions are held Wednesday, Thursday, and Saturday. There will be several teachers intimately involved, both to help students and to make sure that teachers are seeing what and how the students are learning. The PPLC is also involved, with a focus on the Day 2 component.

Mr COHEN asked why Boot Camp was so well attended. Many students were individually and selectively invited; the invited students felt honored to be invited. The boot camp is not seen as a remedial class, but rather it is seen as the school’s identification that these students have great potential that needs to be unlocked.

We have continued our conversations with the elementary school partners. We want to build our relationships with these schools, especially to make sure that we can retain their students through the transition to high school.

We have had two major tragedies in the Amundsen family: first, a student was murdered on February 5th (in an incident not on school property and unrelated to school); and second, Leonard Evans passed away, who worked at Amundsen for many years, most recently as Assistant Principal. The Amundsen raised over \$2,000 to contribute to the student's burial expenses, and Rosehill cemetery agreed to reduce the usual fee, so that the student could be laid to rest there.

Regarding the schools' performance rating: The CPS Office of Accountability has been unable to reproduce Amundsen's historical attendance data, and is so far unable to corroborate or refute the historical data.

Mr COHEN mentioned that there was another Amundsen student killed a few years ago. He suggested that the school needs to consider this and have a good response for outsiders who have concerns. Ms PAVICHEVICH agreed that projecting a positive image is essential, and she has been telling that story as forcefully as possible, including granting an interview with DNAinfo, in which she put forward the facts and her impressions of the student — that he was a good kid, involved and enthusiastic about school and activities, and not involved with gangs at school.

#### **CHAIR'S REPORT**

The FOA is working to build engagement with businesses in the area, through "window clings".

Mr JOHNSON is meeting with McPherson, Raveswood, and Coonley LSC's in the upcoming month.

#### **PPLC REPORT**

On the last PD day, we gathered the staff to explain the importance of the "Day 2" test, focusing on the "Work Keys" section. If students do well enough on the second day, they will receive a Work Keys certificate. Many employers are willing to give preference, or increased salary, to job applicants who have this certification. This explicit value needs to be communicated effectively to students.

Mr REED asked how the Work Keys initiative is being measured. Each teacher is supposed to identify assignments in the IMPACT tracking system that are targeted at Work Keys. Ms PAVICHEVICH agreed that measuring the initiative is important, and that the instructional leadership team would work towards measuring more consistently.

## PAC REPORT

The College and Career Fair is coming up next Wednesday. It is geared towards parents and students together. We have 30+ colleges planning to attend, and we need help to ensure we have adequate participation by students and parents.

## OTHER NEW BUSINESS

There is a school board meeting on Wednesday the 26th. The group "Raise Your Hand" is coordinating a number of schools to attend together, with a positive message encouraging an increase in funding, both generally and specifically to fund the hiring of Physical Education teachers necessary to meet the state mandated requirements for PE. They would like one or more representatives of Amundsen to join them.

It was also suggested that Raise Your Hand might want to consider advocating for increased funding specifically for high schools. The HS level requires additional staff for such activities as the dean of students, college and career readiness coaches, and other activities that are simply not required at the elementary school level. The funding ratio for high schools is not enough to cover all of these expenses.

## FUNDRAISING ACTIVITIES

Ben Craig (Amundsen Teacher) talked about the fledging school golf team, which has about 10 students. The team raised about \$1,000 for equipment through [DonorsChoose.org](http://DonorsChoose.org). They are also planning to partner with the Cleveland/Srixon golf equipment company, who will create a fundraising partnership portal. This co-branded website will allow customers to visit the company and make golf equipment purchases and custom golf balls, from which 25% of the sales will benefit the Amundsen golf team.

*Mr PEDERSEN moved to approve the fundraising partnership with Cleveland/Srixon, seconded by Mr REED. The motion was approved unanimously.*

## LSC ELECTIONS

The election for the LSC is on April 8. The council is required to schedule the Candidate's Forum between March 17 and 21.

*Ms D'ALESSIO moved to set the Candidate's Forum on Thursday, March 20. Mr NEWMAN seconded and amended the motion so that the regular LSC meeting for the month be rescheduled to be at the same time, and immediately follow the candidate's forum. The motion was approved unanimously.*

Mr NEWMAN, as Secretary for the LSC, agreed to publish all LSC candidate statements and other relevant posted materials on the school website.

**ADJOURN**

*Ms VEGA moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Ms D'ALESSIO. The motion was approved unanimously.*

*The meeting adjourned at 7:34pm.*