

# LSC Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, March 12, 2013  
Classroom 123, Amundsen HS



**AMUNDSEN**  
Local School Council

The meeting convened at 6:13pm.

In attendance: COHEN, D’ALESSIO, EVANS [arrived 6:17pm],  
JOHNSON, MUÑOZ [arrived 6:28pm], NEWMAN, PAVICHEVICH,  
PEREZ, REED, VEGA

Not attending: PEDERSEN

*Mr PEDERSEN was appointed by the Board of Education to fill the teacher’s seat vacated by Ms BAXTER-BATES. Ms ESPINOZA submitted her resignation to the chair of the council, effective March 12, 2013. As a result of these changes, there is one vacant parent seat and one vacant student 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 typographical errors, for the meeting in February, seconded by Mr JOHNSON. The motion was approved unanimously.*

Ms. VEGA requested to receive printed copies of the minutes and agenda at the meetings.

## PRINCIPAL’S REPORT

The senior leadership has focused intensively on in-classroom teacher evaluations.

Northeastern Illinois University, our partner, is working on a K-12 literacy model in collaboration with our feeder elementary schools, which is to align with the K-12 redistricting. They are creating vertically aligned literacy programs that follow students across their entire academic careers, especially across the transition from elementary to high school. It is entirely funded by NIU and others, except a \$2,000 commitment from Amundsen, which will be included in next year’s budget.

They are also offering college level literacy instruction courses to current Amundsen teachers completely tuition free.

The funding formula for the school is changing next year, away from fixed formula allocations to simple dollars per enrollment.

The proposed bell schedule for next year was presented. It has been constructed by the senior leadership, the PPLC, and Amundsen teachers at large.

The block schedule resulted in higher failure rates, difficulty in coordinating teachers, and other problems. The block schedule allows for an advisory period, which is useful and popular. Instead a hybrid schedule was proposed. It will be put to a waiver vote by teachers, which requires a simple majority. Every effort will be made to preserve the opportunity for double-period "block" classes. We will also try to create grade-level lunch periods, which helps in monitoring students, both for advising and for security purposes.

Mr OLSON introduced a proposed investment in a new student tracking system (Student Information Logging System, or SILS, authored by Dennis Roarty) was discussed. It is an online tracking database that allows teachers and staff to log notes about student behavior and concerns, both positive and negative. These notes may not rise to the level of an official infraction, but the overall trends for individual students and the student population at large can reveal important information. The notes are visible both to teachers for each student, as well as other relevant school staff members. The cost of the system is a \$4,000 one-time fee, versus an add-on to "Verify" (a similar but less capable system) that costs \$8,000 plus \$1,200 annually.

Mr REED asked if there is any liability for confidentiality, and whether the vendor is bonded suitably. SILS is an approved CPS vendor. Mr NEWMAN asked what data and software protection plan exists if the company folds; the system is hosted on the company's servers, but both the data and software can be backed up and hosted locally. Ms D'ALESSIO asked what the time frame for implementation is; we can activate the system immediately. Mr JOHNSON asked about training; the training can be done this year, and refresher training can be provided next year. Mr JOHNSON asked where the funds will come from and what will be displaced; funds will come from as yet unallocated funds, and no other program will be cut. Mr REED asked how this system will advance the education of our students; by providing a proactive classroom behavior management system, we will be better able to track our students, and teachers will be able to see logs written by anyone about any of their students in the prior 3 weeks.

Any type of data about students can be put into SILS, and that data can be used to monitor both the behavior of students and how teachers react to students. For example, if a teacher gets a good working phone number for a family, that information can be put into SILS.

Mr REED asked if there is a prompting system to inform him about important information that appears in SILS, perhaps through email? If SILS is not linked to Google (email), it will not be used to its fullest by some of the teachers.

Ms D’ALESSIO asked if we can approve this expenditure today, because it did not explicitly appear on the LSC agenda for the meeting. Mr PEREZ argued that waiting a month before beginning to use SILS would be an undesirable delay. Mr WILLIAMS indicated that expenditure of funds from internal accounts would require formal LSC approval (not possible at this meeting), but that an expenditure of funds allocated by the Board of Education would not require LSC approval.

*Ms D’ALESSIO moved that the LSC express support for the purchase of the SILS system as consistent with our goals for the operation of the school, without formally acting to authorize any action, seconded by Mr REED. The motion was approved unanimously.*

An Amundsen letter jacket was shown to the LSC. They are expensive, but the school is investigating ways to subsidize the cost for students. There are a variety of patches that can be earned for various activities. This Thursday, the school is holding the winter sports banquet.

Mr NEWMAN suggested that the development of the budget for next year include a “Sunny Day” fund, with monies identified for desirable but expendable projects, so that we know where we can find money for opportunities like SILS, and what we will sacrifice to take advantage of those opportunities.

There are plans to begin panel interviews for all athletic head coaches, possibly including LSC members.

### **PPLC REPORT**

The PPLC advised on the bell schedule for next year (as noted before), will submit an initial purchase plan for upgrading classroom technology, and will promote the tutoring plan at the beginning of the grading period (and not just at the end).

Mr COHEN asked about the literacy plan that was proposed by the PPLC at the last meeting, and what the plan for that was. The PPLC’s recommendation was that the LSC incorporate the implementation of the literacy strategy into the principal’s evaluation.

### **INTERNAL ACCOUNTS**

Ms D’ALESSIO asked how there is a debit in lease income; it is revenue received by the school for use of facilities, but should not be negative. Ms D’ALESSIO also asked why numerous line items appear with multiple accounts, often with zeros in the duplicate accounts.

The council tabled approval of the internal accounts until the next meeting.

Mr WILLIAMS requested approval of the expenditure for diploma covers, paid out of senior fees to Josten's in the amount of \$2,988.84.

*Ms D'ALESSIO moved to approve the expenditure of \$2,988.84, seconded by Mr JOHNSON. The motion was approved unanimously.*

<b>ADJOURN</b>
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*Mr NEWMAN moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Ms D'ALESSIO. The motion was approved unanimously.*

*The meeting adjourned at 7:45pm.*