

LSC Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, September 10, 2013

Held in the Library, Amundsen HS



AMUNDSEN
Local School Council

The meeting convened at 6:06pm.

In attendance: COHEN, JOHNSON, MUÑOZ [arrived 6:16pm],
NEWMAN, PAVICHEVICH, PEDERSEN, REED, RODAS, VEGA

Not attending: D'ALESSIO, EVANS

There is one vacant parent seat, and one vacant ESP seat. The council has a quorum in attendance.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was no public participation.

INTERNAL ACCOUNTS

Ms VEGA moved to approve the internal accounts for August 2013, seconded by Mr NEWMAN. The motion was approved unanimously.

APPROVAL OF SPENDING

Mr PEDERSEN moved to approve the expenditure of \$11,580.84 for the purchase of locks, seconded by Ms VEGA. The motion was approved unanimously.

BUDGET REPORT

Our projected enrollment for this academic year was 1370, and the actual enrollment as of the 10th day was only 1290. Because funding is tied to enrollment, there is expected to be a large budget cut required. However, CPS has not yet identified how large, and variables other than straight enrollment (e.g. the number of free and reduced price lunch students) will impact the budget. The expectation is that between \$500,000 and \$600,000 will need to be cut. Cuts of this magnitude will necessitate staffing cuts, although programming changes to students' schedules, and changes in class sizes, will not be on the table.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr REED moved to approve the minutes of the meeting held on August 20, 2013 and August 23, 2013 seconded by Ms VEGA. The motion was approved unanimously.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

This year's school opening has been very smooth, with few hiccups. One notable exception was because of the heat: two students became ill from overheating in the cafeteria. We employed fans blowing over buckets of ice to try to cool the room, and used paper trays instead of the plastic ones, so that we would not need to run the dishwashers.

September 24th will be Senior Parent Night. On October 3rd, after the homecoming football game there will be Freshman/Sophomore Parent Night. The homecoming dance will be Friday, although the football game is Thursday. We are waiting to have community night until after all our official data is in.

The no-uniforms policy has been successful.

Other local neighborhood high schools are having similar enrollment problems. Most northside high school principals have been cooperative, and are not trying to steal students to boost enrollment.

Our enrollment is down, but it is probably more in line with what it should be. We are no longer recruiting or enrolling kids from the south and west sides, for whom it is very difficult to get to Amundsen every day, especially with the Red Line (CTA) closure. Also, UNO just opened a school on Ridge Ave., so there is some more competition. But our IB program has doubled in size, so clearly we are getting some buy-in from neighborhood families who see that program as a good choice. We will continue to market the school in our neighborhood, but we expect enrollment to grow only slowly as we prove to the community that we are a good school for all neighborhood students.

The council discussed some ideas to build a K-12 experience for students, more closely linking elementary and high school experiences. There have been rumors that such a school may be under consideration at CPS, although it is unclear what the timeline for such a plan would be.

PPLC REPORT

The PPLC is focusing on ACT preparation. Teachers are working to build assessments using an ACT-style question model. This will help students understand what those type of questions look like, so that ACT preparation does not begin in the months before the test. Students will see the style and format of ACT questions and will understand how answers are structured beginning in freshman year.

Also, we are working on testing motivation: the ACT is the first day of testing and is directly and obviously impactful for students personally, but the second day of testing is the PSAE only. While this test is important for the school and the teachers, a poor

performance on this test does not impact students in the same direct way; thus students don't always put the same effort and focus on the second day of testing.

Amundsen's band director, Jim Zebrowski, was selected to be one of four All-City Band Directors. He will be one of two directors leading the All-City Band on the south side.

The school will be running a "Rummage Sale" this coming Saturday, in the south parking lot.

BECOMING A MAN

Paul Robinson introduced the "Becoming a Man" (BAM) program at Amundsen. He will be the full-time BAM counselor for the year. The program will involve 60 male students from Amundsen this year. The program has resulted in numerous positive outcomes for students. Amundsen is one of 20 schools that are part of the program.

Participants are selected randomly by program managers not at Amundsen; students are invited to join the program, which is completely voluntary.

Additionally, this school will be part of the BAM "sports edition", where students participate in and learn about two less common sports (rugby and boxing).

Mr Robinson will be given access to the SILS logging system, so that he can easily communicate about the BAM students with teachers and other school staff. Teachers will be informed about which students are participating.

Amundsen was selected for this program after interviewing to host the program.

BUDGET REVIEW

Because final budget numbers were not yet available, the council did not review or approve any budgetary changes at this meeting. It was agreed that a special meeting of the LSC would be called as soon as possible after the final size of the budget cut was known, to review any major budget or staffing changes.

ADJOURN

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:46pm.