

# LSC Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, December 11, 2012  
Library, Amundsen HS



**AMUNDSEN**  
Local School Council

The meeting convened at 6:04pm.

In attendance: COHEN, D’ALESSIO, ESPINOZA, EVANS,  
JOHNSON [arrived 6:30pm], MUÑOZ, NEWMAN, PAVICHEVICH,  
REED, VEGA

Not attending: PEREZ

*There is one vacant parent seat, and one vacant teacher seat.*

*The council has a quorum in attendance.*

## PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was no public participation.

## LSC DIRECT FUNDING

The LSC is allotted \$200 by the Board to spend on expenses including food and office supplies, at its discretion. It was decided that we should continue last year’s policy of allotting \$50 for supplies, and \$150 for food to be served at LSC meetings.

## PRINCIPAL’S REPORT

### Performance

The 2012 No Child Left Behind summary report for Amundsen was released by CPS, indicating that the school did not make adequate yearly progress in either reading or math. Over winter break, the administrative team will make some updates to the CIWP to account for this.

The “Performance Policy”, which is what determines the status of the school in the district’s eyes, was reviewed. PSAE Reading scores exhibit a downward trend, which is a primary focus. Math scores are trending positively. Last year’s science scores showed a very significant positive bump. Adjusted attendance has historically been a weak point for Amundsen, but since the beginning of this school year attendance has been hovering around 90%, a huge improvement. If maintained, this improvement in attendance is enough to raise the school from level 3 to level 2.

Various cohort measures were reviewed. Test scores are scaled by difficulty and expectations, so that increases in score over time for a cohort are expected and those increases provide a measure of the learning and cognitive growth. Amundsen’s growth measures are generally below average for city high schools in our region, but exceed the growth rates for some other schools that have moved from level 3 to level 2.

Amundsen's attendance scores are massively improved; we have the second largest improvement in attendance of any high school in the North-Northwest network. Freshman on track, which is a good predictor of graduation rates, was less stellar, and this is a target for improvement over the coming months.

### **Communications with the Council**

Mr. COHEN had requested that copies of the internal accounts be emailed to council members in advance of meetings, so that they could be reviewed by members at their leisure before the regular meetings. The school's business manager, Mr WILLIAMS, had sent those reports prior to this meeting, but only to the subset of the council for which he had accurate email addresses. The rest of the council in attendance either confirmed the receipt of these documents or shared their email address with Mr WILLIAMS for future use.

Mr NEWMAN established an archival email account for the council at [amundsen.lsc@gmail.com](mailto:amundsen.lsc@gmail.com). All documents to be archived (minutes, reports, etc.) for the council can be sent to this address, where they can be stored and searched through indefinitely.

### **Budget**

Three requisition orders required approval by the LSC:

- to CTA in the amount \$5,000 for student bus cards,
- to Majestic Star in the amount of \$13,552.51 for the senior class luncheon (of which \$3,388.13 is required as a deposit now),
- to the American Theater Company in the amount of \$4,380 (the original amount required was \$5,730, however a significant portion of the cost was covered by various staff members who allocated previously awarded grant money to this project) to cover the cost of an instructional program for sophomores.

*Mr REED moved to approve the CTA bus cards expenditure, seconded by Mr COHEN. The motion was approved unanimously.*

*Mr COHEN moved to approve the Majestic Star expenditure, seconded by Ms D'ALESSIO. The motion was approved unanimously.*

*Mr REED moved to approve the American Theater Company expenditure, seconded by Ms MUÑOZ. The motion was approved unanimously.*

We received additional funding in the amount of \$136,553.62 this year over and above our existing budget. The bulk of this surplus comes from the state of Illinois as "rollover" money, totaling \$118,240.85. We also received an additional \$18,312 due to a larger than anticipated enrollment on the 20th day of school. A tentative budget for the additional funds was proposed to the council as follows:

- **Attendance & Discipline Workshops** (Consulting): \$10,000

- **Extended Day - Tutoring** (Teachers): \$12,000 (3 teachers, 3 days a week, 2 hours at a time from now through the end of the school year)
- **Enrichment Programs** (Fine Arts & Athletics): est. \$43,760.69
- **Technology**: \$15,000 (Kindles, Projectors for teachers, Smartboards)
- **School Security Officer Position**: \$31,647.93 (prorated salary + benefits, effective: 12/30/12)
- **Miscellaneous Clerical Employee**: \$10,145 (paid hourly) To support with school records (some of which date to 1929, and which are not secured properly)
- **Summer School** (includes "Freshman Connection"): \$14,000
  - Funding for first week of summer school - Teachers \$8,500 (subsequent weeks will be after July 1 and will be included in next year's budget)
  - ESP/Security \$5,500

The focus of much of this spending is on being an "Response to Intervention" (RTI) school. This is an approach to discipline that is proactive instead of reactive: provide better opportunities and support for students outside of curriculum and regular instruction.

Mr REED indicated that the PPLC is interested in and investigating possibilities for additional outside-of-normal-hours time available for students, so they can have a safe place conducive for learning beyond the normal day. These opportunities have been available at Amundsen before, but rarely in a well organized manner.

In addition to RTI priorities, funds will be directed to extra-curricular enrichment, which has been neglected for years.

There was some concern, particularly from Mr REED representing the PPLC, that investments in technology need to be made in conjunction with a better defined overall philosophy regarding teaching and the use of technology therein.

Mr COHEN inquired about income relating to the pool, which is used regularly by the park district. We do not receive any income from the pool, although we must keep the building open and operating on weekends (allocating some of the limited money for maintenance).

Ms D'ALESSIO inquired about the disposition of Jorndt grant money allocated to teachers who are no longer employed at Amundsen. It is believed that, upon their departure from the school, those teachers may designate a use for the funds, although some of those former employees have not at this time made allocations of their funds.

*Mr REED moved to approve the internal accounts for November, seconded by Ms D'ALESSIO. The motion was approved unanimously.*

*Mr NEWMAN moved to approve the minutes for the meetings in October and November, seconded by Mr JOHNSON. The motion was approved unanimously.*

## PPLC REPORT

Mr REED reports that the PPLC has been seated, has met 4 times, and is discussing some difficult issues, but is not ready to report anything specific.

## NEW BUSINESS

Mr NEWMAN reminded council members that online OMA and FOIA training, available at <http://foia.ilattorneygeneral.net>, is required of all members, as well as regular LSC training (the core 6 modules, plus an additional 3 elective modules which can include OMA and FOIA). Receipts for training can be emailed to [amundsen.lsc@gmail.com](mailto:amundsen.lsc@gmail.com).

Ms D'ALESSIO inquired about future agenda development. It was agreed that any council member can request agenda items be added by sending an email to [amundsen.lsc@gmail.com](mailto:amundsen.lsc@gmail.com) at least one week in advance of the regularly scheduled meeting, so that agendas can be posted in a timely manner.

Ms D'ALESSIO mentioned that we have one parent vacancy, and we need to think about filling this position. We also have a teacher vacancy, and although the staff has held an advisory poll, the vacancy has not been filled by the board.

The question was raised regarding whether the LSC needed to approve the activity of the Friends of Amundsen. There was some discussion and disparate views as to whether the council could require any private outside group to do anything. Mr NEWMAN was asked to invite the Friends of Amundsen to speak to the council in the future.

Mr COHEN inquired about the possibility of having the LSC minutes translated into Spanish. Mr JOHNSON suggested that an advanced Spanish class at the school might undertake the translation as a class project.

*Mr COHEN moved to enter closed session under 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(11), seconded by Mr REED. The motion was approved unanimously.*

*The LSC entered closed session at 7:41pm.*

*The LSC reconvened in open session at 8:19pm.*

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

*The meeting adjourned at 8:20pm.*

## **ACTION ITEMS**

- Mr NEWMAN will invite the Friends of Amundsen to make a report at a future LSC meeting.
- Mr REED will approach a Spanish language teacher at the school regarding the translation of the LSC minutes as a class project.