

# LSC Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, December 13, 2016

Held in the Library, Amundsen HS



**AMUNDSEN**  
Local School Council

The meeting convened at 6:12pm.

In attendance: CHINCHILLA, DANAHER, DAVILA, GORSKI, MAHONEY, NEWMAN, PAVICHEVICH, REED, VEGA, ZEHREN

Not attending: MARTEL, PEDERSEN, SOTIROVA

## PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Sarah Makela from GROW Community showed off the yard signs mentioned at the previous meeting. Signs are available at Amundsen as well as the feeder schools and alderman's office. We are excited to see the signs across the neighborhood.

## INTERNAL ACCOUNTS AND SPENDING

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

## APPROVAL OF MINUTES

*Mr MAHONEY moved to approve the minutes for July to August 2016, seconded by Mr REED. The motion was approved unanimously.*

## PRINCIPAL REPORT

Tomorrow, our juniors will be invited to sign up to participate in our "boot camp" SAT prep program. The program is offered for free, so long as the student attends (if they skip, they are required to pay tuition).

We will only be offering a Saturday program, as our data on past iterations clearly show the weekday version was not as successful as the Saturday morning version.

Mr REED expressed concern that this very valuable program is vulnerable to a sudden loss of support from the Walbridge Foundation. It was agreed in general that we would want to keep this program, and that we should continue to pursue grants from Walbridge and others to support our data-guided and results-focused programs.

We have a senior leadership team, including the administrators and leaders responsible for our other metrics, who are now meeting weekly to ensure we are making progress to our goals. This represents an application of the Fellows work that Ms PAVICHEVICH is devoting so much of her time to recently.

Ms PAVICHEVICH met with CEo Jackson earlier to discuss the transition from ACT to SAT. This transition is a big deal.

Ms Eilers presented a summary of results from the PSAT, which we administered to all students. The current junior class is not doing well compared our other classes, both before and since. So we are focusing intensely on this junior class to make sure they have the supports that they need to succeed.

This is all focused on our goal: We want to be the first neighborhood level 1+ school, and we think that we can achieve this goal. We know our college-based SQRP scores will be going up, but we want to double down on college success for our students. To that end, Ms PAVICHEVICH proposed hiring a college and career counselor to support the college application process. The cost of doing so for just the back half of this academic year is approximately \$30K.

*Ms ZEHREN moved to approve the hiring of a College and Career Counselor, seconded by Ms VEGA. The motion was approved unanimously.*

We also also looking at instruction: What can we do to improve instruction? The leadership team is starting to begin the process to consider unifying the instructional plan under the umbrella of IB-MYP. This would represent a major shift in instruction for some staff, although the union contract prohibits imposing a specific kind of lesson plan, so it will depend on getting buy-in from the staff.

Importantly, this would not be the same as enrolling all students in the IB-MYP program. It is simply pushing the relevant curriculum into all relevant courses, but some modification and customization would be made. But this would potentially mean the end of the AVID program, which is great, but different, and managing too many different curricula in the same school is cumbersome.

Ms PAVICHEVICH notes that she is not yet proposing to do this, just to study what doing this would mean. The timeline would probably lead to significant changes in the 2018-19 school year, if it was implemented at all.

*Ms GORSKI moved to approve starting this conversation, seconded by Ms ZEHREN. The motion was approved unanimously.*

The City of Chicago has adopted a plan to implement the street lighting plan proposed by the Starry Chicago. The Starry Chicago group is now an on-going club at Amundsen, and the new Aspen Challenge team is starting soon.

The city is encouraging our school to apply to the IB Career Program, which will allow students to participate in parts of the IB program, without committing to the full IB Diploma program, which is an intense commitment. This may allow us to bring benefits of IB to a wider audience.

**ADJOURN**

*The meeting was adjourned at 7:40pm.*