

LSC Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, February 13, 2013
Teacher's Work Room, Amundsen HS



AMUNDSEN
Local School Council

The meeting convened at 6:10pm.
In attendance: COHEN, D'ALESSIO, EVANS [arrived 6:20pm],
JOHNSON [arrived 6:37pm], MUÑOZ, NEWMAN, PAVICHEVICH,
PEREZ, REED, VEGA [arrived 7:40pm]
Not attending: ESPINOZA,

There is one vacant parent seat, and one vacant teacher seat. Mr. PEDERSEN, who was selected by the teachers in a straw poll but not yet appointed to the LSC by the Board of Education, attended but did not vote on any matters.

The council has a quorum in attendance.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was no public participation.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr REED moved to approve the minutes for the two meetings in January, seconded by Ms D'ALESSIO. The motion was approved unanimously.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

We received some free furniture; some of it is in use for this meeting.

At the end of semester, the school receives an update on performance measures. Our current attendance rate is 88.9%, up 6.5 points over the 2012 end of year number. The freshman on track score is 77.6%, up 4.8 points. The one year dropout rate is 2.9%, down 2.7 points. If performance policy status was recalculated today, our school would be well into Level 2.

On the night of a big snow a week prior, the school held a freshman parent meeting. Many parents attended, including conferences with teachers, the principal, and others.

Work continues with the Ravenswood Community Council, major initiative is building a partnership to put high school students in internships with local businesses.

The academic decathlon team placed 6th in the city and is moving on to the state level competition for the first time.

Our wrestling team went to sectionals, the girls' basketball team went to the state, the bowling team went to the city competition. There is momentum building around the sports programs.

Tomorrow, there is an advance person coming from the Mayor's office to sit in on a civics class; the Mayor may visit to teach a class. The Alderman is also using the school to host community meetings regarding the nature center that is going in on former Rosehill land.

Projects are continuing with our feeder elementary schools. It is now the normal course of business at Amundsen to think about joint projects with our elementary schools.

Today was the first training for the care team, providing complete wrap-around services to support students holistically, as opposed to operating in segregated silos.

CPS issued a set of 5 bell schedules, which the LSC will need to decide upon. The council discussed the pros and cons of various schedules, but did not make any decisions regarding the schedules, pending further study and input from the principal and school faculty.

Pads were installed on the walls of the gymnasium, to reduce and mitigate concussions.

No one has volunteered to translate the LSC minutes into Spanish.

PPLC REPORT

The technology plan is under continuing development.

The tutoring is starting up, although the tracking system and incentives are not working yet on a large enough scale. Getting students to show up and teachers to market the tutoring is a large task that is just getting started.

New instruments were acquired for the music department.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

We received a message from a college student inquiring about temperature issues in the school. No staff or council members were aware of any major temperature issues in the building.

FRIENDS OF AMUNDSEN REPORT

Patrick O'Connor (40th ward alderman) is a new Honorary Member of FOA. Bill Helm and Erik Olson are now board members. The search for a person to lead their fundraising efforts continues; the American Theater Company fundraiser was cancelled

due to substantial lack of participation. New initiatives include a partnership with the SAC to host a elementary school track and field day in the fall of 2013, and “Jazz in the Park” performed by the Amundsen High School Jazz band. They are also working to help build connections with in-boundary elementary schools (athletics, programs, plays, etc..)

INTERNAL ACCOUNTS

Mr NEWMAN moved to approve the internal accounts as presented for October and January, seconded by Mr REED. The motion was approved unanimously.

PRINCIPAL EVALUATION

Ms Natalie ALLEN facilitated a discussion of the principal evaluation process, in particular what “soft skills” the LSC would want to focus on in addition to the “hard” performance measures that CPS measures.

The following single word (or phrase) “bullet points” were highlighted by LSC members as important soft skills in evaluating principal performance:

Engagement.	Flexibility.
Present.	Reflective.
Transparent.	Supportive.
Sports and Grades.	Participation.
Accountability.	Curious.
Disciplined.	The Face.
Ethics and Values.	Openness.
Salesmanship.	Empowering.
Focus.	Motivating.
Persistence.	Security.
Strategic.	Safety.
Tough.	Trust.
Driven.	Safe Haven.
Culture.	Well rounded.
Program Implementation.	Inclusivity.

Mr REED introduced an idea from the PPLC that the school should develop a strong literacy program, and distributed an article from The Atlantic titled “[The Writing Revolution](#)” describing a literacy-focused program at an urban high school in New York.

ADJOURN

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:44pm.