

LSC Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, June 10, 2014

Held in the Library, Amundsen HS



AMUNDSEN
Local School Council

The meeting convened at 6:25pm.

In attendance: CHINCHILLA, COHEN, D’ALESSIO, JOHNSON [arrived 6:28pm], KARASTANOVIC, MILATOVIC, PAVICHEVICH, REED [arrived 7:01pm], RODAS

Not attending: MUÑOZ, NEWMAN, PEDERSEN, VEGA

The council had a quorum in attendance.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None.

INTERNAL ACCOUNTS AND SPENDING

Ms D’ALESSIO asked about the debit under the Student ID’s account; these funds were used to bring various other negative accounts into balance.

Mr COHEN moved to approve the internal accounts for May, seconded by Ms KARASTANOVIC. The motion was approved unanimously.

Mr COHEN moved to approve a payment of \$38,027.91 to Josten’s for 1150 yearbooks, seconded by Mr CHINCHILLA. The motion was approved unanimously.

Mr CHINCHILLA moved to approve a payment of \$12,342.96 to Anderson Lock for new locks for next year, seconded by Mr COHEN. The motion was approved unanimously.

Mr COHEN moved to approve a payment of \$14,589.76 to Chicago Marriott O’Hare for Prom, seconded by Ms D’ALESSIO. The motion was approved unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr COHEN moved to approve the minutes of the meeting held on April 29, 2014, seconded by Mr CHINCHILLA. The motion was approved unanimously.

PRINCIPAL’S REPORT

We are about to have out Chicago Teacher’s “Inside Out” on Thursday. We had hoped to install the posters on Wednesday but because of the expected rain we won’t be putting the posters out just before the event on Thursday. It will be followed by an

outdoor concert and food truck festival. CPS didn't approve the press release for this event until yesterday, but we have been advertising it otherwise for 6 weeks.

We had prom, various end of year events, and last night we graduated 94% of our senior class. Our attendance rate is still over 90%, although there is still a week of school left and getting kids to show up the last week is very hard. Last year we lost almost 1/2% in the last week of school. Finals happen well before the last day of school, and grades are due before the last day of school as well. Still, we are hopeful that we will end the year over 90%.

Our composite ACT score, by growth (sophomore to junior year) went up 1.9. The target for this measure is 2, but Amundsen has rarely exceeded 1. The freshman to sophomore growth on the similar measure was only 1 this year, which is disappointing. The measure of growth from 8th grade to freshman is 0, which is concerning; we are investigating the details of what happened with that. Statistically, students are arriving on-track, but get off track during high school. Our goal is to avoid that outcome. We are asking teachers to work together on curriculum over the summer, and not to do it in the final days before school resumes in the fall.

Where are students going when they leave Amundsen? 223 left since July 2013; most moved out of district, and a fair number transfer to the "Pathways" program. Some of this number was a result of proactive discussions with older students who simply do not have and mathematically can not earn the credits necessary for graduation before they age-out of the system; these kids were encouraged (within the limits of the regulations) to find something else productive to do with their time other than attend Amundsen.

Enrollment next year is expected to take a hit because some selective enrollment high schools (notably for us, Lane Tech) are for the first time accepting transfer students who are not in their freshman year. We expect to lose at least 5 IB students in grades 10-12 because of this.

One additional special education teacher is voluntarily leaving before next year, so that the number of involuntary faculty terminations will be reduced to only 4.

Two students of Bosnian heritage volunteered to raise funds for flood victims in Bosnia, they raised a bit over \$600. The students decided that they would split the donations between Bosnia and Serbia. Principal PAVICHEVICH contacted organizations in each nation, and media from each nation is planning to interview the students about this generous gesture.

STUDENT FEES

Ms PAVICHEVICH provided a breakdown of what the student fees cover. Most of the fee covers the cost of purchasing yearbooks, about \$35 out of the existing \$80 fee.

At \$80, Amundsen's fee is the lowest among schools on the north side of Chicago; the next lowest is set at \$100. The fees at Lake View are \$200 (\$250 for senior year).

After adding up associated expenditures for technology, class and lab fees, photocopies, postage, locks, transportation, and fee waivers, the necessary fee to cover these expenses was calculated to be approximately \$103. Mr REED asked whether we planned to make up future budget deficits with additional fee increases; Ms PAVICHEVICH indicated that the goal here was to make the fees in line with other nearby neighborhood schools.

Ms PAVICHEVICH proposed setting the fees at \$100 per year, plus a set of fees for seniors to participate in activities that seniors will be able to opt out of if they choose.

Mr REED moved to set the student fees for the 2014-15 School Year at \$100, seconded by Mr CHINCHILLA. The motion was approved unanimously.

OTHER BUSINESS

Ms D'ALESSIO shared with council members that she had received instructions from CPS that all LSC members would be required to do training and to be fingerprinted next year, regardless of whether they have previously done either.

The Office of LSC Relations inquired about hosting training at Amundsen over the summer but we declined, as we the summer schedule for the building is already full.

Mr JOHNSON called summer organizational meeting for the upcoming school year on July 8th, at 6pm in the school library.

ADJOURN

Mr COHEN moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr CHINCHILLA. The motion was approved 9-1.

The meeting adjourned at 7:42pm.