

LSC Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, October 13, 2015

Held in the Library, Amundsen HS



AMUNDSEN
Local School Council

The meeting convened at 6:00pm.

In attendance: BIJEDIC [arrived 6:33pm], CHINCHILLA, GORSKI [appointed 6:03pm], MAHONEY, MUÑOZ, PAVICHEVICH, PEDERSEN, SOTIROVA, VEGA

Not attending: COHEN, KARASTANOVIC, NEWMAN, REED

The council had a quorum in attendance.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None.

PARENT VACANCY

Ms MAHONEY moved to appoint Ms Suzette GORSKI to the vacant parent representative seat, seconded by Mr PEDERSEN. The motion was approved unanimously.

SPENDING AND INTERNAL ACCOUNTS

Ms VEGA moved to approve the internal accounts for September, seconded by Mr PEDERSEN. The motion was approved unanimously.

We have been informed about budget changes based on enrollment on the 10th and 20th day. Based on the 10th day enrollment, we have received an additional \$11,432, because we had higher than projected enrollment in certain categories of students. We lost funds in SGSA (\$-2,371) and gained funds in Title 1 (\$35,524).

We budgeted a contingency fund of \$166,000, and there were some salary changes because we over allocated funds to vacant positions because we didn't know who we were hiring.

Mr PEDERSEN moved to approve the allocation of funds to hire one additional security guard, seconded by Ms VEGA. The motion was approved unanimously.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

We had some personnel changes in the past week. We are projected to have 3 special education staff cut, although we think that is too large a cut and we plan to appeal that change if an internal audit can justify protecting at least one of those three positions.

We are also getting 3 paraprofessional positions added, and these positions have been posted. Also, one of the counselors who was on long term FMLA will not be returning. That position was staffed previous internally, but because of the formal change we were able to transfer our highest paid counselor into a Board funded (not school funded) position, freeing some additional monies.

Additionally, Julie Lyons will be leaving to become an Asst. Principal at Mather, so her salary for the year has become available as well (about \$99,000). This position will not be filled for now, because the LSC has previously voiced an opinion that we should only make hires that are absolutely necessary and not just desirable, at least until the coming mid-year budget crisis has been resolved.

The total available SBB funding at this time is \$357,053, which will need to be spent in some manner this year. Our plan for this money includes up to \$10,000 in weight room equipment (plus a \$5,000 donation from the Cubs); and one more security officer to provide coverage until late in the evenings. Other things we would like to spend the money on include one position to support the attendance office; a college and career coach; stipends for various support roles (to pay overtime to other staff to backfill Ms Lyon's roles).

Our gyms are almost complete. One was opened for homecoming but has been closed again to install bleachers. One of the incomplete computer labs will be transformed into a "maker's lab" to complement our STEM investment from Dyson.

Homecoming was great; we moved the date of the pep rally for weather, but the weather was great anyhow. We sold out the tickets to the dance; we had to turn away some people at the door over safety concerns.

We had another GROW Community meeting with the 3 local aldermen, the University of Chicago, and the Mayor's Office.

We have secured another round of grant funding (about \$21,000) to support the "Boot Camp" for the ACT (or whatever standardized test CPS decides to give this year).

STATE OF THE SCHOOL

Ms PAVICHEVICH gave a "state of the school" presentation. Our mission and vision is substantially unchanged: Amundsen High School will be THE school of choice in the neighborhood.

Our current enrollment is 1140. We have 339 freshmen, 324 of them are incoming freshmen (the rest are students who did not move up), 297 sophomores, 267 juniors, and 237 seniors. 57% of our students are from the network; we are not actively recruiting students from across the city, but students who live nearby the school, even if not technically within the school's attendance boundaries, are welcomed. This is to

promote a measure of “choice” within our neighborhood, allowing families to find a high school that fits them best.

We have the largest freshman IB class in the district, with 185 out of 324 incoming freshmen are in the IB program; plus another 56 in the CTE program. 74% of our 9th grade class is currently meeting or exceeding standards, (vs 25-30% in previous years) and they have the highest grade point average in the network. This speaks to the change in attitudes among the community.

We think our SQRP results will show us to be a Level 1 school, although the official results have not been released. We have tremendous growth, and our attainment scores are not all where we would want them to be, but they are improving.

The LSC paused to celebrate the Cubs 6-4 victory over the Cardinals, to win the series and secure a spot in the NLCS. Go Cubs!

We are at 95% utilization. We will have a ribbon cutting ceremony for our school’s capital improvements, probably in December.

We are not sure yet what the new Dyson STEM program will be or how it will fit into our school, but we are going to have an initial meeting for some teachers on October 20 to learn about the program.

PARENT ADVISORY COUNCIL

We had a restorative justice presentation tonight. The PAC has a new website up. November 3rd, at 5pm, will be a parent tour of the health center.

STUDENT REPORT

The transcendental meditation training is great. Numerous students (and staff, and parents) have seen benefits. Some students have concerns that the (one-time) ceremony associated with the meditation is religious, and they are a little uncomfortable with that; although the students don’t participate in the ceremony (only observe it) and while it is considered a “sacred” ceremony by some, and conducted in a foreign language, it is not explicitly religious.

PRINCIPAL EVALUATION AND RETENTION

Mr Marcus Pitman, newly assigned to Amundsen by the Office of LSC relations, introduced himself. He explained that the LSC must complete a cumulative evaluation of the principal before February 1. One method to complete this is to simply average the three previous annual evaluations.

The council decided to complete this process at the November 3 meeting.

ADJOURN

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

The meeting was adjourned at 7:01pm.