

LSC Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, February 9, 2016

Held in the Library, Amundsen HS



AMUNDSEN
Local School Council

The meeting convened at 6:00pm.

In attendance: CHINCHILLA [arrived 6:17], COHEN, GORSKI, MAHONEY, NEWMAN, PAVICHEVICH, REED, SOTIROVA

Not attending: BIJEDIC, KARASTANOVIC, MUÑOZ, PEDERSEN, VEGA

The council had a quorum in attendance.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The principal of Belmont-Cragin elementary school, a parent of 2 students at Amundsen, introduced herself and said she is very proud of what is happening at Amundsen.

SPENDING AND INTERNAL ACCOUNTS

Mr NEWMAN moved to approve the Internal Accounts from January 2016, seconded by Ms GORSKI. The motion was approved unanimously.

MINUTES

Mr NEWMAN moved to approve the minutes from November and December 2016, seconded by Mr COHEN. The motion was approved unanimously.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Ms PAVICHEVICH introduced Phil Salemi, the Network Chief. He thanked the LSC for their service, and commended the school as a "shining star" in the network.

LSC Elections are just around the corner. Ms PAVICHEVICH encouraged parents and community members in attendance to participate.

Amundsen sent a team to compete in the special olympics, in downhill skiing no less. We won a bevy of events, and we are very proud of the opportunities like this that we can provide to *all* of our students.

The Freshman On Track rate this year is 97%, which is an outstanding number. The Sophomore on-track rate is also over 90%; in the past it had been in the 70's.

Our attendance rate is 92.6%, for freshmen it is over 95%. This also is outstanding.

Boys swimming are undefeated conference champions.

Boot Camp, funded by outside grant funds, starts tomorrow. We will have 72 students enrolled. We also used grant funds to offer a practice ACT exam to all students. Ms SOTIROVA inquired about the average score on that practice exam; Ms PAVICHEVICH noted that it was not great but practice exam scores are usually not great as many students don't prepare as well for the practice as they do for the real high-stakes test.

Scholarship money is pouring in like never before; many of these scholarships are merit (not need) based.

GROWcommunity is here. We've been working with them and with the University of Chicago to develop the school and the relationship with the community. We are vigorously pursuing grant money in quantities large and small, as well as media exposure.

On Saturday we had our final of 3 IB info sessions, which are going well.

WBEZ asked Ms PAVICHEVICH to be on an "Interesting Jobs" radio segment, on Monday in the morning show. (Network Chief Salemi hinted that he had directed WBEZ to call Ms P if they wanted to talk to the best, most interesting principal.)

AP Eilers gave a brief discussion of the work on revising the CIWP. We are starting the process with the school excellence framework.

AP Nguyen spoke about the magnet/IB program numbers. We had our last info session recently and it was packed. We currently have 1349 students who have applied to the IB program, and about 1700 students have applied to the CTE program. We do not get input into which students are accepted for the CTE program, as it is a lottery organized by CPS. Only 30% of the seats in that program are reserved for in-boundary (i.e. close neighborhood) students.

For the IB program, students are accepted based on a score derived from grades (50%) and exams (50%). The maximum score is 900. Two years ago the cutoff score was 500, last year we increased the cutoff score to 530; this resulted in 911 students qualifying. We are thinking about raising the score to 575 this year, which result in 935 qualifying, because the scores among applicants have gone up considerably. We are not trying to deny access by increasing the cutoffs, but the administration feels that this modest increase will benefit the school and the students; those in the past who entered IB but with a score just high enough to qualify often found the program a poor fit. We expect to yield a similar class size (about 194 IB students) with the new higher cutoffs. Mr NEWMAN asked about the cutoffs for in-boundary neighborhood students — those students will still receive a fixed bonus of 50 points on their scores, although the principal retains the power to make exceptions for individual students even if they apply late or have circumstance that cause their scores to be lower than the cutoff. We even make arrangements to allow students who have IEP's (individual education plans) to enroll in the IB program.

We've spent \$20K of the \$50K of the Dyson grant.

BUDGET

We received a budget amendment from CPS:

Fund	Fund Number	Change
Student Based Budget	115	\$ (298,211)
Title I Discretionary	332	\$ 118,253
Title II Discretionary	353	\$ 0
Title I Supplemental	332	\$ 5,685
SGSA Carryover	225	\$ 40,407
TOTAL		\$ (133,866)

This amendment represents a substantial decrease in SBB funding, an a partially offsetting increase in Title 1 and SGSA funding.

Our previous budget planning had left us with an unallocated “surplus” of approximately \$300k, so this cut is manageable. It will result in no layoffs and no notable program cuts from planned programs.

However we will take actions to shift positions among funds to end the current year with the maximum possible funds remaining in SGSA (which can roll over to future years). We will move one English and one Science teacher from SBB to Title I, and one position each from Math, Art, English, and Security from SGSA to Title I.

The budget amendment is thus proposed as

Category	Amount
SBB	
Amount to be removed from 46031.115.51300.290001.000575	\$ (298,211.00)
Amount used from: 46031.115.53305.119035.000575 to offset reduction	\$ 96,443.30
Amount used from: 46031.115.51300.290001.000575 to offset reduction	\$ 49,594.70
Amount used from: 46031.115.51330.290001.000575 to offset reduction	\$ 27,725.36
Amount used from SBB funds budgeted on non-personnel lines that have not yet been spent	\$ 16,013.81
Amount recovered from position number: 142204 (English) Funding swap. SBB to Title I	\$ 54,734.34
Amount recovered from position number: 136036 (Science) Funding swap. SBB to Title I	\$ 53,699.49
Total funds used for budget reduction	\$ 298,211.00
Title I	
Amount to be added to: 46031.332.57940.119031.430169	\$ 118,253.00
Title I unallocated funds on pointer line	\$ 27,159.00
Title I funds budgeted for vacant positions	\$ 112,916.00
Title I funds budgeted on non-personnel lines, unpent	\$ 6,335.00
Total Available Title I funds	\$ 264,663.00
Open English Teacher position - Funding swap, SBB to Title I	\$ (54,734.34)
Open Science Teacher position - Funding swap, SBB to Title I	\$ (53,699.49)
Open Math Teacher position - Funding swap, SGSA to Title I	\$ (47,521.52)
Open Art Teacher position - Funding swap, SGSA to Title I	\$ (35,243.53)
Open English Teacher position - Funding swap, SGSA to Title I	\$ (22,074.53)
Open Security position - Funding swap, SGSA to Title I	\$ (24,035.23)
Remaining Unallocated Title I Funds	\$ 27,354.36
SGSA	
Amount to be added to: 46031.225.57940.119021.000703	\$ 40,407.00
Unallocated funds on pointer line	\$ (442.00)
Funds budgeted on non-personnel lines that have not yet been spent	\$ 14,319.00
Amount recovered from position number: 524920 (Math) Funding swap. SBB to Title I	\$ 54,734.34
Amount recovered from position number: 487579 (Art) Funding swap. SBB to Title I	\$ 53,699.49
Amount recovered from position number: 487123 (English) Funding swap. SBB to Title I	\$ 54,734.34
Amount recovered from position number: 150979 (Security) Funding swap. SBB to Title I	\$ 53,699.49
Remaining SGSA funds (Rolls over to FY17)	\$ 271,151.66

*Mr REED moved to approve the budget amendment, seconded by Ms GORSKI.
The motion was approved unanimously (8-0).*

CHAIR'S REPORT

The chair reported that her daughter received a full-ride scholarship offer from a good university. She thanked the school for being so supportive in her family's success.

PROFESSIONAL PERSONNEL LEADERSHIP COMMITTEE

No report.

PARENT ADVISORY COUNCIL

We learned about ACT testing skills. CPS is now committed to administering the ACT one more time, even though the state decided to move to the SAT effective this school year.

STUDENT REPORT

No report.

FRIENDS OF AMUNDSEN REPORT

The FoA ran a fundraiser in December, and raised \$500. We also received a \$2,000 donation from Congressman Quigley, which has been earmarked for the band. We'll also have a track and field event for 6-8th graders in early April. We'll also have a parent mixer on Friday April 1.

OTHER BUSINESS

Mr NEWMAN asked about plans to graduate our seniors in the event of a prolonged teacher's strike that cut short the current school year. No specific plan is in place, although it was identified that a technical "graduation" that would be required for enrollment in college is completely independent from any ceremony or event that the school might organized, and is instead merely a function reaching a minimum number of classroom hours and the end of year grades.

The council rescheduled the March 8 LSC meeting to March 3.

ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 7:34pm.