PUBLIC COMMENT

Sarah Makela noted that there will be a GROW Parent-to-Parent reception on Oct 27th, 1-3pm at O'Donovans. If you're interested in attending, you can contact her.

She also provided some numbers on what happened with GROW recently: A large number of students at Amundsen are from GROW schools who are not in IB. Out of 209 GROW students, 150 are not in the IB program. This is a change from the historical trend — in the past, Amundsen was low on the percentage of community students who attend. But now, 52.9% of our current students are from the GROW feeder schools.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr NEWMAN moved to approve the minutes from April, seconded by Ms DAVILA. The motion was approved unanimously.

PRINCIPAL’S REPORT AND STATE OF THE SCHOOL

We had an incident where there was a misunderstanding where a snippet of a private online conversation, where one student’s suggestion that they would bring a “surprise” to school became public and was interpreted out of context as a threat instead of as a gift. There was never a real threat, although a large fraction of the student body believed there was a threat and chose not to attend school that day, which may potentially impact our overall attendance score for the year. In other respects, the incident was handled appropriately, with a swift response from CPS and the Chicago Police Department.

Homecoming week was fantastic. The football team won, the soccer team won the Windy City Championship. We had the pep rally, the game was standing room only and super exciting. The homecoming dance was postponed on account of the Van Dyke verdict, the decision for which was made before the verdict came down. An alternate event will be held this weekend.
On Thursday at noon, the Japanese Consul General will visit Amundsen to deliver a check for $30K in support of the Japanese language program.

We believe our school quality rating will again be Level 1+. We had an enrollment increase to 1,290, and we are officially at 112% of building capacity, including two full cluster classrooms this year.

Ongoing renovations are continuing, including Distance Learning labs and the new Jorndt field.

Our total budget for Fiscal Year 2018-19 is $8,709,353. That does not include SPED positions, which are covered directly by the district. We lost $2,382 based on the 10th day adjustment, which is due to a change in the LRE category. This is not a problem at all. After the 20th day, we expect to gain approximately an additional $50K.

Our recruiting events are paying off. In cooperation with GROW Community, we have been promoting our school to the local community. We also have a new parent newsletter in a bi-weekly distribution schedule, being produced by a community member.

We have hired 32 new staff members total, and we are in the process of hiring one new security person to backfill a recent retirement.

We have fewer serious infractions than historically, and we have better levels of respect and decorum. We are having higher levels of participation in clubs and activities, and very high levels of parental involvement. Sometimes we cannot deliver on everything parents want, but we are listening.

Our school demographics are changing as well, as the minority enrollment at the school has remained stable but the white population has been increasing, leading to a more diverse population. We also have a smaller share of low income students, which may lead to a modest decrease in supplemental state aid for low income students, on the order of about $65K. We also have a pretty large pool of students with IEP’s, although we are not concerned about this as we have been successfully delivering on our mandate for providing growth opportunities for all.

We now have an “honors” program at the Freshman level, for students who are not in IB but who will benefit from having a more advanced curriculum in certain subjects.

We have 28 varsity teams, 14 junior varsity teams, and 4 freshman teams. We know that the expectations for our athletic programs are growing fast and we want our athletics programs to excel.

Mr REYNOLDS introduced a proposal for creating an athletic advisory committee, for discussion at a future meeting.
STUDENT’S REPORT

Mr DEL VALLE discussed the possibility to re-start the Student Voice program. Ms PAVICHEVICH encouraged the students to do so, as they provided generally good input to administration through this process.

FRIENDS OF AMUNDSEN

The FoA has added two new board members, and has started an “Amundsen Allies” sponsorship program to allow businesses to participate in a very public manner. The next FoA meeting will be October 13.

ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 7:44pm.