

# LSC Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, November 14, 2013

Held in the Library, Amundsen HS



**AMUNDSEN**  
Local School Council

The meeting convened at 6:02pm.

In attendance: CHINCHILLA, COHEN, D'ALESSIO, KARASTANOVIC [arrived 6:35pm], NEWMAN, PAVICHEVICH, PEDERSEN, REED, RODAS

Not attending: JOHNSON, MUÑOZ, VEGA

*There is one vacant parent seat. The council has a quorum in attendance.*

## PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was no public participation.

## BUDGET REPORT

There are 3 negative accounts presently. These accounts were allowed to go negative because the responsible parties have agreed to conduct fundraisers to clear the negative balances.

Ms D'ALESSIO asked about the rental shirts account, which has a large chunk of money. These funds have accumulated over several years, and since the dress code was relaxed the number of dress code violations has decreased. No action was taken to transfer the funds to another account at this time.

Mr REED asked if we could issue a blanket authorization to spend certain money from various accounts on other projects, without requiring specific LSC approval for each expense. Ms PAVICHEVICH indicated that this was possible (other schools have done so) but not necessary or requested for our accounts at this time.

*Mr REED moved to approve the internal accounts for October 2013, seconded by Mr PEDERSEN. The motion was approved unanimously.*

The final value of the budget amendment for the current fiscal year has been issued by CPS. It includes the following cuts:

- SGSA Funds Removed due to lower than projected enrollment = \$146,034.92
- SGSA Funds Removed due to overestimated rollover funds = \$11,726.39
- NCLB Funds Removed = \$115,468.96

The total reduction is \$273,230.27. The student-based budget will not be cut this year, but if enrollment remains stable next year, there will be further reductions. Most of this reduction was anticipated, and was accomplished by undoing the line-by-line budget

allocation of the additional funds allocated by CPS earlier. As a result of the cuts, there will be no rollover funds next year.

*Mr PEDERSEN moved to approve the budget amendment, seconded by Mr REED. The motion was approved unanimously.*

## APPROVAL OF MINUTES

*Mr COHEN moved to approve the minutes of the meeting held on October 8, 2013, seconded by Ms D’ALESSIO. The motion was approved unanimously.*

## PRINCIPAL’S REPORT

We are working on the communication plan, including the Facebook page and Twitter account. Amanda Felty will be in charge of social media for the school.

We had community night, which was not very well attended. It was a lot of work, and a lot of fun; the students were enthusiastic and well prepared.

Report card pickup was held this week. 52% of report cards were picked up, second in our new network (which has only 6 high schools). The goal is to exceed 50%, and we met that goal. No one requested to speak to the principal, which is a good sign that everything is going well.

We have the 8th grade open house coming up, as well as the first in a series of IB open houses. Those are usually pretty well attended. We have been working on new publications about the school for recruiting; the existing materials are dated.

The new targets for the school came out from CPS, and the staff set some goals as well, which exceed the CPS goals. We are focused on moving our scores up, including especially professional development for teachers, but also through targeted work with students.

All of the AP’s are now certified do do REACH evaluations, which will allow the teacher evaluation workload to be split among all 4 administrators.

Alderman O’Connor connected the school with a wrestling group called ResistancePro (co-owned by Billy Corgan), who will be hosting two events at Amundsen: a Positive Outreach Program (“POP”) for students on Friday of next week, and a wrestling event on Saturday. For the POP, about 300 students (selected based in part on teacher recommendation) will attend an in-school event that includes some wrestling and some motivational talks about perseverance, clean and healthy living, etc.

The wrestling show is a ticketed event, from which Amundsen will receive 50% of the proceeds from tickets and sponsorships, and 100% of the proceeds from concession sales. They will also be filming a reality television program during the event. The show

will be hosted in the west gym and is expected to sell out to about 400 or so guests. We are also selling sponsorships for the event, between the \$100 and \$1000 level.

*Mr NEWMAN moved to approve the fundraising collaboration with ResistancePro, seconded by Mr COHEN. The motion was approved unanimously.*

CPS has (again) changed the network system; we are now in network 2, led by Craig Benes. The new network includes both high schools and elementary schools, including all the elementary schools we consider to be our feeders.

#### **CHAIR REPORT**

There was no report.

#### **PPLC REPORT**

There was no report.

#### **PAC REPORT**

The Parent Advisory Committee has had a lot of involvement so far this year, although the last meeting was not well attended. The next meeting is scheduled for the 20th; evites have been sent out and a robocall is planned. Events have been added to the schools online calendar.

We are trying to help students with “Dream Fund” scholarships, which provide financial assistance to undocumented students to attend college.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

Ms D’ALESSIO asked our student representative to provide insights from the student body as to the status of the school. A student’s report will be added to the LSC agenda for future meetings.

Ms RODAS shared that students are very aware of the changes in the school, and are enthusiastic to support the improvements in the culture and climate. Mr REED asked about whether students have a lot of influence with their parents as to which high school they should attend; Ms RODAS shared that many students do have some influence, but especially those whose parents do not speak English, as those parents are often poorly informed about the options offered by CPS and rely on their children quite heavily (not only for school information, but also for other life business as well).

Mr REED shared that he has learned that students at McPherson are newly interested in coming to Amundsen, in part because of the extensive outreach activities we have been building recently.

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| <b>OTHER OLD BUSINESS</b> |
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Mr COHEN inquired again about the Performance Policy rating of Amundsen. The inquiries made by school staff to the CPS Office of Accountability to fix the error have not received an official response. The LSC agenda for the next meeting will include an item to file a formal request with CPS for a review.

Mr COHEN inquired about the collaboration with Luminy. They just recently contacted us, to set up a meeting with CTE, to coordinate a technology plan for the school. CDW also wants to move forward with technology improvements in our school, but they are concerned about getting a fair opportunity to compete for CPS business generally.

We currently have a full set of laptops in room 222 that are set up and ready to go; that room is designed to be a tech center. Room 224 is pretty much done, except it is lacking computers.

Mr COHEN inquired about having the LSC minutes translated into Spanish. There have been no volunteers to date.

*El Consejo Escolar Local ha debatido la traducción de las actas en español. Si usted está leyendo esto y usted está dispuesto a ayudarnos, por favor envíenos un email a [amundsen.lsc@gmail.com](mailto:amundsen.lsc@gmail.com).*

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| <b>ADJOURN</b> |
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*Mr NEWMAN moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr REED. The motion was approved unanimously.*

*The meeting adjourned at 7:19pm.*