



Local School Council Minutes  
 November 20, 2019  
 2019-2020

**I. Welcome and Call to Order at 5:48pm**

John Falck	Parent Rep, Chairperson	Present
Rachael Russ	Parent Rep	Present
Leigh Ann Dreves	Parent Rep, Secretary	Present
Rosalynn Walker	Parent Rep	Present
Esteven Gonzalez	Parent Rep, Vice Chairperson	Present
Bridget Johnson	Parent Rep	Present
Jason Emeott	Community Rep	Present- arrived at 6:04pm
Steven McClellan	Community Rep	Present- arrived at 5:49pm
Chris Graves	Principal	Present
Katie LeMoine	Teacher Rep	Present
TBD	Teacher Rep	Absent
TBD	Non-Teaching Staff Rep	Absent

*Also in attendance: Sam Simmerman, Kat O'Brien, Ms. Parrilli, Treyvon Green*

**II. Approval of Meeting Minutes**

- a. Mr. Falck made a motion to approve the October 16, 2019 LSC meeting minutes, Ms. Johnson seconded. Six voted in favor; one abstention and no objections.

**III. Principal Report**

State of the School update, with a focus on LaSalle's top score of 1+ received on the CPS SQRP school rating. Note, LaSalle's SQRP score, with some supporting details, is posted on the CPS website. <https://cps.edu/Performance/Pages/PerformancePolicy.aspx>

- i. A summary of the CPS Five Year Vision, which focuses on academic progress, financial stability and integrity / equity
- ii. SQRP ratings are assigned based on multiple measures
  - 1. schools earn between 1-5 points for each metric, which are weighted into a single score. Metrics include:
    - a. School attainment on the spring NWEA test
    - b. School growth on the NWEA, measured from prior year scores. (Growth is the most heavily weighted factor in a school's SQRP rating.)
    - c. Student attendance rate
    - d. My Voice, My School survey responses, which are administered in Spring, and measure opinions on topics including: supportive school environment, collaborative teachers, effective leaders, ambitious instruction, involved families
  - 2. To achieve a 1+ rating a school must have both its Math and Reading NWEA Attainment rank at least 90th percentile nationally, or have a weighted SQRP score above 4.0
  - 3. LaSalle's SQRP score moved from 3.7 to 4.1, so we achieved a 1+ rating.

- iii. Review of LLA Math and Reading Attainment - data broken down by grade
- iv. Review of LLA Math and Reading Growth - data broken down by grade
- v. SQRP Comparison at a Glance
  1. Three year trend shows that we are moving in the right direction with improvements in multiple areas at the school
  2. Performance gaps still present: African American and Diverse Learner groups
- vi. Instructional Areas of Focus, Aligned to our CIWP priorities
  1. Continued focus on writing
  2. Increased focus on math
- vii. Takeaways
  1. Overall, the aggregate data shows that we are moving in the right direction as a school but there are areas to improve
  2. “We accomplish more together”. “We are a 1+ school on a mission”

Discussion:

- Teachers serve on many teams and while not every teacher leads a team, there is a wide range of teacher participation.
- Math Growth is strong in 7th grade for all student groups. In prior grades there is a performance gap for African American and Diverse Learner students, which as groups have lower math growth than the rest of the grade. Mr. Graves said that he and the teachers want to make sure each student has what they need to learn.
- A training session on 11/8 focused on developing understanding behavior triggers, which the FOL funded.
- School tours continue, and have higher attendance than last year
- Post-strike, the PPC Union Team has been meeting and discussing priorities with the administration
- Restorative Practice coaching is being given to the teachers.
- Mr. Graves met with the network chief to set personal goals for the year
- Thank you to Ms. Johnson who has been helping Mr. Graves review the financial planning cycle

**IV. Public Comment**

- a. Treyvon Green, our Right at School representative, said that he is available for discussion about Right at School activities including recess or after-school programs if anyone has questions or suggestions.

**V. Committee Reports**

- a. LSC Chair and Secretary Report
  - i. A more detailed report prepared by John was distributed and reviewed that contained by grade NWEA attainment and growth performance for reading and math at LaSalle for the past few years. [CPS data source <https://cps.edu/SchoolData/Pages/SchoolData.aspx>]
  - ii. Discussion of NWEA growth and attainment definitions. Raw scores in reading and math are ranked nationally, which allows comparison of both overall and relative attainment and growth.
  - iii. Growth is calculated based on the change from one Spring NWEA test to the next. As a ranking, that score is compared to other students (grades and schools) that started with the same prior year (average) score.
  - iv. Review of Reading Growth by Class. Reading growth was especially strong in 5th through 7th grades last year.
  - v. Review of Math performance. In 2017 LaSalle adopted the Pearson math curriculum. This primarily impacted the lower grades. No special training was

provided to teachers on the curriculum in 2017, and there was limited training in 2018, so teachers are still learning how to teach the new material. This may be why grades are below the national average for math growth, with last years' growth scores improving.

#### Discussion

Ms Walker did some investigation and found that LaSalle II is most similar to LaSalle in regards to race and socio-economic status.

A question about what is happening with 8th grade student performance, which over recent years shows a sharp drop in test growth, following a consistent 98th or 99th percentile growth each year by the 7th grade. This trend occurs at other CPS level 1+ schools, but the average drop is greater at LLA. It was noted that 7th grade Spring NWEA test is critical for selective school enrollment, so many students work with in-school and out-of-school tutors in 7th grade to do as well as they can for that test, and that (high) achievement 7th grade test is the starting point to calculate 8th grade growth in reading and math. Mr. Graves has discussed academic focus with current 8th grade students and teachers, and will look into this further. He wants to make sure everyone understands that finishing strong in 8th grade sets the momentum for high school, and that high school administrators consider 8th grade growth when deciding what classes to put freshmen in.

Some of the younger grades, especially fourth grade, have a recent pattern of low growth in test scores. Mr. Graves has been discussing this with the teachers to make sure they have the support and training they need. He noted that performance is due to many factors, including curriculum and classroom climate.

Mr. Graves and the teachers have been focusing on professional development and training.

#### b. Building/Traffic/Safety Committee

- i. There have been fewer dogs on the playground and field during non-school hours. The multiple posted signs seem to be spreading awareness that dogs are not allowed. Dogs on the property still are a frequent issue though.
- ii. The 'kiss and go' lanes seem to be running more smoothly. There have been difficulties with parents dropping children from the center of Orleans, so children would walk through the drop-off lane.
- iii. Rosalynn mentioned that SamSimmerman is concerned about traffic flow of cars that head south down Orleans and left onto Eugenie, and then have to wait because they are getting backed up from traffic at the stop sign at Eugenie and North Park. It was asked if perhaps someone could direct traffic at the Eugenie and North Park intersection stop sign, although it was noted that this is not adjacent to the school so would have to be discussed with the city.
- iv. Demo of security cameras - anyone on the LSC who would like to see the features of the new security camera system should contact Mr. Graves.
- v. Chipped paint on benches will be addressed as part of the routine maintenance cycle, maybe every 3/6/12 months.
- vi. Loose strings on turf - this is not a hazard. This is a natural part of the turf and isn't a danger
- vii. Request to change the direction of the playground and field lights - need to balance the goal of having sufficient light coverage to support safety and security cameras while trying to minimize the light shining into houses on the south side of Eugenie.

#### c. Budget & Finance Committee

- i. Ms. Johnson met with Mr. Graves over the strike and together they reviewed many of the finance and budget reports
- d. CIWP Updates
  - i. The new two-year CIWP cycle is coming. The LSC will discuss and approve goals for the school.
- e. Principal Evaluation Committee
  - i. The strike pushed back the deadlines for the final 2018-19 principal evaluation submission (which needs the final school test performance results, which were delayed). John has asked the office of LSC Relations for the new deadlines. The LSC will need to agree and submit the final review, and will discuss it with Mr. Graves prior to submission.
- f. PPLC - Leadership Committee (Teacher Leadership team elected by the teachers)
  - i. No updates
- g. Technology Committee
  - i. Esteven has stepped down from the position of the chair of the Technology Committee. John noted that this is a very complicated role and that Esteven made and led many improvements to the technology at the school over the past years.
- h. Community Relations
  - i. No updates

**VI. FOL Update**

- a. Current and planned FOL fundraisers:
  - i. Coffee fundraising sales are going on now and will end Friday
  - ii. About 100 playground bricks are available for purchase by neighbors or families
  - iii. The FOL is launching the pledge drive on Giving Tuesday and it will carry through January. Asking \$500 per student but the goal is to have as many families donate as possible.
  - iv. There will be a school cookbook offered for sale in the Spring.

**VII. Old Business**

- a. No old business items.

**VIII. New Business**

- a. Ms. Walker asked that the LSC section of school website indicate the starting time of each LSC meeting as 5:45pm, rather than indicating that the meetings are usually held "in the evening".

**IX. Issues for Discussion or Vote**

- a. Yearbook and Graduation picture fundraising proposal
  - i. Mr. Graves made a motion to approve and Mr. Falck seconded. All in favor; no abstentions and no objections.
- b. Various budget transfers
  - i. Budget transfer from 29161-115-57940-888888-000576 to 29161-115-51320-290001-000576 for \$2,462.16 to increase sub bucket
  - ii. Budget transfer from 29161-115-57940-180006-300110 to 29161-115-53405-1190350300110 for \$5,400.00 for bilingual Ed. Grad/to buy chromebooks and headphones
  - iii. Budget transfer from 29161-115-51330-290001-000575 to 29161-115-51320-290001-000575 for \$5,000.00 increase sub bucket

- iv. Budget transfer from 29161-115-51320-290001-000576 to 29161-115-51330-290001-000576 for \$339.79 to increase sub teacher bucket benefits
  - v. Mr. Falck made a motion to approve the above items and Mr. Russ seconded. All in favor; no abstentions and no objections.
- c. Chromebook purchase proposal, using schools funds held in the school's playground account comparable to the funds raised during the Orange Ruler event by the FOL for the purpose of technology purchases. [The amount of the purchase will be transferred by the FOL to a newly created Playground Fun which the FOL will manage, effectively 'swapping' school funds with FOL funds, and exchanging money designated for the playground with money designated for technology purchases.]
- i. Mr. Graves made a motion to spend up to \$33,500 using the school funds held in the school's playground account to purchase chromebooks for the school through CDW, which is the CPS approved chromebook vendor. CDW only offers one Dell chromebook model to CPS. It was stated that a smaller purchase might be made initially (to check out the devices), to be followed by purchase for the remainder. This was seconded Mr. Falck. All in favor, no abstentions or objections.

[Note, as discussed previously, the FOL will re-designate money it had planned to spend on chromebook purchases for the school to be directed towards playground expenses, as the FOL can use non-CPS vendors for playground related purchases.]

#### **X. Open Forum**

- a. Ms. LeMoine thanked the LSC for approving the extended day pay for the teachers who work on committees. This is appreciated by teachers.
- b. Ms. Walker asked about the age of the school's iPads and if they were OK for NWEA testing. It was stated that iPads are only used for K-2 and not used for for the formal NWEA tests.
- c. Ms. Walker commented that she liked the new format for report card pickup where teachers for 5th / 6th grade were in the same room, with the morning for walk-ins and the latter part of the day reserved for appointment sessions. Ms. Drevs mentioned that there was some confusion about that process, as it wasn't clear if afternoon appointments could be made that day or if they needed to be made in advance. The process and communication will be reviewed before the next Report Card pickup, it was noted that there is no easy way to coordinate single day meetings, especially for the upper grades where students have multiple teachers. It was stated that if any parents want to meet with teachers outside of the Report Card pickup times they can schedule a time to do so on another day.
- d. Ms. Walker suggested that on Report Card pickup day the report cards should be removed from the report card table and put in a secure place if someone is not handing them out.

#### **XI. Adjournment at 7:32pm**