



Local School Council Minutes
 September 11, 2019
 2019-2020

Welcome and Call to Order 5:59 PM with quorum present.

John Falck	Parent Rep, Chairperson	
Rachael Russ	Parent Rep	
Leigh Ann Dreves	Parent Rep, Secretary	
Rosalynn Walker	Parent Rep	
Esteven Gonzalez	Parent Rep, Vice Chairperson	
Bridget Johnson	Parent Rep	
Jason Emeott	Community Rep	(arrived 6:05)
Steven McClellan	Community Rep	
Chris Graves	Principal	
Katie LeMoine	Teacher Rep	(left 7:30)

Also in attendance: Erin (Kindergarten parent), Nikkie (Kindergarten parent), Jennifer Medley, Ian Smithdahl, Ms. Jenkins, Illene Siemer, Bridget Veitch, Sam Simmerman (neighbor)

Approval of Meeting Minutes

A motion was made to approve the August 2019 meeting minutes. All voted in favor with no objections or abstentions.

Principal Report

Enrollment/Funding Update

- As of the August LSC meeting 540 students were scheduled to enroll at LaSalle, but on the first day of school we had only 523 actually registered. This is an increase of 7 students from last year’s enrollment, but less than our target enrollment for this year of 543. *[9/23 update: final enrollment 524 students. JF.]*
- There are three steps to the enrollment process. Some new students accepted the offer on GoCPS but did not then register through Aspen (the 2nd step); some made decisions at the end of summer to go to a different school (e.g., if got off a waitlist); five students enrolled but didn’t show up on the first day. We can see which of these went to another CPS school, but not if they are going to a non-CPS school.

	Current Enrollment	Enrollment Target
Kinder:	57	64
1st:	58	64
2nd:	63	64
3rd:	62	64
4th:	61	64
5th:	54	do not plan on additional students
6th:	62	do not plan on additional students
7th:	52	do not plan on additional students
8th:	<u>54</u>	do not plan on additional students
	523	

- Our enrollment is above our CPS budget of 516 students, so CPS will distribute additional money to us after the 10th day of school, with a bit more supplemental aid distributed after the 20th day. In combination we expect about \$44,000 from these payments.
- While 523 students gives us an increase in school funding compared to the official CPS budget based on 516 students, this is less than the target budget we approved as an LSC that assumed we would have 543 students (a decision made in August when 540 said they would attend).
- In the CPS budget system based on our current employees at the school we have a current shortfall of \$53,000, which will be mostly offset by the increase in funds of \$44,000 from student enrollment, for a net \$9,000 shortfall. This figure does not account for four possible teacher aides approved in August (4 x \$20,000 = \$80,000) that have not been hired.
Total Estimated shortfall with aides ~\$89,000 if we still want to hire 4 aides
- Ms. Walker questioned if we need aides per union rules due to larger classes.
 - Hiring aides is not required by contract, since classes size is split for portions of the day in Essentials and Language classes (which have half the students out of the room).
- Ms. Lemoine noted that support is needed based on full classroom size and not the average
- Ms. Walker questioned if we should admit additional students in 5th thru 8th grade, and provide those students with extra help with language. Mr. Graves noted that only two students have enrolled in all grades since the start of school, so it is unlikely that opening up higher grades for transfers would increase enrollment at this point.
- Mr. Graves noted additional income options such as renting the gym to LTS will help generate income throughout the year, which we could spend on classroom aides.
- Rachael Russ: Would adding classroom aides help us returning to a Level 1+ school?
 - Answer: Not in the short term. The biggest impact in our Level rating is our school growth in test scores for grades 3-8, so while adding aides to the youngest grades should have longer term benefit, it will not provide same-year impact for the grades with measured test growth that are calculated as part of our SQRP school rating.

Public comment

None

Committee Reports

- a. LSC Chair and Secretary Report
 - i. None
- b. Building/Traffic/Safety Committee
 - i. Playground concerns that some sections not open during recess to all students; should be noted that the stanchions are temporary for safety.
 - ii. Issues to discuss with general contractor: Strings coming up from turf; Benches have chipping paint.
 - iii. Request made by Ms. Walker to allow the LSC to review the security cameras output.
 - iv. Mr. Graves is organizing a safety focus meeting comprised of different parents to discuss safety concerns.
 - v. Group discussion on how information is disseminated for active intruder
- c. Budget & Finance Committee
 - i. None - discussed earlier in meeting
- d. CIWP Updates
 - i. Instructional Leadership team update. Recently had a retreat and will continue meeting this year.
 - ii. Ms. Walker raised a concern that last year there was an Algebra classroom divided by test scores. The lower scoring students only worked on pre-Algebra.

The racial make-up of the classrooms was disproportionately fewer minorities in the Algebra classroom.

- a. This year all students are in 8th grade Algebra. No hi/lo group. Teacher will differentiate instruction based on student needs.

e. Principal Evaluation Committee

i. Overview of principal evaluation schedule for the year:

1. October: Final step of prior year eval after Student Growth and other data from the last school year is reported by CPS. The LSC must vote on the final rating by November 1. There is an optional feedback session and revision deadline of November 30.
2. In October/November: Current year performance goals should be agreed (if any new ones), which along with other performance goals are monitored for the rest of the year.
3. Approx February/March: Conduct and review surveys of teachers, parents, etc. for input into principal performance.
4. April: Discuss and agree performance ratings and score; deliver to principal by May 1

f. PPLC - Leadership Committee (Teacher Leadership team elected by the teachers)

- i. Looking for another Teacher LSC Rep to replace Ms. Andalcio.

g. Technology Committee

- i. Updating website with new staff
- ii. Adding donation ability on website for FOL donations in addition to ability to pay school fees via the website.
- iii. Still have 300 older Chromebooks that need refreshment. It was noted that some of these do not have sufficient screen resolution for some of the tests.
 1. Orange ruler fundraiser will go for Technology (FOL fundraiser for Chromebooks)

h. Community Relations

i. Playground related questions

1. Noticed dogs being brought on the playground by neighbors. Worry about dogs going to the bathroom on the turf field. Can we add 'No Dogs Allowed' signs?
-Signage is being created in conjunction with the FOL Beautification Committee
-Work with Alderman's office about next steps with community dialog about playground rules
2. What time does playground close? Issue of who will monitor during off-hours and weekends. Noted that anyone can call the police if they see illegal activity.
3. Sam mentioned that new plants have not been watered; asked if playground spotlights could be tilted down more.

FOL Update

- i. Next FOL meeting is on Friday, September 20th at 8:30 in the morning.
- j. Ilene Seimer, FOL President, gave an update that the FOL budget for this year has approximately \$40,000 less money available than was expected as of her preliminary report at last month's LSC meeting. The FOL is working to revise spending projections for this school year as part of a new budget, and will discuss donation and spending priorities with the principal.

Old Business

- k. Ms. Walker said that she had conversations with Office of LSC Relations about the election of the Sergeant at Arms position at our July Organizational meeting. She noted that the meeting minutes do not list who seconded each motion, and that this should be recorded because if a motion does not have a second then it is not a valid motion and cannot be voted on. She said that the Office of LSC Relations said it is the responsibility of the person making a motion to make sure it is clear what the motion is, and that it is recommended that the Secretary repeat the motion when recording the vote so that everyone knows what they are voting for.

Ms. Walker said that Eduardo Camacho (our LSC Relations coordinator) recommended that we not have the Sergeant at Arms position, since other LSCs in our network do not have it and because everyone is a volunteer on the LSC it is not right to have one LSC member telling other members what to do in our meetings.

According to our by-laws the only position that cannot be held by a parent is the community relations position. Ms. Walker thought that in the July discussion it was said that the Sergeant at Arms position should not be held by a parent representative, but a review of the July minutes and memory of the discussion by others pointed out that the statement had been made in July that it might be beneficial to have a community rep in the position, not that a parent rep could not hold the position.

Ms. Walker said that according to our by-laws we should not have created and voted on the Sergeant at Arms position at the same meeting and therefore the July vote was not valid.

Ms. Walker pointed out that although our current meeting (September) agenda includes a motion to create the Sergeant at Arms position, our by-laws say that by-law amendments need to be posted 7 days in advance of the meeting, and this agenda was only posted 48 hours in advance so the motion cannot be voted on tonight.

Ms. Walker does not feel comfortable that the July minutes show she voted in favor of Jason being the Sergeant at Arms when she did not know that the vote was in violation of our by-laws and she did not understand the motion that was made.

John said that he can have a motion for our October meeting to create the Sergeant at Arms position as a by-laws amendment, which will be announced at least 7 days in advance of the meeting. In October we then can re-vote for the Sergeant at Arms position. Ms. Walker said that she no longer is interested in being the Sergeant at Arms.

- l. Freedom of Information Act Officer. John nominates Jason, who agreed to fill the role. Steven 2nd. All voted in favor, with no objections and no absentions.

New Business

- m. Teacher training discussion postponed in the interest of time.

Issues for Discussion or Vote

- n. Motions
 - i. Fundraiser picture & books- John 1st , Ms. Lemoine 2nd - all in favor, no objections
 - ii. Motions 5-10 for budget transfers - John 1st, Estenven 2nd. All voted in favor, with no objections and no absentions.

iii. Motion #3 recommending transfer of remaining SOS funds \$68,798 with \$53,000 to the teaching position opened up through the halftime position of ms jones and rest for teacher aides.

- Can the \$68,000 be used for anything if not needed to cover salaries?
 - Reallocation of the funds will need a vote. These funds do not need to be spent in this fiscal year.
- The school needs \$54,000 (without aide positions). However transferring all \$68,000 would not allow for aides without the 20th day increase of \$44,000.
- Issues raised with fully depleting SOS funds. Still need to address the need for Chromebooks, and may face other spending surprises. Historically FOL has been able to offer support for technology and other expenses not related to teacher positions, so will continue to discuss funding needs and priorities with the FOL.

Revised Motion: Transfer \$54,000 from SOS funds to cover the current budget deficit (which in the budget system is listed for 4th grade homeroom), with intent to hire two aides once the CPS SBB funding on 10th/20th received. John 1st, Roslynn 2nd. All voted in favor, with no objections and no absentions.

Open Forum

Ms. Walker would like to reach out to Ms. Sonneberg's family to have an event where people can tell the family how they felt about her. Mr. Graves said that he would communicate the suggestion to them.

Adjournment 7:52pm

Next LSC meeting will be Wednesday October 16th, at 5:45pm. (Note this is the 3rd Wednesday of the month)