

News From the Local School Council (LSC)

July 6, 2009 Meeting Summary

The agenda items discussed were the nomination and election of new LSC officers, creation of a schedule of meetings for 2009-2010, vote on Rules of Order, establishment of Standing Committees, review of preliminary report on ISAT scores, update on extended day proposal, review Principal contract renewal timeline, and review of Agenda outline.

New LSC Officers

Chairperson: Ellen Ericson, Vice-Chair: Brendan Gilboy, Secretary: Barbara Kantrow

Monthly Schedule of Regular LSC Meetings for the Year

The meetings will be held on the following Mondays at 6:30 in the Community Room of Audubon School: September 21, October 19, November 16, December 14, January 25, February 22, March 22, April 12, May 17 and June 7.

Establishment of Standing Committees

The LSC will have three standing committees this year.

1. PPLC (Professional Personnel Leadership Committee) - Teacher LSC Representatives lead this group of up to 7 teachers voted by their peers in August. The members of the committee will advise Principal Price regarding curriculum issues, end of year reviews, etc. Principal Price wants to refocus this group to also stress teacher leadership skills.

2. Bilingual – This committee is headed by Ms. Gonzalez who is the bilingual coordinator for the school. They will address issues regarding supporting ESL students and parents of ESL students as well as supporting the families of these students by providing educational opportunities. Linda volunteered to act as a liaison to the LSC for this committee.

3. SIPAAA – a new committee will be formed to help prepare this year's school improvement plan. Ellen and Brendan agreed to co-chair this committee. Linda, Barbara, Brian, and Patty volunteered to be its members. The goals of the committee will be to design the process for input into this year's plan. For example, they will create parent surveys and focus groups to gain information. The Principal is responsible for writing the plan.

Review of Preliminary ISAT Scores

Overall the ISAT results are very good. Science scores went up 18 points. We decreased the number of the students in the lowest performance range while also increasing the number of students in the highest performance range. Principal Price stated that overall growth of scores is more important than simply meeting an "arbitrary" bar. More detailed reports on the ISAT will follow.

Update on Extended Day Proposal

A meeting was held by the committee of parent, teacher and administration representatives regarding this issue. Three potential plans were set forth. The details of what was considered the most viable plan are still being worked out. If the details of this plan can be worked out then the plan will go to the teachers for a vote. More information on this issue will be available at the October LSC meeting.

Review Principal Contract Renewal Timeline

Principal Price's contract is up at the end of this school year. LSC members need to do an assessment of Principal Price's performance and decide whether to renew his contract as principal. Members will complete an evaluation form and then meet to discuss same in a closed meeting on August 26. Members will vote on whether to renew John's contract at the September meeting.

Principal's Report

A major development is the elimination of the "Preschool For All" program at the school due to funding cuts. Currently, the school is contacting families who had signed up for program to see if they are interested in paying \$3800 each for a half day program. So far 20 families have indicated they would like to do so. We will need 40 families to sign up for this program to make it viable.

Please join us at our next meeting, Monday, September 21, 2009 in the Community Room at 6:30 p.m. The topics on that agenda are the "State of the School" – current goals and update on the high school proposal, the approval of the Principal Evaluation and contract renewal vote.

Audubon's Local School Council: John Price (Principal), Ellen Ericson (Chairperson), Brendan Gilboy (Vice-Chair), Barbara Kantrow (Secretary), Linda McBride, Brian Ortiz, Robin Kain, Diane Kamil, Jody Ebstein, Patty Jones, and Mark Ferrante.