

Audubon Elementary Minutes of Local School Council
Meeting Minutes
Monday, December 15, 2010 – 6:30 pm – Community Room

Call to Order 6:30 pm

Roll Call (LSC Members introduced themselves)

Members Present:

Sarah Gallagher, Community Representative
Phyllis (O'Hara) Ryan, Faculty Representative
Jody Ebstein, Faculty Representative
Jill Bass, Parent Representative
Barbara Kantrow, Parent Representative
Nick Hardgrove, Parent Representative, Secretary
Brendan Gilboy, Parent Representative, Vice-Chairman
Alex Pramenko, Parent Representative, Chairman
John Price, Principal

Members Absent:

Patty Jones
Maria Griffith

Approval of Agenda

Phyllis Ryan moved that the Agenda be approved, Barbara Kantrow seconded the motion.

The Agenda was unanimously approved.

Approval of October Minutes

Barbara Kantrow moved to approve the Minutes of the November 15, 2010 meeting. Jill Bass seconded the motion.

The Minutes were approved by unanimous vote.

Review of LSC Procedures

Chairman Pramenko indicated to the audience that participation at LSC meetings will be the same as it has in previous years:

- i. Agenda Item introduced
- ii. LSC discussion is had
- iii. Audience members who signed in to speak get 2 minutes.

At the end of the listed agenda items, audience members who have signed in to speak on non-Agenda topics get 3 minutes.

Principal Reports

Principal Price presented an update on the Audubon High School Proposal.

He indicated that Gordon Tech bowed out suddenly and definitively and we are still looking for an alternative location. The end of February is the effective drop dead date, as we would need to have the lottery in February, as that is when most students will be finding out where they are going to high school.

Mr. Fay presented an update to the discipline report. Generally, our increased focus on behavior in classrooms and hallways seems to be working. Students are aware of the tighter enforcement of the rules and are modifying their behavior accordingly.

Mr. Fay also gave a report on the after school programs. He indicated that approximately 70% of Audubon students are involved in at least one after school activities. Generally, the after school care providers (YMCA, Wishcraft, Unicoi, etc...) continue to offer Audubon families several excellent options for after school care. There are several Pro Clubs that also offer after school activities for Audubon students, that have been well received.

Some discussion was had concerning how certain businesses were allowed to have advertising flyers placed in students homework folders and how pro club providers are selected. From that discussion came the understanding that at the beginning of the school year, local businesses are welcome to propose Pro Club activities to be made available to Audubon students. We have standing agreements with several providers for this school year. The Pro Clubs providers do pay rent for using Audubon facilities (\$1026 in the first session).

Discussion was had as to whether we should allow vendors who do not support Audubon to provide Pro Club classes to Audubon students. Going forward it was suggested that when evaluating a potential pro club provider, we encourage providers to be supporters of Audubon. When selecting between competing vendors, one factor to be considered should be whether that vendor shares Audubon's vision.

It was suggested that we ask Alderman Waguespack to attend our January meeting and explain his vision for improvements to Lakeview High School, and his lack of support for the Audubon High School. It was agreed that each Aldermanic candidate would be invited to the January meeting.

Additionally, it was noted that there are many teacher-led after school interest clubs that are enjoyed by the 7th and 8th graders. And 104 students are involved in ARS, which provides them an opportunity to improve their reading ability.

Next, Mr. Fay gave an Audubon sports update (a welcome first for this LSC). Girls on the Run and Girls on track were extremely successful and exciting programs in the fall, and we are looking into having additional teams, so that more girls can be involved in this wonderful program. There is now a Boys Basketball team for 5th and 6th graders and there will be a Girls Softball team in the fall. Finally, the possibility of volleyball and soccer teams was discussed.

Finally, Mr. Price discussed the Audubon Grading Policies and Procedures (which are soon to be revamped). A “C” grade is given to students who meet accuracy requirements (78-85%) and are reading at their grade level. A “B” is given to students who either exceed accuracy requirements (86%+) at their grade level, or meet the accuracy requirements, but read above their grade level. An “A” is awarded to students who both exceed the accuracy level and read above their grade level. Audubon teachers use a 0-4 point rubric in evaluating the student reading levels. The CPS definition of A work is “significantly above grade level”.

Additionally Audubon has a policy in place concerning the minimum percentage grade that a student can receive on any particular assignment or test. If the work was attempted the lowest percentage a student can receive for that assignment is 60%. If the work was not attempted the student receives a 50% for that assignment. This reduces the devastating effect of a missed or bombed assignment.

Homework can only count for a total of 10% of a student’s final grade.

CPS will be moving to a 90, 80, 70 scale, which several north side elementary schools have already done (in hopes of giving their students an advantage in the selective enrollment high school application process).

It was suggested that we distribute something to parents to make it easier for them to understand the grading policies.

Finally, Principal Price requested that \$8,000 be transferred from Account No. 2-8113 (Gust Foundation) to Account No. 2-4205 (Student Trip) to cover a negative balance and provide funding for student travel to field trips and extracurricular activities. Brendan Gilboy moved that the transfer be approved. Jody Ebstein seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Legislative Committee - Jill Bass indicated that Raise Your Hand will be hosting Mayoral Forum at Walter Payton High School.

High School Partnering Committee – No report

Bilingual Committee – No report

Professional Personal Leadership Committee - Will be looking at what the teachers and staff would do if the Audubon High School happens.

Green Committee – An Audubon parent (Amy Antonioli) approached Principal Price in hopes of helping Audubon apply for various green initiative grants available to schools in Illinois.

New Business

The turf project continues to await CPS approval. The CPS facilities person is back from maternity leave and will be coming to Audubon over Winter Break.

Public Participation

Robin Kain thanked Principal Price for his efforts with the high school.

Principal Price indicated that there would be two Spelling Bees this winter.

Adjournment

Jody Ebstein moved to adjourn, seconded by Brendan Gilboy. By unanimous vote, the meeting was adjourned at 8:21.