

Audubon Elementary Minutes of Local School Council
Meeting Minutes
Monday, March 21, 2011 – 6:30 pm – Community Room

Call to Order 6:30 pm

Roll Call (LSC Members introduced themselves)

Members Present:

Phyllis (O'Hara) Ryan, Faculty Representative
Jody Ebstein, Faculty Representative
Maria Griffith, Parent Representative
Barbara Kantrow, Parent Representative
Nick Hardgrove, Parent Representative, Secretary
Alex Pramenko, Parent Representative, Chairman
Patty Jones, Community Representative
Sarah Gallagher, Community Representative
John Price, Principal

Members Absent:

Jill Bass, Parent Representative
Brendan Gilboy, Parent Representative, Vice-Chairman
Abby Levin, Staff Member

Approval of Agenda

John Price asked that an Agenda item be added to discuss some fund transfers that he is requesting.

Barbara Kantrow moved that the Agenda be approved as Amended, Nick Hardgrove seconded the motion.

The Agenda was unanimously approved.

Approval of February Minutes

A couple of corrections were noted in the draft of the February Meeting Minutes. Patty Jones moved to approve the Minutes of the February 28, 2011 meeting, as Amended. Barbara Kantrow seconded the motion.

The Minutes were approved by unanimous vote. It was discussed among the members that the meeting minutes should be made available on-line.

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

Audubon Entrepreneurial Academy:

Principal Price informed the LSC that High School proposal currently under consideration (co-sharing CPS space with Marshall Middle School), would not be presented to the school board at its meeting on Wednesday, March 23, 2011. The High School design team withdrew the high school proposal on Friday, March 18th.

Some discussion was had about the issues that led to this decision and Mr. Price indicated that we are taking steps to assist our existing 8th grade students in finding alternative high school arrangements for next year.

The LSC formally thanked Mr. Price for his efforts in trying to put the high school proposal together over the last several years.

Mandatory Breakfast in the Classroom

Principal Price indicated that the meeting of some school principals with CPS officials did not last long and didn't generate much new information.

Audubon is sending a flyer home to parents asking them to identify any allergies that we need to be aware of. The breakfast will be delivered in paper bags, and will be delivered for every student in the school. The implementation meeting is still scheduled for April 14, 2011. May 9th is the start date.

LSC and Audience members expressed concern over whether recycling issues have been addresses and that the current program, as described contradicts CPS's own allergy policy and violates Illinois allergy guidelines. Other concerns included the fact that there are various allergies many of which are life-threatening and whether there would be a breakfast menu schedule. Kids will be allowed to do work or read if they are not eating the breakfast supplied.

Principal Evaluation

The LSC and Principal Price must share Principal evaluations with each other by May 1, 2011. The Final Principal Evaluation would be done at the May meeting.

The LSC set an Executive Session for Thursday, April 14th at 6:30 pm for Principal Evaluation

SIPAAA

Discussion was had as to whether any changes need to be made to the SIPAAA categories or their descriptions.

In Category 6 (“On Track to Graduation”), the following new description would replace the current Category Description: “Identify most likely selective enrollment high school and neighborhood high school that Audubon students attend and develop a relationship with those schools that would improve communication and student preparation for ninth grade.” (Those two high schools currently would be Lane and Lakeview, respectively.)

Regarding Category 5 (“Technology”), discussion was had as to how we have increased students’ access to technology in the classroom. Mention was made of the use of the 3 laptop carts and the Promethean boards in a few classrooms and that perhaps we should rethink the indicators of success. Whether we increase the number of laptops and Promethean Boards may not be the best indicators of success in this category.

Additionally it was noted that Gigi is now available at home, for additional practice. The Compass/Odyssey program is being used quite a bit in the middle school and some in the elementary school. We are using it to augment the Walking Math program. Finally, it was noted that the middle school students were given zip drives to help them manage their computer based school work.

A question was raised as to whether the 25 student class size was a reasonable, achievable goal. Mr. Price indicated that it was possible, but difficult.

Finally, the Differentiated Math program was discussed at length.

Mr. Price indicated that, generally, the curriculum is getting good feedback. LSC members questioned why parent volunteers do not meet with the classroom teachers of the students they are tutoring. It was agreed that we need to get good feedback from the parents that are doing the teaching to see what’s working and what’s not.

It was also asked whether Audubon needs to have a faculty member dedicated solely to running this program. It was explained that this program was only a portion of what the Math Differentiation Specialist is responsible for. (Math Differentiation, Classroom Teaching (Gigi), and Implementing a new math assessment and evaluation for K through 3rd graders and doing those assessments)

Transfers/Expenditures

Principal Price presented 5 Discretionary Transfers for LSC approval:

1. *Merit School Partnership*: To transfer \$19,000 from account 225.51330.290001.000703 to account 225.54125.119065.000703 to provide expert contractors to provide services to students in the classroom.
2. *Redmoon Arts Partnership*: To transfer \$5,000 from account 225.57940.119020.000703 to account 225.54125.119065.000703 to provide expert contractors to provide services to students in the classroom.

3. *Literacy Alignment Resources for Classrooms*: To transfer \$4,900 from account 225.57940.119020.000703 to account 225.53405.119035.000703 to plan comprehension strategy scope and sequence for grades K-3 in year one, and K-5 in year two.
4. *Literacy Alignment Resources for Classrooms*: To transfer \$3,100 from account 225.57940.119021.000703 to account 225.53450.119035.000703 to plan comprehension strategy scope and sequence for grades K-3 in year one, and K-5 in year two.
5. *2011-12 ST Math Annual License Renewal Fee*: To transfer \$3,500 from account 225.57940.119021.000703 to account 225.54125.119016.000703 to provide differentiated math instruction to students in grades 1-5 including ST Math.

Nick Hardgrove motioned that we approve all 5 Transfers as stated. Barbara Kantrow seconded the motion.

The Transfers were approved by unanimous vote.

Committee Reports

There were no committee reports.

Public Participation

Mark Ahlheim recapped the discussion concerning the technology category of the SIPAAA, by offering the following 3 “take aways”: 1. We need to evaluate whether the currently expressed “Indicators of Success” are actually good measures of success, 2. We should focus on the use of technology, as opposed to the accumulation of technology, and 3. We need a comprehensive view so that we can better decide how to apply our scarce resources. To assist in that regard, Mark submitted to the LSC a summary of issues and suggestions for using technology at Audubon to augment instruction.

Finally, a question was raised as to whether the teacher “looping” program was going to continue this year. Principal Price indicated that that decision had not yet been made for this year. Once we determine which staff members will be returning next year, we can address that issue. Also, Principal Price indicated that several teachers are up for tenure: Ms. Wallace, Ms. Schumacher, Ms. O’Dowd, Ms. Snyder & Ms. Harbottle. Ms. Ryan achieved tenure in January.

Announcements

The Spring Fling was a great success, bringing in over \$100,000.

Adjournment

Jody Ebstein moved to adjourn, seconded by John Price. By unanimous vote, the meeting was adjourned at 8:25.