

Audubon Elementary Minutes of Local School Council
Meeting Minutes
Monday, October 18, 2010 – 6:30 pm – Community Room

Call to Order 6:30 pm

Roll Call (LSC Members introduced themselves)

Members Present:

Patty Jones, Community Representative
Sarah Gallagher, Community Representative
Phyllis (O'Hara) Ryan, Faculty Representative
Jody Ebstein, Faculty Representative
Maria Griffith, Parent 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:

None

Approval of Agenda

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

The Agenda was unanimously approved.

Approval of September Minutes

Principal Price moved to approve the Minutes of the September 20, 2010 meeting. Barbara Kantrow 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.

Unfinished Business

Principal Performance Evaluation – Principal Price indicated that in the event the LSC wants to modify the criteria used in evaluating Principal Performance, such modification would have to be voted on prior to November 1, 2010. There was discussion had on the existing criteria and the ability of previous LSC's to properly evaluate Principal Performance using those criteria. No motion for modification was made.

\$400 RFP for LSC Funds – The LSC discussed the request for and potential uses of \$400 available to the LSC from CPS. Suggestions were made concerning being able to use some of the money for administrative costs (copying, etc...) of the LSC, and some for future LSC training. A 50-50 split between those two items seemed to be the consensus. Nick Hardgrove moved for the approval of submission of the RFP for \$400, requesting \$200 for "Resources or Materials for LSC Use" and \$200 for "Refreshments during training". Barbara Kantrow seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

Principal Reports

Additional Information on Boys' Performance - Principal Price, in response to comments from the LSC in the September meeting, discussed the difference between boys' and girls' improvement on the reading portion of the ISAT's. Though no direct correlation or explanation was statistically apparent, his further investigation led to an understanding that some of the inequity is likely based on transfers in and transfers out of students in the upper grades, and that the difference, though apparent in the most recent set of scores, does not seem to be an indication of a much larger (and growing) gap in ability of boys and girls at Audubon to improve their reading. The deeper look into the statistics indicated that over time, both genders have improved, in some years girls' improvement outpaced boys, in other years, the opposite was true. Summary improvement data shows that boys have improved more than girls, between 3rd and 8th grade, on the Reading portion of the ISAT test. However boys' scores show a significant gap coming into 3rd grade, with boys scoring lower than girls in every year but one.

New Magnet Cluster Lottery Process – Principal Price explained that the lottery portion of our admissions program is now being administered by the CPS central office. Schools do not conduct their own lottery nor their own waiting lists. And, as became the case last year, principal discretion has been eliminated. Principal Price briefly discussed his efforts to try to ensure as many sibling admissions as possible occur (45% of lottery admissions can be siblings). Incidentally, Audubon is no longer a "Math and Science" Magnet Cluster, as that designation no longer exists. Audubon is a "Technology" Magnet Cluster School.

Finally, Principal Price indicated that the 8th grade class trip has been set. Destination: Washington DC, Dates: May 12, 13 & 14.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Legislative Committee - Jill Bass distributed a handout discussing Mayor Daley's plan to use TIF funds to help school funding. Additionally, Jill requested that anyone who has not gone to www.noto37.org to sign the on-line petition against larger CPS class sizes, do so. (Committee Members Jill Bass & Patty Jones)

High School Partnering Committee – Principal Price discussed the upcoming Open House at Hamilton Elementary, a combined effort among Audubon, Coonley & Hamilton Elementary Schools. This year Audubon’s staff is responsible for contacting public high schools on the North Side. (Maria Griffith, Principia Price, Jill Bass, Phyllis (O’Hara) Ryan, Sarah Gallagher, Barb Kantrow, Lara Levoy)

Bilingual Committee – No report (Committee of the Whole – Ms. Gonzalez, Teacher Leader)

Professional Personal Leadership Committee - No report (Phyllis Ryan & Jody Ebstein)

Green Committee – No report (Nick Hardgrove, Alex Pramenko & John Kennedy)

New Business

Chairman Pramenko discussed the anonymous donation to turf the playground. Plans have to account for the access to the dumpsters and placement of the playground. Discussion was had concerning whether the playground should remain on the North side of the building (within the turfed area) or moved to the garden (Southeast lawn) or Lawn (Southwest Lawn). LSC members were asked to consider all issues and prepare to discuss at next meeting. Phyllis Ryan would discuss these issues with the teaching staff and report back.

Principal Price mentioned that the movie “Waiting for Superman” is a hot topic right now, and though not having seen it, he indicated that it is his understanding that the movie cites national statistics on school performance, but mentioned that these statistics tend to not account for poverty as a factor that may skew school performance scores. And poverty has been shown to be a very large factor in predicting schools’ performance.

Nick Hardgrove inquired whether the “longer school day” (more accurately the “open campus”) issue is something that needs to be voted on each year. With education being increasingly in the national media spotlight (due to “Waiting for Superman), etc...) perhaps this is something the LSC should readdress. Principal Price indicated that it is an issue that needs to be voted on each year. Discussion was had. No motions were made.

Public Participation

Bob Fry (FOA) mentioned a successful Hawk Walk and Fall FUNdraiser, and indicated that the date for the Spring Fling has been set as March 5, 2010, with co-chairs Melanie Boone and Jill Cheskes.

Adjournment

Jody Ebstein moved to adjourn, seconded by Jill Bass. By unanimous vote, the meeting was adjourned at 8:20.