

Audubon Elementary Minutes of Local School Council
Meeting Minutes
Monday, September 21, 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
Alex Pramenko, Parent Representative, Chairman
John Price, Principal

Members Absent:

Brendan Gilboy, Parent Representative

Approval of Agenda

Principal Price made a motion that Agenda Item 10(a) (School Uniforms) be moved up in the agenda (to Item 7) as there were many parents and students in attendance to address that issue, and that the Agenda, as amended be passed. Nick Hardgrove seconded the motion.

The Agenda was unanimously approved.

Approval of By-Laws

Chairman Pramenko indicated that the approval of the LSC By-Laws was tabled at the July meeting to allow new LSC members an opportunity to read through them. Nick Hardgrove moved to adopt the By-Laws. Jody Ebstein seconded the motion.

The By-Laws were adopted by unanimous vote.

Nominations

Nominations for Secretary were taken. Nick Hardgrove was nominated by Alex Pramenko. Jody Ebstein seconded the motion. Nick Hardgrove was elected Secretary. Incidentally, Nick looked smashing in an orange and cream striped golf shirt and khaki pants.

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.

School Uniforms

The topic of School Uniforms, for which over a dozen students and more than twenty parents had signed up to address the LSC, was introduced.

Prior to the LSC Meeting, LSC Member Brendan Gilboy had submitted to Chairman Pramenko an e-mail in support of Audubon taking steps to determine the feasibility of adopting a formal uniform dress policy. That e-mail was read aloud by Chairman Pramenko. In summary, the e-mail stated that uniforms: send a values message, support proper academic environment, foster sense of community, reduce social tensions, reduce distractions, reduce potential for violence and are inexpensive. Brendan's e-mail also acknowledged that arguments against uniforms include expression of individualism and time burdens on teachers in enforcement.

Chairman Pramenko added that many schools in the area either have uniforms or a strict dress code, adding that he thought it a good idea to conduct a discussion about the topic.

Principal Price distributed copies of the Audubon Dress Code.

Much discussion was had on the subject. Representative comments from the LSC included an inquiry into the problem that a shift to school uniforms would be addressing, that there is no administrative knowledge of bullying based on clothing, school uniforms would not solve the actual or the perceived socio-economic discrepancies among students, if it ain't broke, don't fix it, too much teacher time will be taken away from teaching activities, one of the core values of this school is individuality, and a student petition was submitted into the record.

When the topic was turned over for audience participation, several 5th and 6th graders addressed the LSC. Comments by the students were in opposition to the concept of school uniforms. Based on their own experience and their knowledge gained from friend with school uniform experience, the students made comments such as: we would like to keep our uniqueness, we do not everyone to be the same, Audubon even has a "Unique Week", the cost can be high, school uniform are hot in the summer and cool in the winter, they are uncomfortable, friends hate them, Audubon allows uniqueness and allows students to be themselves, this money and time, students wouldn't be able to express themselves, gives them more confidence, Audubon is a great school with happy students, uniforms would waste , and they could lead to more discipline problems.

Other audience member chimed in both in favor of and against uniforms. Those against uniforms said things like: The problem you hear about having to have 2 wardrobes is very real. Clothing issues do not

go away just because kids wear uniforms to school. Uniforms, very shortly after they are new, look grungy and lower class. Kids need to learn how to express themselves to prepare them for adult life.

Those in favor of uniforms indicated that they are actually inexpensive, that other schools in the area are moving toward uniforms, that there are other ways to express yourselves than the shirt and pants you wear to school, and that uniforms give students a feeling of belonging and that they are working toward a common goal.

By unanimous vote, the LSC tabled the school uniform issue.

Principal Reports

Principal Price requested that the LSC approve (1) spending \$1,100 to purchase 4th grade textbook addendums (from acct 2-5226), (2) spending \$1,193 to refund Roxanne Bowens' technology specialist tuition (from acct 2-9103), and (3) transferring \$4,000 from the parking lot account (acct 2-1320) for the purpose of staff workshops and development. Additionally, Principal Price asked the LSC to approve the use of the school building by Friends of Audubon for Family Art Night (at no rent), and by Roxanne Bowens for staff fitness classes (at nominal rent).

Patty Jones moved to approve the expenditures, transfer and other items as presented, Jill Bass seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

Review 2010 ISAT Scores

Principal Price prepared and presented a power point program pertaining to the progress of the pupils which the people perceived as professional and productive. (Just kidding – I'm deleting this.)

Principal Price presented a summary of the ISAT scores on PowerPoint. Highlights of the presentation were that (1) we are on target to keep our AMP status, as we continue to perform well in all categories, (2) The vast majority of our students meet or exceed national standards, (3) at least 25% of our students exceed the national standards in Reading and Science and over 35% in Math, (4) our value added scores, by ISAT measure, were relatively unchanged (slightly up in Reading, slightly down in Math), (5) our valued added performance, by our more detailed internal measures, indicated that our lowest performing students are making great strides (1.3 years in Reading, 2.0 years in Math).

Going forward, Principal Price outlined four main theories of action for continued improvement: (1) Increase Curriculum Alignment, (2) Utilize Technology, (3) Create Stronger Student Buy-in, and (4) Work to Strengthen Professional Development. The main goal, as stated, is for 100% of our students to reach (or exceed) their individual-appropriate growth targets in reading and math each academic year.

Summer Reading challenge Report

Ann Turner presented a summary of the success of the inaugural Audubon Summer Reading Challenge. Each student at Audubon (approx. 500) was given an grade-level appropriate book at the beginning of the summer. Approximately 115 students successfully completed the challenge (reading 10 books over the summer) and would all be awarded t-shirts signifying that feat.

Ann indicated that to continue the Summer Reading Challenge would require approximately \$5,500 of funding.

The LSC thanked Ann and the Gust Foundation for their efforts and generosity.

Committee Reports

None of the committees had held any formal meetings, as yet. General introductory remarks were made by committee chairs. People wishing to volunteer for a committee could contact the committee members: Legislative (Raise Your Hand) Committee – Jill Bass and Patty Jones, High School Partnership Committee – Barb Kantrow and Maria Griffith, Green Initiative Committee – Nick Hardgrove and Alex Pramenko.

New Business / Announcements

Chairman Pramenko made several announcements pertaining to (1) an anonymous donation to turf the playground, (2) cancellation of RVN Movie Night, (3) Hawk Walk, (4) Fall FUNdraiser, (5) FOA Golf Outing, (6) Shop for Schools Night, and (7) events at Kitsch'n and Beat Kitchen

Adjournment

Jody Ebstein moved to adjourn, seconded by Jill Bass. By unanimous vote, the meeting was adjourned at 8:15.