

Audubon Elementary Local School Council
Meeting Minutes
Monday, May 23, 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
Abby Levin, Staff Member
Maria Griffith, Parent Representative
Barbara Kantrow, Parent Representative
Jill Bass, 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, Community Representative
Sarah Gallagher, Community Representative

Approval of Agenda

Principal Price asked to move Item 8 "Open Campus Vote" up to directly after "Review of LSC Meeting Procedures". Phyllis Ryan moved that the Agenda be approved as amended, Barbara Kantrow seconded the motion.

The Agenda was unanimously approved.

Approval of April Minutes

Jody Ebstein moved to approve the Minutes of the April 25, 2011 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.

Open Campus Vote

The Parent Representatives voted among themselves and appointed Jill Bass, Barbara Kantrow and Maria Griffith to cast the 3 votes on behalf of the Parent Representatives.

There are 8 votes to be cast on the Open Campus issue: 3 Parent Representatives (above), 3 Faculty Representatives (Phyllis Ryan, Cara Suarez & Lourdes Valenzuela), the Principal (John Price) and 1 Union Representative (Jody Ebstein). 5 “yes” votes are required to retain the “Closed Campus” status.

Some discussion was had concerning the issue. Principal Price indicated that the issue had been deeply analyzed on at least 2 occasions over the past 4 years, and the faculty and administration at Audubon favor the current, Closed Campus, primarily due to limitations concerning facilities and supervision.

A roll call vote was taken and it was unanimous in favor of an Open Campus.

Roll Call Vote:

Jody Ebstein	Yes
Cara Suarez	Yes
Lourdes Valenzuela	Yes
John Price	Yes
Barbara Kantrow	Yes
Maria Griffith	Yes
Jill Bass	Yes
Phyllis Ryan	Yes

Principal Reports

Principal Evaluation

Principal Price thanked the LSC for its evaluation and the constructive comments made therein, and indicated that he was taking all comments seriously and is already taking steps to address suggestions / criticisms made in that evaluation.

Narrative Presentations

Principal Price indicated that his narrative presentations to the LSC will be made available on line.

Supply Fees

Principal Price indicated his preference for leaving the supply fee at \$65 per student with a \$150 max per family.

Brendan Gilboy motioned that the LSC vote to keep the Supply Fee at \$65, which was seconded by Phyllis Ryan. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

Recognition of Audubon's Excellence

Principal Price indicated that the MIND Research Institute, the company that administers the ST Math Program, has issued a Certificate of Excellence to Audubon which states that Audubon ranks 8th nationally in terms of successful completion of the ST Math POrgram.

Principal Price also indicated that Audubon had the highest rate of improvement of all of the 120 CPS AMPS schools in mathematics, and 3rd in reading growth. Each of those achievements merits a \$5,000 award from the AMPS office (\$10,000 total).

2011-12 Organizational Chart

Since we do not have a budget yet from CPS, the 2011-12 Org chart discussion was tabled until the June meeting.

IT Fee

At the previous LSC meeting the concept of a separate IT fee was discussed. Principal indicated that he would rather not charge a separate IT fee. After a brief discussion, the issue was dropped.

Items that were discussed were: (1) that we have 4-yr leases on the teacher laptops, as well as many of the other laptops, (2) that Advotech is our vendor for computer maintenance/repair, (3) that we should cultivate relationships with technology companies for which Audubon parents work (e.g. IBM, CDW, Motorola, etc.), and (4) we should check on the success of one-to-one laptop programs at other schools (Jill Bass will inquire).

Mandatory Breakfast in the Classroom

Principal Price gave an update on the Breakfast in the Classroom program. Quite generally the program rollout has been smooth.

Among the things we have observed are:

1. We are actually feeding less students overall than before the rollout (which might be at least partially explained by the nicer weather)
2. Grades 2, 3 & 4 are the only students eating in the classroom. The higher grades are in the lunchroom due to allergy concerns. Kindergarten and 1st grades are in the lunchroom due to concerns over potential spills.

3. Students not participating in the program are using the time for silent reading, bell-ringing math work, or extra homework time.
4. For a limited number of students, the breakfast seems to be a calming influence, and helps them start their day in a less disruptive manner.
5. We should pay close attention to whether there is peer pressure influencing student decision to take or not take the lunch.
6. We will continue to monitor the entire program closely and will adapt the program as necessary.

Summer Leases

There are two summer rental agreements that are in place: (1) We Got Game is renting the gym and a portion of the lawn for a portion of the summer, and (2) Go Get Your Smock is renting the media room for a portion.

Jill Bass moved to approve the leases as described, which Phyllis Ryan seconded. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

It was suggested that we look into leasing the parking lot for some Cub Game parking.

The budget for next year is not yet known, and will therefore need to be discussed at a future LSC meeting.

8th Grade Class Trip

Phyllis Ryan gave a brief report on the 8th Grade Class Trip to Washington DC. She indicated that the trip was fantastic and the kids really enjoyed it and got a lot out of it. It would be great for this to be an annual trip for 8th graders. They had a very full schedule which included visiting the Smithsonian, the Capital, the Ford Theater, and took a cruise among other activities.

Committee Reports

Legislative Committee: Raise Your Hand is having a rally tomorrow at the Thompson Center, marching to Madigan's Office re: School Funding.

Green Committee: Is looking into putting a garden on the roof, and into windmills.

Announcements

June Jam is June 4th & 5th and we still need volunteers.

Adjournment

Barbara Kantrow moved to adjourn, seconded by Phyllis Ryan. By unanimous vote, the meeting was adjourned at 8:08.