

Audubon Elementary Local School Council
Meeting Minutes
Monday, October 17, 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
Sarah Gallagher, Community Representative
Patty Jones, Community Representative
Barbara Kantrow, Parent Representative
Jill Bass, Parent Representative
Maria Griffith, Parent Representative
Nick Hardgrove, Parent Representative, Secretary
Brendan Gilboy, Parent Representative, Vice-Chairman
Alex Pramenko, Parent Representative, Chairman
John Price, Principal

Approval of Agenda

Principal Price moved that the Agenda be amended to allow Alderman Pawar to speak immediately following Approval of the Agenda. Brendan Gilboy moved that the Agenda be approved as amended, Barbara Kantrow seconded the motion.

The Agenda was unanimously approved.

Alderman Pawar

Alderman Pawar first congratulated Audubon for receiving the Blue Ribbon Award.

He then spoke about an initiative the 47th Ward is putting forth (Grow 47). They have seen great improvement in the grade schools in the Ward, but still see families moving out when their kids reach high school age. He described the initiative in which his office wants to work with the elementary schools and businesses in the Ward, and he wants to allocate TIF funds toward the schools and high schools. Paul (of the 47th Ward office) and Dan Hines will be working with the elementary schools.

They are looking for a way to brand the Ward and make this ward a destination. It will obviously be a lot of work, but we are moving in the right direction. Schools are at different places in the improvement process.

Looking for people in advertising, experienced in branding, as well as people with experience in philanthropic fundraising. So we are asking for at least 2 representatives from each school to be the point people for the school in this project.

Alderman Pawar announced that his office is donating \$50,000 to Audubon.

Approval of September Minutes

Phyllis Ryan moved that the September minutes be approved, Nick Hardgrove seconded the motion.

The September minutes were unanimously approved.

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 Report

Extended School Day - Principal Price indicated that Audubon has decided not to pursue the extended school day in January. That decision was based on a variety of factors, including lack of unanimity of parent opinion.

Grading Scale - The grading scale at Audubon has changed to 90-80-70-60, from its current system (93, 85 ...). This is "the standard", and puts us in line with our neighboring schools, and is easier to manage. We will continue to implement our differentiated grading adjustment system, which factors in the level of work being done by the individual student (at, above or below grade level).

Principal Resignation - Next, Principal Price indicated that he had accepted a position with CPS, as Deputy Chief of the Ravenswood-Ridge Elementary School Network, and has resigned as Audubon's Principal, effective immediately.

CPS has appointed an Interim Principal, Joyce Nakamura, a recently retired elementary school principal (Stone Elementary). Ms. Nakamura is a respected colleague of Principal Price. There will be a brief transition period, during which Mr. Price will split duties between Audubon and the Ravenswood Network. Ms. Nakamura's first day will be November 2nd. Mr. Price's last day will be November 17th, which is the day of the celebration for the Blue Ribbon Award. Ms. Nakamura has agreed to lead Audubon through March, 2012, which is in line with the 90-day guideline in CPS.

Mr. Price recommended that the LSC appoint a Principal Selection Subcommittee, and recommended that it be comprised of Maria Griffith, as Chairperson, and Alex Pramenko, Brendan Gilboy, Jody Ebstein, Phyllis Ryan, Lourdes Valenzuela, Ellen Ericson, Kathy Argentar, Mary Kurzcak.

The Sub-Committee will develop a Job Description that the LSC votes on, for CPS to post. And develops an interview process and interview questions. The LSC has the final say on hiring a new Principal. The CPS Office of Principal Preparation and Development has to approve the applicants, to be considered for the open position.

Some discussion was had regarding how the principal selection sub-committee was created. Principal Price indicated that the only interest was moving along swiftly. It was pointed out that everyone is invited to be a part of the sub-committee process, which conducts open meetings.

Nick Hardgrove moved that the sub-committee be appointed as recommended. Brendan Gilboy seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Other discussion was had concerning what OPPD's current principal pool looks like. There are apparently many candidates already in the pool. Additionally, it was noted that the Assistant Principal's contract is tied to the Principal's contract.

Parent Survey – Ideally, should be November 16th, with Report Card pick-up. Need volunteers.

SIPAAA Reports: Curriculum Progress, Bilingual Results, ISAT results, NWEA results, parent survey. Mr. Fay will give the ISAT Report in the November 14, 2011, meeting. December will be the Bilingual Report (Lourdes Valenzuela). Curriculum Progress in December (Mr. Fay and a couple of teachers), as well. Parents Report in January. NWEA in February (Phyllis Ryan). By March, we should be talking about priorities for the SIPAAA.

Parent Survey volunteers: Barbara Kantrow, Kathleen Katz, Jill Bass, Ellen Ericson, Kathy Argentar, and Nick Hardgrove.

The first meeting of the Principal Selection sub-committee will be October 26 at 6:00 pm.

Committee Reports

High School Committee – Barbara Kantrow attended the Lakeview High School new principal meet & greet, and thought it was a good event.

Green Committee – Nick Hardgrove indicated that Principal Price had enrolled Audubon in an energy saving program that could net us out \$3,000 or so. We just need to satisfy the requirements on our end. We have already been awarded free supplies (copy paper and green pencils).

Announcements

Blue Ribbon Celebration is November 17, 2011, at 6:30 in the Audubon Gymnasium.

The Fall Parent's FUNdraiser will be Thursday, November 3rd at Mrs. Murphy's Irish Bistro. It's a great event and very casual.

The LSC and Parents thanked Mr. Price for all he has done for the school.

Adjournment

Jody Ebstein moved to adjourn, seconded by Barbara Kantrow. By unanimous vote, the meeting was adjourned at 7:58.