

# Minutes of Regular Meeting / October 23, 2017 Sauganash Local School Council

## Call to Order @6:35p

Roll Call: Members Present - Elaine Fitzgerald, Dennis Hammer, Carrie McAteer, Vanessa Howells, Pam Sheehan, Marcia Shapiro, Richard Rodriguez, Don Zalinski, Vicky Kurzydlo, Anna McGowan, Chris Munns.

Absent: Liz Piper.

1. **Approval of Agenda:** approved as is
2. **Approval of September Minutes:** Approved with one edit request by Marcia Shapiro ...that we note it was the Friends of Sauganash that sought approval of fundraising activities for this school year, not the PTA..
3. **Announcements /Introduction of Guests:** 8 guests
4. **Reports:**
  - a. Chair – Elaine Fitzgerald: Mentioned Network meetings that are helpful for LSC members to attend. Vanessa Howells shared that she went to the first meeting on September 25... met the new Network Chief; Lela Majstorovic, who gave an overview of the network demographics and insights. Might be worth getting her presentation when finalized.
  - b. Principal – Chris Munns. Chris greatly appreciated the CPS Principal Appreciation Week that occurred during the week of October. 16, and all the kind notes and acknowledgments made by teachers and students. Chris stated that the school has organized a Math Enrichment Club that meets on Tuesday mornings. The club currently consists of 6-8th grade students and they will be involved in citywide and regional competitions. Chris highlighted several competencies in her Principal's Report. Comp. A - Our school is part of the second-year pilot program, where teachers received training on a new NWEA MAP Skills program that will roll out next month to students. The new program will be evaluated along with Compass Learning for the best application. Comp. B - Writing subject will no longer be a separate grade...it is now integrated with language arts and social studies as a sub grade. Based on parent feedback on Parent-Teacher Conferences, the school will dedicate an additional full day of conferences on (Friday, November 3) and have report cards delivered after the are printed. All parents attending parent/teacher conferences on November 15th will receive report cards at the time of their conference. Comp. C - Community helper/career days went well in the Kindergarten classes. We didn't make our Diverse Learners testing goals, and our 8th graders are losing motivation to give 100% effort, which adversely affected their test scores. We are addressing the issues of both groups. The

school received its SQRP score and we will talk more about it at next month's LSC meeting.

Refer to Principal Munn's full report for additional comments.

c. Committee

- 1) Budget Committee – Dennis Hammer referred everyone to the last page of principal's report for Internal Accounts expenses and book transfers. Chris speaking with CPS officials on how the school's space is currently being used...ongoing conversation. Christina Tassone (a school parent) is helping Chris reformat her budget information so that parents can better understand the process of managing and balancing the budget. Chris and Rich commented on SPED funding changes going on within CPS ... everyone is getting less and less money.
- 2) Continuous Improvement Work Plan (CIWP) – Richard Rodriguez referred to the CIWP action plan. Teachers are reevaluating the document to make changes. This is the year of making changes. Chris shared that the school is re-writing the writing curriculum for each grade. The Lucy Calkins curriculum has been around for 10 years and is dated. The school also is looking at students with social and emotional learning challenges...and looking for more ways to support these students.
- 3) Language Committee – Vicki Kurzydlo and Vanessa Howells. Chris reported that the school is up to 44 different languages spoken in the home of our students. And that the school is making an extra effort to track students that leave ELL program. The council and parents discussed the awareness and communication of My Voice, My School survey...parents would like to see more explanation and communication of it, beyond survey links in newsletters and computers in the lobby during report pickup.
- 4) School Safety – Don Zalinski praised the Kiss N Go volunteers in helping with traffic flow.
- 5) Community Relations & Advocacy Committee – Liz Piper, Vanessa Howells, Dennis Hammer, Caroline McAteer, Marcia Shapiro: Vanessa gave a shout out to the student council for organizing a school-wide donation drive in support of Puerto Rico which was devastated by Hurricane Maria. And that it's great to see the students being outward focused. The committee will organize a career fair for the Springtime.
- 6) Least Restrictive Environment (LRE) Committee – Vicki Kurzydlo and Anna McGowan
- 7) Principal Review Committee – Marcia Shapiro and Pam Sheehan. Marcia reiterated that a formal principal review is done annually and a summary given every 3 years.
- 8) Professional Personal Leadership Committee – Anna McGowan and Pam Sheehan. No report.

d. PTA/PTO Meeting Report: Halloween Party is coming up on Thursday. The Friends of Sauganash is in the middle of its annual Donation Drive.

e. Old Business: none

5. New Business

- 1) Sauganash School Boundary: as it relates to space constraints. Chris asked the group if we should propose changing the boundary lines in order to draw from a smaller geographic area. Such a proposal would need CPS approval. No consensus was made but it opened further questions and discussion about lack of space.

2) A PTA member has offered to organize an international night, and would like to partner with the LSC on it.

6. Public Comment: Space and noise issues brought up by a parent...wondering if the school has any space and funding solutions for this year. The same parent is hearing from another that their child is struggling to focus. Regarding space constraints: Chris reiterated that teachers are grouping students and pulling out students for smaller work groups... so less kids in the classroom for a bit. Another parent asked about differentiated teaching... is it happening effectively? She gave a specific example of her son... Bertini's and Trapp's high level math students are grouped together and her son was in the group. But because the group was large, he was too distracted to focus so he moved down a level to focus better, but now he is bored. Chris will encourage the second grade teachers to meet with Ms. Hutton (3-4th grade math teacher) to discuss how she differentiates her teaching. A third parent asked how she can best advocate for more funding toward another second grade teacher...talk with the Alderman, Mayor? Parents are willing to work hard to advocate, but are looking for guidance. The council agreed that more indepth discussion is needed on funding and space issues.
7. Announce Date of Next Meeting, Set Agenda: November 13. State of the School.
8. Adjourn 8:25p