

Regular Meeting / September 18, 2017 Sauganash Local School Council

Call to Order @6:30p

Roll Call: Members Present - Elaine Fitzgerald, Dennis Hammer, Caroline McAteer, Vanessa Howells, Pam Sheehan, Marcia Shapiro, Richard Rodriguez, Sean Kennedy, Vicki Kurzydlo, Liz Piper, Anna McGowan, Chris Munns. Absent - Don Zalinski

1. **Approval of Agenda:** Agenda approved with minor addition by the PTA to request approval for fundraising activities.
2. **Approval of Minutes:** May and July minutes approved as is.
3. **Announcements /Introduction of Guests:** Approximately a dozen guests
4. **Reports:**
 - a. Chair – Elaine Fitzgerald. Acknowledged council’s commitment to the school and the administration’s work to start the year off strong. With the PTA’s generosity, we have more aides in more classrooms this year. We have a beautiful new field and track with the help of the Mayor and our alderman. And our school has a new network 1 chief, Lela Majstorovic, who the council will get to know during periodic meetings.
 - b. Principal – Chris Munns-Strategic Plan and School Readiness Plan. Chris shared the school’s Strategic Plan document with everyone that includes instructional goals, the professional development plan, and continuous instructional work plan. CPS also requires the completion of the Readiness document which is a checklist for principals. LSC members received an electronic copy of the school’s readiness document. Chris also provided a quick summary of the budget. Through the process, the school lost \$350K in funding, which almost cost us our Assistant Principal position. Today marked the 10th day of school, which is an important date as it relates to potential adjustments to our SBB. As of today, we have 604 students enrolled vs. the projected CPS number of 576. Chris will continue fighting for money from CPS, and has already successfully secured back \$170K before the first day of school. Chris thanked the PTA for the aides that support the teachers ...6 total PTA aides! Two aides in Kindergarten; one aide in Second grade; One aide covering Third and Fourth grades; one aide covering Fifth and Sixth grades. and one aide in seventh grade. There are also CPS funded aides for classes with 32 or more students.

At this point, the council took questions from guests: The majority of comments and questions related to the class size of the Second Grade classes (40 each). Parents expressed concern with

instructional quality and physical space constraints having that many students in a room. Others expressed concern about their child being truly known by the teacher. Chris, Vicky and other council members spoke to highly experienced staff, utilizing PTA and CPS aides, breakout group based teaching, Specials in multi-purpose rooms. Chris is looking at opening two rooms next year to help with space issues, which will help. However, budget issues still remain. Several ideas were poised and everyone agreed that more discussion and collaboration would be needed. It was suggested that we speak with Alderman Laurino about the school's space constraints. And while Sauganash is different from Edgebrook and Wildwood in many ways, that we could look for ideas from them on handling such challenges.

Committee

- 1) Budget Committee – Dennis Hammer. (we are off to a good start on student fees contributions...71% of families have made their payment)
 - 2) Continuous Improvement Work Plan (CIWP) – Richard Rodriguez (Rich referred to the plan document and that it is an ongoing process)
 - 3) Language Committee – Vicki Kurzydlo and Vanessa Howells. (There are now 57 different languages spoken in the homes of our students .. not necessarily as the first language. More teachers are getting their ESL endorsements completed.
 - 4) School Safety – Don Zalinski. (PTA praised for bringing back Kiss and Go drop off process)
 - 5) Community Relations & Advocacy Committee – Liz Piper, Vanessa Howells, Dennis Hammer, Caroline McAteer, Marcia Shapiro, Chris Munns (Liz is not serving as chair. A sub-committee will focus on creating a career fair day for the upper grades.
 - 6) Least Restrictive Environment (LRE) Committee – Vicki Kurzydlo and Sean Kennedy
 - 7) Principal Review Committee – Marcia Shapiro and Pam Sheehan
 - 8) Professional Personal Leadership Committee – Sean Kennedy and Pam Sheehan
- c. PTA/PTO Meeting Report: First meeting for the school year takes place September 19. This year the membership drive is additionally critical in order to move from a PTA to a PTO structure. Friends of (PTO) fundraising activities were proposed and approved:
- 1) Annual Fund Drive - October 1- November 30
 - 2) 50/50 Event & Bingo Night
 - 3) Social Buy-In Parties - Ongoing
 - 4) Barnes & Noble Event - November
 - 5) Schoola Clothing Drive - November
 - 6) Spring Benefit - June

- 7) Dinner/social event open to Sauganash school community as well as the wider Sauganash neighborhood community
- 8) Family Fling Event - (minimal fundraising) to coincide with Spring Benefit to involve the student body and replaces (Daddy/Daughter Dance)
- 9) Restaurant & Local Business Events - 10-30% of proceeds go to Sauganash school (such as Meatheads, Orange Theory, Core Power Yoga, Mod Pizza, Backyard Grill)
- 10) Free Money Fundraising (Shoparoo, Box Tops, Amazon)
- 11) Scholastic Book Fair (2 per year)
- 12) 7th Grade DC Trip - ongoing

5. Old Business: None noted

6. New Business:

- 1) LSC Member Appointment. Anna McGowan was newly appointed to the council to replace Sean Kennedy. Anna will serve on the LRE Committee and Professional Personal Leadership Committee.
 - 2) School Usage – WorldStrides/Washington DC Committee. OCT 3 approved.
7. Public Comment: Additional parent questions were asked. 1) What kind of training do your Para Professionals get, particularly those working with SPED students who are now in these large classes? Principal Munns addressed this question. 2) Is there anything the school can do to avoid a 10:15am lunch?...it very early for the kids. Chris noted that the challenge is the rotation during the Winter months when the students are inside for recess. It was agreed that it's worth looking at other schools on how they handle lunch and recess with space constraints. 3) In order to free up classroom space this year, can the school look at having the technology teacher use a cart and travel to classrooms?
8. Announce Date of Next Meeting, Set Agenda ... October 23.
9. Adjourn 8:45p