

L.S.C. MEETING MINUTES
MINUTAS DE LA REUNIÓN DEL CONSEJO LOCAL

INTER-AMERICAN MAGNET SCHOOL * ESCUELA INTERAMERICANA
6 de octubre de 2010 / October 6, 2010, 6:00-8:00 P.M.
Main Office, Inter-American Magnet School, 851 W Waveland Ave

LSC Members Present: Dr. Vernita Vallez, Karen Barbour, Clifford Meece, Hugo Escobar, José Torres, Margaret Aguilar, Marisol Morales, Monica Arce, Cynthia Ramos, Ana Camino, Luis Vera

LSC Members Absent:

Guests: Jenelle Camino, Nancy Perez, Ernesto Martinez, Jill Wohl, Angelica Araujo, Edna Vidaurre, Margot Gordon, Marta Mendoza-Schommer

Meeting called to order by Luis Vera at 6:13

Introductions

LSC members went around the table to introduce themselves to the audience

Approval of minutes

Minutes from the emergency meeting on October 4th were approved. Luis made a motion to approve; Vernita Vallez seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

Audience participation

Luis Vera asked everyone to exercise patience and judgment during the participation segment to maintain order and preserve a timely meeting.

Vernita Vallez explained that not all issues can be addressed immediately or solved but that the issues are noted and recorded.

* A parent commented that all LSC meetings are public and the materials need to be made public. Specifically, he asked that copies of all handouts be made available to the audience. He also said that minutes need to be available in a public place.

* A parent indicated that children being picked up in the playground has built a good sense of community and is appreciated. Although there have been some complaints, this parent noted that it is a net positive and encourages dialogue between children and parents. Same parent is very happy with the development of RTI and very pleased with the communication and feedback she is getting from her second grade teacher. Same parent would like to know since the CPS application process is now starting, what is the implication for the preschoolers. She also wanted to know when

open house dates are and what materials are needed and what volunteering effort is needed.

* A parent was concerned that the minutes are not accessible via the web or via a physical folder or bulletin board. She also noted that no IAMS rep was at the Walter Payton open house. There is another open house at Malcolm X and parent would like to see an IAMS representative present.

Principal's report

* Dr. Vallez showed an article by IAMS alum Matt Sanchez that appeared in Volunteer Voices.

* Dr Vallez then gave a summary of the parent retreat that took place on Saturday Oct 4th. At the retreat, community guidelines were reviewed. The following guiding principle was selected and discussed:

A caring, cooperative, and accepting school climate is fostered to promote the social, affective and cognitive development of the whole child

Dr Vallez presented a table with some of the outcomes of the parent retreat. Please see attached materials.

* Dr. Vallez mentioned that Alderman Tunney and the Cubs are giving us a sign for the school with ~20-25k budget. We have contacted the sign company and they have come to the school to look at the site. We now need to form a working group with parents to decide on some design specifics.

* A high school fair is happening Friday morning. Since there is no district fair, it is even more important to host the fair here at IAMS. There are two nights scheduled for parents to come in and work with the counselors on high school applications. Students with IEPs will be meeting individually with Amber to discuss options for High School enrollment.

* Student fees have been collected for 301 students. Not all students paid the full amount. A district waiver is available. School may have a shortfall for purchasing Math textbooks due to lack of student fees collected.

* Nearly all students got applications filled out for lunch assistance. 63% qualified for free and reduced lunch.

* A new computer program is being used for entering and tracking student fees.

* The lottery is now running. There is a new application form. Parents can enter up to 20 school choices. The Principal is concerned that due to the new application, the school will be flooded with applicants who are not interested in attending the

school. One issue is that language surveys need to be mailed to all applicants before they can be queued in the lottery.

* Open house for the tour is scheduled for Nov 18th. Parents and teachers will be responsible for sending out the fliers. The flier from last year will be reused

*No firm answer yet on transportation issues. As of now, the affected families are still using the bus as an exemption.

*Teachers have all developing language standards completed and translated for every grade level. Each parent will be given these reports that will show what the student can accomplish in their developing language as well as what that individuals targets are. The standards will be used to compute the grade for the student.

LRE

The school is still under observation by ISBE. Training still needs to happen. Principal needs to evaluate IEP. Principal is (once a week) giving feedback to the teachers. ISBE will come to inspect again after January.

Fixes needed:

- Goals need to be measurable, specific and accountable and individualized.
- School needs to be able to justify placement

RTI

*Extra instructional block is now implemented as well as reading and math buddies.

*RTI is built on a 3-tier model. Tier 2 instruction is taking place 3 times a week. Tier 3 is for students who need consistent one on one instruction.

*On a quarterly basis, all teachers will be brought together and methods will be evaluated. Over time, IAMS will develop their own set of interventions. This may include some purchased programs.

*Parents are informed if their students move into a tier 3 situation. This is because the student needs to leave the classroom and will miss some instruction and this requires notification.

*This system of extra instruction is now a state requirement.

*The school is working at the district level to resolve issues with adaptive scantron tests. District is working with scantron to see if they can do a system with headphones. The school is also asking the district to reduce the number of tests. In particular the administration would like to skip Benchmark.

Budget

*There is a budget shortfall for purchasing math workbooks. Workbooks are purchased a year in advance, so there is no current materials shortfall, but it will need to be addressed to prevent a shortage for next year.

* Luis Vera requested that the budget for new lines and hires be provided.

* All teacher positions have been funded. The administration is still waiting for FELE checks to be cut for the art teacher position.

* Dr Vallez motions to transfer student fee money to district budget line, Margaret Aguilar seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

SIPPAAA

No report

SEP

Ana Camino is to provide a letter requesting volunteer help.

PPLC

No Report

BAC

Working on a letter to send to families to get more volunteers

Upper Grades Committee

No report

Recruitment

Issues were covered director report

FELE

Center on Halstead meeting Oct 16th 10-12

3 meetings coming up

- Center on Halstead meeting Oct 16th 10-12
- Wellness – Nov 2nd center on Halsted
- Arts in the school on Oct 14th 9-10 in cafeteria

FELE would like to start writing up highlights of meeting to go out to parents on a more timely fashion.

Hugo Escobar and Luis Vera agreed that this would be helpful and useful. Luis suggested that Ana Camino as the communication officer might be able to review.

Karen worried about the cost of distributing it, but also felt that the communication should come from LSC.

Ana Camino agreed to review and comment on the LSC highlights produced by FELE.

Communications

Bulletin board. Still deciding on where the board should be. A cabinet will be procured for the files. Files must be hosted on site.

For NCLB a parent room needs to be designated. La Escuelita is currently used for Parent Room. Luis Vera will call CPS and determine what the requirements are for the parent room.

A glass case will be purchased for posting meeting notices.

New Business

Retreat – handled earlier

Bylaws

Bylaw review is being tabled for a special meeting

Parent participation

* Parent wants to know when the CPS board meeting will be to determine the solution to the transportation issue. Parent suggested that many parents should attend the next board meeting to address the transportation issue.

* SIPPAAA information. Is there any way for parents to know what the goals are this year?

* Parent suggested that a school newsletter from principal would be good. A parent suggested that a newsletter that had the LSC/FELE title might be illegal due to it being a preview of the minutes.

* A parent suggested that it would be more welcoming space if the meeting was held in the cafeteria. It was his understanding that once a motion was opened that the discussion was open to all attendants.

* A parent noted that sending out highlights might help the quash some of the rumor mill.

*A parent commented that although RTI received good marketing, it might not be functioning as advertised.

* A parent asked if the open house dates can be put on the website and google calendar.

* A parent was interested in making sure whatever curriculum is being developed is documented so that staff turnover doesn't cause a loss of information and knowledge.

* A parent wanted to know what happened with the computers that were donated.

* A comment was made that the online application form is only in English, and Spanish paper applications have not been received.

Clifford Meece sent out a poll for determining the time for the Bylaws review meeting.

Luis made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:53 pm. Karen seconded. Motion passed unanimously.