

L.S.C. MEETING MINUTES
MINUTAS DE LA REUNIÓN DEL CONSEJO LOCAL
INTER-AMERICAN MAGNET SCHOOL * ESCUELA INTERAMERICANA
22 de septiembre de 2010/ September 22, 2010, 6:00-8:00 P.M.
Red Cafeteria, Inter-American Magnet School, 851 W Waveland Ave

LSC Members Present: Dr. Vernita Vallez, Karen Barbour, Clifford Meece, Margaret Aguilar, Marisol Morales, Monica Arce, Cynthia Ramos, Ana Camino
LSC Members Absent: Jose Torres, Hugo Escobar, Luis Vera
Guests: Nancy Zwick, Ana Maria Acosta, Ernesto Martinez, Rosanna Diaz

Call to order

A motion was made to call meeting to order by Margaret Aguilar and seconded by Hugo Escobar. Motion passed unanimously and was called to order at approximately 6:20 PM.

Audience Participation

* One parent shared problems with bussing. He said that this year 6 mile radius around the school is now being enforced. Dr Vallez was consulted. A letter was written by the families and sent to CPS requesting a solution to the problem. They have not heard back yet. Currently a 2 week grace period is in place to allow the children on the bus, but after that period many families will be affected. Unless the transportation situation is resolved some parents cannot keep our children here.

* A parent of 2 girls in first grade also expressed concern about the bussing situation. They have been grateful for the ability to take the bus, even though the stop is far from their home. They are dedicated parents who greatly appreciate the opportunity for language maintenance and learning that the school provides. He is sad because he was asked in June to commit to school but then only given 5 days notice on the lack of bussing.

* Another parent shared that he has taken a look at effected families, and all families are latino families. Many are already on free lunch/breakfast programs. He is looking for the Principal to find a solution inside the CPS regulations. Sometimes the students are on the list due to addresses of friends and family members. There is no overcrowding on the busses. No new busses are required. He wants to know what is the best way to get their complaints about the school in front of decision makers. Is it the LSC, principal etc? Also, he wants to know how are solutions communicated back to parents.

Parents are confused as to where the origin of the bussing problem comes from. Several points were brought up regarding sources of the solution that could be tailored depending on the origin. If the issue is financial, then an argument could be made that loosing students would put the school in a worse financial position. If the decision originates in the school, then losing a large number of latino children will upset the balance of the school and jeopardize the language acquisition goals.

* A new parent shared that she is grateful that the new year is much better than the picture that was painted at the end of the last school year. The school's financial situation is beter than expected. Parent is recommending a more accurate financial projection process.

Principal's report

- * The school has new dedicated time for small-group, supplemental instruction. This will happen 40 minutes per day, three times per week.
- * New evaluation methods are in place to monitor progress with children who are struggling with reading and math, and this includes children who have learning difficulties. The system is based on small group with peer buddies from older grade levels. This simultaneously builds competency and leadership skills and allows teachers additional opportunities for small group instruction with targeted students.
- * 25 performance metrics were narrowed and focused to 3 or 4 per grade level for reading and writing. A similar work is under way for social studies. These levels are based on a year worth of dialogue and discussions and are used to design units and informs the remainder of the curriculum.
- * Teachers are looking for literature and content materials they need to fully implement the new curriculum. Fiesta Cultural money as well as state money has been used to purchase new materials.
- * 7th and 8th grade students have started project-based specials and can delve into a topic with great deal of depth.
- * On-Going Staff development for the year:
 - Concurrent literacy plan
 - Writing smart goals
 - Integrated Unit Plans
 - How to use CPS university
 - Curriculum of the Americas
 - Improving quality of IEP's
 - RtI
- * 14 new staff members have been hired.
- * New student agendas have been sent out. School calendar is included, as well as vision and philosophy and Rights and Responsibilities. Now it is bilingual. Prek and kinder have been a bit late going out. Additionally, communications folders were purchased for each child, and these will include syllabus for each quarter as well as learning strategies being taught and ways parents can support this learning.
- * New logo has been developed. It symbolizes openness and freedom and has a hand letting free a Hummingbird and is done in a Mayan or Aztec graphical style.
- * Back to school night went very well and had many families in attendance exceeding expectations. Some plans have been made for improvements for next year, perhaps by splitting out some of the activities to multiple nights.
- * Next week is Open House and 4 family nights are planned. There will be a Reading night, Math night, Science night, and Curriculum of the Americas night.
- * The office relocation is done.
- * A new computer lab is complete and a new art room is complete.
New computer lab is hardwired on the network because they depend on it for testing.

* Transportation. Dr V met with the director of transportation Francisco Duprez this morning and Elizabeth Perkins. Dr V delivered the letter from the parents and took the list of students who were rejected and made a vigorous case for why IAMS should be treated differently. Most important thing she explained is that our families move a little farther away and the school will perish due to this dynamic. The rejection letters helped them show the sheer number of families that are affected. We (iams) are unique because we cannot replace our students lost by attrition. She explained to him that last year a unique board policy was granted to IAMS for our Pre-K admissions because of our unique requirements, and that the same logic applies to our current situation. They then went to Huberman and Ryan Scholenberger, the policy writer. The director argued our case with us and hand delivered our signed letters, approximately 139. We are to hear back tomorrow their decision or recommendations of the next steps. Communication back will be in writing or via the all-call system. We are asking for permissions to manage the seat list for the busses. No new buses, no new stops, no route changes, and no overloading. We will provide them with the seat lists.

* Not all letters were from parents who were affected but all parents were concerned about the impact to our school to the proposed bussing rule enforcements.

* Oct 2 parent retreat. Asking for 3-5 reps from the all the committees. Will be 12-4 at the school. Contact Dr Vallez to attend. Dr Vallez will follow-up with committe heads. A posting will need to be made since LSC members will be in attendance. NCLB commitee requirements will also be discussed at this retreat, as receiving NCLB funds requires us to form a parent committee.

SEP

Nothing. Retreat will address future of this committe

PPLC

New and more teachers will be recruited. No other news due to the proximity of the meeting to the start of the school year.

BAC

Nothing to report.

Upper grades

Rosanna Diaz reported the following concerns she had heard from parents:

- 1) Communication issues. Since so many changes have occurred this year, some parents feel that a much more concentrated effort at communication is needed to raise comfort levels
- 2) Late assignment of lockers for 7th grade and 6th grade.
- 3) Nothing posted on CPS portal. No assignments, curriculum, or grades. Some info was posted this week.
- 4) No communication about the project specials.
- 5) Open house is very late in the year.
- 6) Mandatory materials fee can be a hardship, especially for latino families.
- 7) New pickup process can be a burden.
- 8) Cubs tickets. All tickets went to lower grades.

FELE

- * Parent pick-up heavily attended.
- * Next meeting at Center on Halsted. There will be 4 newspapers this year. They need an editor for the school manual. The walkathon is not certain. FELE would like to move forward but there is some disagreement from the administration. There was a discussion about fundraising, and the need to set purpose and procedures. Additionally, there was a discussion about fundraising being event-based vs. Money asking.

Budget

- * Discussion about who receives a hard copy of the budget and when it is provided. Marisol Morales was uncomfortable with only the LSC head getting a hard copy.
- * Some clarifications were made about essentially two budgets. One which is allocated by the district and one which identifies budget items for the school.

Communication

An LSC bulletin board will be put outside the office to help communicate between the LSC and the larger community. More plans are being discussed, whether it be via the web or email communications. We hope that the Oct 2nd retreat can address some of these issues.

After school programming

Recently received a grant for after school programs. Ms Colon is directing, she went to the training yesterday to find out the expectations. Teachers have submitted applications.

School email addresses

Vernita says she can not want a school email address for the school due to time constraints with current email load. It is not determined who could manage a school email at this point.

Audience Participation

- * One parent expressed concern about pickup and dropoff safety. Three children were taken from the playground says a parent.
- * Another parent asked when we would get class lists and an agenda for the October retreat.
- * Concern was expressed about security guards carrying guns. Dr. V. said that the guards will not normally have guns, although there was some short time when a guard was carrying a gun.
- * A parent expressed that required materials list can bring waste, since everyone brings all supplies. He shared that a teacher has made a list that exceeds any other supply list. Teacher has made students cry for non-compliance. Teacher has not been responsive to emails. Parent was concerned with teacher conduct. Suggestion was to partition the requests for materials so no excess materials were gathered.

Fundraiser Approvals

* Artsonia website. Fundraiser. Luis made motion to approve this website, and Marisol seconded. Approved unanimously.

* Fundraiser approval for pump it up. It's funding for response intervention. Motion from Anna to approve Pump It Up fundraiser. Luis seconded. Approved unanimously.

Luis made motion to adjourn meeting at 9:05. Karen seconded. Vote carried unanimously.