Waters Elementary School

LSC minutes for March 19, 2019

Quorum:

Parent Reps: Kristin Bacon (KB), Chris Brannon (CB), Greg Foster-Rice (GFR), Jason Rieger (JR), Erica Smith (ES), Lydia Schmidt (LS)

Community Reps: Zach Koutsky (ZK), Lauren Niedespol (LN)

Teacher Rep: Rielly Wall (RW)

Principal: Titia Kipp (TK)

Approval of Agenda:

Motion to approve the amended agenda (delete ILT presentation, approval of new check), ES. RW Seconded.

Approval of Minutes:

Minutes from February LSC meeting, motion to approve, JR motion, RW second. All in favor.

Special Presentation:

Youth Climate March – 4th and 5ths Graders (Apologies if we did not get everyone’s names accurately)

Francesco Salidini (?) Room 305 – Went to the March for Climate Change because of Greta Thumburg. Won Nobel Peace Prize and inspired our attendance at March, which was international – people all around the globe.

Anya in room 304 – experience going downtown and signs and how shocking it was to go. Made signs about what we believe in.

Ceci – Room 310 – most of the other attendees were HS so we were youngest people there. Got interviewed

Sylvie – Room 305 – what we can do and what my family does to help with climate change. Don’t use straws. Make sings around school, waste free lunches (could we have a salad bar with tongs rather than prepackaged veggies in bags), could we have the theme for Big Night be “Go green,” green-themed art exhibit, earth hour on Sat March 30 you shut off all electricity so we could do an earth hour at school on March 29 for an hour in our classrooms.

Whitman – 304 – talking about the science behind climate change (these facts come from Theo), humans have existed on earth for the equivalent of 4 seconds within earth life span and have contributed greatly to pollution, extinction of species, etc…if we don’t stop it by 2045 then the effects of climate change will be irreversible and some coastlines will be under the ocean.

Anya – if we don’t stop these effects it will not only affect the earth but also us as a species on earth.

JR – mentioned straws, do you have any other suggestions.

Ceci, Malaina, Anya, Francesco, Theo, Whitman – offered suggestions especially regarding the lunchroom (reusable bags, etc)

TK – would like for you to have a meeting with the lunchroom manager to talk about concerns regarding waste and possible solutions. It took time but we got rid of Styrofoam trays because of student concerns. The sooner we act the sooner we make change. Would need to raise your concerns with Aramark.

GFR – We can talk with the Public Building Commission and CPS about the new annex and kitchen within it to see if they could add dishwashers to the plan and would give credit to the students for raising this idea.

KB – Might be interesting to come up with other creative ideas about reusing items that would normally get thrown out. My HS knitted blankets out of plastics that were getting thrown out – it’s a strategy to reuse while we are trying to

Max – could we collect these items and make art out of them.

Reports

1. Principal Report (**10 min**)

TK: Dylan Sebanc (7th grade) will be representing the school at the citywide science fair. His project was “ice cream freezer” and has ideas about creating ice cream that won’t melt as quickly. Fair judging is on Friday at IIT and on Saturday the students’ work will be on public display.

STEAM week minimaker fair will be in classes next week. Friday, March 29 from 3:30-5pm the minimaker fair will be on display for the public.

MTSS meeting with staff to talk about supports for students. Sometimes that add’l support is not the pipeline to DL but is about differentiation within the classrooms.

Will be voting on the elementary school schedule per CTU guidelines so those conversations are taking place.

Welcome new engineer Edgar Crespo, new engineer, who has joined us in early March.

Building has been hot but we are splitting Mr. Crespo with another school and he is still working on regulating the system. My main request has been to have an engineer full-time. The heating issues melted chocolate and killed a newt in Ms. Ballasch’s classroom.

Screenagers – film about social media time; working on bringing the school to Waters for a community screening.

ES – was Mr. Carney (old engineer) full or part time with us?

TK – he was part-time with us and part time with another school.

ES – was the switch of engineers due to Aramark?

TK – Mr. Carney left because of Aramark.

GFR - What is the cost of the lost chocolate?

TK - $750

GFR – is it usable?

TK/NA – the World’s Finest Chocolate Forensics Team came and the majority of the chocolate was fine. They don’t look nice, hard to sell, and they will switch some out. We might sell them at a discount.

ES – Screenagers

GFR – thank you for the way the seventh grade team is offering after school group tutoring in preparation for the MAP test which is so important to that grade as a part of SEH admissions.

ES – my neighbor across the street teaches math at Lane Tech and offered additional tutoring for 7th grade.

ES – Is MS. Jones filling in at the Middle School Team until end of year?

TK – Yes, she is a substitute teacher. Much like the 1st Grade. Has agreed to stay on indefinitely.

TK - Mr. Anthony Vivit is the new security officer.

TK – having a parking issue. The perimeter of the building has been reserved for teachers, but parents are parking along perimeter. Teachers having to park far away from school. Trying to figure out a positive way to message that to community. Seeking suggestions for how to message.

GFR – a week or two of messaging on Green Notes followed by aggressive ticketing.

TK – There is other construction in the neighborhood that will complicate the issue

KB – Could we more clearly define the teacher spots? Could we more clearly reserve Maplewood and Sunnyside for teachers…

LS – As weather improves it might get better, but we need to figure out how to do a drop-off mechanism. We need to provide a solution for drop-off.

ES – encourage people to walk, ride bikes, if you have to do a drive and drop, use Sunnyside

LS –

GFR – group of interested parents to gather data, conduct observations, etc….?

1. BAC (**5 min**)

Nilsa Alvarez: has a meeting tomorrow where they will do a vocabulary workshop.

ES – messaging with Alicia Mayorca (president of BAC) about doing something for the humanitarian crisis in Venezuela

1. Budget (**5 min**)

ES – working on aligning the data from CPS internal accounts with excel spreadsheets. Do we know when the DY20 budget will come in?

TK – no

ES – we still have miscellaneous funds in Budget Line 115 ($60k) and for PD we had set aside some but there is more leftover ($15k minus what has been used). SBB budget ( ), Student Fees ($30k), Waters Today ($20k). Need a budget subcommittee meeting to determine how to spend down these accounts, some of which must be spent down before the end of school year, like SBB.

TK – End of school year is supposed to be Tue June 18, but we will have make-up days from cold weather. Might be decided at the next BOE. But this affects PD opportunities bc one of them is schedule June 20 this year.

ES – around PD, what is the current training of our staff around Health Curriculum? We have new staff who may not have taken it. They have new material for both parents and teachers.

TK – It was CPS PD and while some staff are trained not everyone is.

ES – can we get retrained before the new curriculum is delivered.

TK – some of the coaching stipends aren’t taken by parent volunteers, would like to rebalance that for after school programs including tutoring, and would like to balance them in terms of workload.

CB – ARA (Annual Regional Analysis) was released today, how does it affect Waters?

ES – Went to ARA meeting in December.

TK – Waters is not included among the 30 schools affected. Might be able to apply in the RFP next year.

ES – They’ve committed $32 million for proposals for the next 6 years.

LS – McPherson received it for IB and Gifted Program.

ES – our region is lacking in IB seats feeding into the high schools compared to regions around us.

RW – how does IB work for K-8?

ES – very defined curriculum with certification and training for staff members and an IB coordinator.

TK – we can explore

GFR – sub budget

TK – 7th grade sub is being paid out of CPS budget. Unclear what is happening with the budget line for the previous 7th grade math instructor. 1st grade sub is also not being paid out of our sub budget.

1. CIWP (**5 min**)

No updates – next meeting we will

1. Principal Evaluation (**5 min**)– Motion to approve final summative rating for 2017-18 Principal Evaluation

KB – went through both surveys, some areas that weren’t addressed in the last survey but then after looking at the last rubric it doesn’t align. Luis from the OLSCR offered some guidance. Biggest change was instead of general comments at the end we wanted comments at the end of each competency. We added a few questions for the parents at the end. Would need to do the Spanish translation again now that it’s been redrafted.

1. Facilities and Grounds (**5 min**)

TK – no new information since the public meeting on March 7.

ES – any new information on whether they had reached 60%

JR – There was an article in The Block Club about the Annex

1. PPLC (**5 min**)

RW - Trying to think of how to be more formal about getting teacher feedback

Public comment (**2 min per person**). *Please note: This period is dedicated for questions/comments that directly pertain to the 3 functions of the LSC: Budget, CIWP, and Principal Evaluation. Other questions/comments can be directed to administration (general school operations), teachers (specific classroom/grade level questions), or WatersToday (fundraising and volunteering).*

Carolyn Dean – Trivia Night is at Gideon Welles, April 6, 7pm, Mattress Sale through Waters Today. School news is not getting pushed out to the public facing Waters FB page. Update the school calendar. Little Big Night will be May 17.

CB - If children do opt out of standardized testing what is allowed?

TK – typically it is reading. Stay in the classroom. Students may refuse to take the test but the state doesn’t recognize parent refusal.

RW – will we get the results?

ES – next year. It was implemented too late this year because of late approval by ISBE.

GFR – It is frustrating.

ES – It is unfair

Old business

New business:

Motion to Approve Expenditures >$1000, ES motion, LS second

Meredith Digital ink toner and cartridges - $1409.97 from supply

Motion to move into executive session, ES, CB seconds.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn, , seconds.

Executive Session

Parent Reps: Kristin Bacon (KB), Chris Brannon (CB), Greg Foster-Rice (GFR), Jason Rieger (JR), Erica Smith (ES), Lydia Schmidt (LS)

Community Reps: Zach Koutsky (ZK), Lauren Niedespol (LN)

Teacher Rep: Rielly Wall (RW)

Motion to approve executive session – all present approve

Session is recorded.

GFR moves to end the executive session, LN seconds. All in favor.

Call to order: 6:30pm

Call to close Executive Session: 8pm