Waters Elementary School

LSC minutes for June 11, 2019

ES called to order 6:34

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 – late 6:55), ~~Lauren Niedespol (LN)~~

Teacher Rep: Rielly Wall (RW), ~~Annette Booczko (AB)~~

Principal: Titia Kipp (TK)

Approval of Agenda:

Motion to approve the amended agenda, JR, CB Seconded. All in favor

Approval of Minutes:

Minutes from May LSC meeting, motion to approve, CB motion, KB second. All in favor.

Special Presentation: Nature Play Space – Alison MacDonald Ryan (parent)

A group of parents had concerns about lack of playspace during the construction and even afterwards. I met with other parents and brought these cncerns to Ms. Kipp, who I’m grateful for encouraging me to follow up on these ideas.

Bethany \_\_\_\_ is president of Welles Park Advisory Council, and she put me in touch with Alex Enarson (playscape builder) who visited Waters and looked at the space south of the current annex. He has ideas for older kid areas that include hang-out areas, places that are developmentally appropriate. Could involve ecology teacher and art teachers.

How is this going to be different than the area that SITE Design is designing for the new addition? The main difference is that this is more kid-oriented ideation, that it will be driven by community, that it blends seamlessly with the garden, that it is for older kids.

Why not a steel playground? Those are about $90k and wouldn’t blend in with the garden.

We do believe this could be created much faster and in phases. Could put up some structures and adapt further components based on feedback.

Bethany has also argued that nature play spaces encourage less aggressive and more adventurous play.

Nothing could happen first without going through Ms. Kipp and Central Office. Cost is the next issue – Waters Today could set aside $20k should the LSC approve us going forward with those funds after getting approval from central office. Total cost would be $40k so we would need to ask for even more in terms of fundraising.

TK: would you need 40k to start? Or could you start with 20k as phase 1 and then move ahead?

AMR: Alex is an approved CPS vendor so we would need to go through him. We could probably begin with a phase 1.

JR: Did Alex have any ideas about maintenance?

AMR: That’s part of the 40k, is upkeep. Alex would build this with parents and he would check in and lead the upkeep.

LS: what’s the proposed timeline?

AMR: it’s completely independent of construction. Ideally we would have a couple of anchor playspaces for the start of 2019.

TK: I’ve already reached out to central office

LS: why isn’t CPS paying for this?

JR: because CPS didn't’ want to come within 100 yards of the garden

TK: They are getting rid of both of our current playgrounds and downsizing the current little kids playground and the CPS plans don’t include two playgrounds.

ES: Major curriculum needs have been met. We already have $80k in non-personnel budget.

TK: What is $20k going to look like and can Alex offer a phase plan? That would make us feel better in terms of making a decision.

ES: I move to get a full proposal from Alex E with phasing and cost projections for his fees, materials, and timeline no later than the July LSC meeting. RW second. All in favor? Everyone in favor. (LSC unanimously in favor)

LSC will be in touch with Alison and budget subcommittee will look at the material first.

Reports

1. Reports
2. Principal Report (10 min)

GROW47 – transition to High School. We are having conversations with counselor and administrator at Amundsen to help transition our

3rd grader brought a letter about the second floor girls bathroom and wondered if someof the parent fundraising could be used to repair it. There is a toilet seat without a lid and another non-functioning toilet. Ms. Kipp then emailed Aramark whose responsibility it is to clean and maintain the bathroom. They are also responsible for the 18” grass around the perimeter of the school. The situation is being resolved. Today Aramark were working on the bathroom and the student was thanked.

We are finishing MAP assessments this week.

There have been some challenges with ASPEN

Had a successful arts fair

3rd grade circus

Field day is on Friday

Successful Scholastic Fair

Two students made it to city finals (CeCe Barlow and Nathan Bjurstrom)

7th graders went to Springfield

Optical needs provided for students in need

8th graders went on their luncheon on the Spirit of Chicago boat ride

Parent vs. Students volleyball game – the parents won

We are working with parents in figuring out ways for students to engage in positive activities after school – kids are climbing the trees and building. It’s a big concern because we don’t want someone to get hurt when parents or teachers aren’t present.

Had a culminating event for English classes for parents. The person in charge of this program is leaving so we are seeking someone to take charge of the program.

Waters Today had their meeting last year and I presented the w-9 forms to teachers so they can receive their stipends

JR: Do all kids in all grades get optical services?

TK: It’s for anyone who failed a vision screening

RW: how is the bathroom repair handled financially?

TK: it’s all handled by CPS, not through our budget.

RW: they can do things fast!

TK: There’s a survey on Aramark that comes out Friday, which may have influenced the quick turnaround time.

1. BAC (5 min)

NA: Final workshop was last Friday in the IEP process. Facilitated by Ms. Bricker and Mr. Prado. Potluck was supposed to be tomorrow but bc of weather we are pushing it to fall.

1. Budget (10 min)

TK: Last week we aggressively ordered and purchased all the curricular materials to spend down the budget. There is one line item on the 124 for Aramark to pay the engineer when he was here for the mattress sale and also for Degerberg for their event. So that’s a work in progress.

ES: School budget lines are now frozen, due to the time of year, correct?

TK: It is, but not the 124 accounts, so I put in a request and central office is getting back to me about it.

LS: when you say the budget is frozen, what does that mean?

TK: We are given a timeframe for using the SBB funds and it has to spent down by a certain date, which was last Friday. The only thing left is CTU supply money but that doesn’t go through the office.

ES: the other action item for the budget subcommittee is to look at the budget for next year and discuss the playground.

1. CIWP (5 min)

TK: No CIWP presentation due to end of school year conflicts with ILT.

GFR: Do we have plans for a 30 Week presentation at a future meeting?

TK: We do not. I will talk to ILT.

LS: We are bound to do a public presentation twice during the school year and given that it won’t get done un the school year we are not meeting that obligation.

1. Principal Evaluation (5 min)

LS: we have completed the PE …(GET text). Want to thank everyone for their thoughtful input.

1. PPLC (5 min)

RW: Nothing to report on.

GFR: Any news on the parking questions that were raised?

RW: Nothing yet.

1. Facilities and Grounds (5 min)

TK: I reached out to them regarding the timeline for construction and they said they would get back to me by end of the day.

ZK: Is this still hung up by the Wilson water main?

JR: Perhaps because we are in the second cohort of construction?

1. 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 will be directed to administration (general school operations), teachers (specific classroom/grade level questions), or WatersToday (fundraising and volunteering).*

Lilly Juarez (what follows is a synopsis of a long comment): We have problems with communication, adolescent transition (children engaging in sexual activity, drugs), and bullying. I speak from my experience in social services at Lutheran Social Services. While we have some social services and a social worker at Waters, we need to put more resources towards this area. I think the code of conduct needs to be enforced here and I think we have a problem here. I am very proud of the teachers. I am proud of this school and my hat is off to Ms. Kipp. But we need some consistency and control. We need to make that change working together.

Gwen Imhat: Sorry if I was speaking out of turn earlier. But could you elaborate on paraphernalia being used at school?

TK: It’s about vaping and jules and other paraphernalia.

Parent X: But the administration that this school has now needs to support our community and offer supports. My daughter lost a close friend before the school year. Accolades to Ms. Kipp, Ms. Alvarez and teachers for working on the emotional breakdowns but we need to focus on these issues more regularly.

Gwen Imhat: I’m glad for clarification about Amundsen. Right now the GROW thing is still in place, but you have to put Amundson number 1 then they will get in for right now?

TK: While this is public comments…As it is right now, this year they took Round 1 and Round 2 for Amundsen. It is likely that moving forward that they won’t take Round 2. There are different sections. If you don’t live in the attendance boundary then you need to mark Amundsen as your Round 1 choice.

Jill Scott Brown: regarding parking, I want to reiterate that we want to extend the sidewalk in the parking lot. I know people are asking about Amundsen and we want to communicate this to the school community. One other thought for the garden playground, just an idea because it is unclear who owns what. There is a lot of space in the “community garden” section of the garden that we need to consider the possibility of working on.

AMR: I didn’t mention that in presentation, but it is under discussion.

Eileen Favorite: As someone whose daughter involved in the brownie eating 8th grader, I am concerned that this fear about things happening on school property is going to result in our kids not being able to hang out on school property. If we lock the gates and shush the kids off campus they will go to places that are more dangerous.

Lily: I agree but not everyone thinks like you. Parents need to be accountable

ES: In the interest of time I will summarize the discussion so far, there is a fine balance between giving children autonomy and protecting them and not every parents sees that line. If we’ve learned anything this year it is that we don’t live in a bubble. The things we read about in the news are happening here too.

Melissa McGowan: Is there a known problem business that is selling to children?

Eileen: It was not in the neighborhood, according to the kids.

Jill: How do you make parents aware?

ES: This is important stuff and we need a venue to talk about it and problem solve.

TK: And they need to read it

Ms. Ballasch: because I teach health and I will be sending parents an article about juling which has grown exponentially in the past few years. We have seen it grow. We have to address it and we know that with the new laws in IL we need to figure out how to address it because it will be accessible in more homes. Recommended website here: <https://childmind.org/article/teen-vaping-what-you-need-to-know/>

TK: I can put it in my blog which appears in the Green Notes so all parents will have the appropriate resources.

Ms. Aguilar: just remind your students to let the teacher know rather than just go home.

Parent Y: I’m concerned about a situation in my daughter’s class.

TK: I immediately met with you

Parent Y: Need follow through of social worker meeting with me.

ES: Recommended action step is to get a meeting between Parent Y and the social worker so you can find resolution.

1. Old business
2. New business
   1. Organizational meeting in July – will be July 10, 4-6pm.
   2. Motion to approve expenditures over $1000:

Check 2405     Broadway In Chicago (Hamilton Exhibit)             $3611.00

Check 2406     BJ’s Transportation (transportation to HE)        $1100.00

Check 2412 Interstate Studio (Yearbook)                         $3557.00

Check 2415     Bluestar Embroidery (Kdg T’s and Caps)             $1892.00

Check 2416     Scholastic Book Fair (Spring)                                        $6361.30

ES motion to approve all, ZK seconded, All approve.

1. Motion to go into brief executive session for Principal Evaluation feedback – RW motion, KB seconded.
2. Adjournment