

Waters Elementary School
LSC minutes for Jan 21, 2020

JR called to order 4:04pm

Quorum:

Parent Reps: ~~Kirstin Bacon (KB)~~, Chris Brannan (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), Ms. Ballasch (MB)
Non-Teacher Rep: Mr. Williams (MW)
Principal: Titia Kipp (TK)

Approval of Agenda:

Motion to approve the agenda, ES, ZK Seconded. All in favor

Approval of Minutes:

Motion to approve minutes from the Dec Meeting, RW motion, ZK second. ES abstain because absent.

Special Presentations:

Science Fair Qualifiers

Ms.Ballasch – all students do a Science Fair Project. Students can compete in school fair, and if they qualify they may move ahead to Network. Two students received gold ribbon and will move to city wide fair: Sylvia Foster-Rice (8th grade) and Noah Bjurstrom (7th grade). Elias Vlamis 7th grade received a silver ribbon and Malaina Rangel of 7th grade received honorable mention. (We saw brief presentations from Foster-Rice, Bjurstrom, and Vlamis in the meeting).

JR – congrats on our science fair competitors!

Public Comment

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Lauren – new Chief of Staff for Ann Williams. Wanting to check out LSC meetings. Rep Williams has a legislative preview on Saturday, Jan. 25, 10am at Belmont Lincoln Library.

Special Presentations:

Waters Today

Jenn Davidson (parent, WT volunteer) – Full statement below:

As news of the annex is being announced into the larger community, It is now time to think about what WatersToday will need to help address in the coming year. With that said, we ask the LSC and administration to think about and provide a “wish list” of items we can help fund during the fundraising year of 2020-2021. This will allow us to be most effective in our communications and fundraising. We realize we will need more donations than ever to

support our teachers and the beautiful new building. As you know, we fundraise a year in advance and having this wish list will allow us to speak more clearly to the Waters Community what their donation can help fund. We believe by having a specific list will increase our donations from parents and community members. We have noticed that other schools "Friends of Groups" specifically list certain items they support and donors have asked us for this very thing. For example, will we need items for a library, will science teachers need updated equipment? WatersToday would like this list by our May meeting so that we can thoughtfully plan our fundraising budget for 2020/2021. Additionally, we can share this information with the new WatersToday board who will take office in June.

A second request is for this year's Big Night, taking place on February 29th. As in year's past, we are asking for straight donations through the Give from the Heart. We would like the money raised from this item to fund a specific item. We believe by highlighting one thing instead of the vague "school initiatives" will assist in not only our communications but also the number of donations given. For example, can Give from the Heart fund something that is needed from the CIWP? Can we fund something for one of our specials (gym, art, drama and music)? WatersToday would like to have a response on this item from the LSC/Admin by February 1st to allow time for WatersToday to communicate this through Green Notes and at event signage.

RW: can you clarify Gift from the Heart.

JD: This is the big paddle raise, live auction. Last year it was a silent auction. This year we may do silent auction, or possibly a live auction. This will be a direct donation to WT. IN the past it has always been general, but we feel we could get a bigger set of donations if we had a specific request in mind for the auction.

ES: how much did you get last year?

JD: between \$10-15,000

Presentation of the CIWP

See attached presentation

JR: Thanks for all of your work. How would you relate this to the SQRP Score?

Nilsa Alvarez – we have the Five Essentials survey which ties into the SQRP.

AV – what we found was that both teachers and students want to be challenged.

Everyone wants more rigor, more text and task complexity.

JR – Looking at areas of ESL and DL we were lagging in growth. Do you have any insight into how we might be able to adjust strategies to address these areas of challenge?

AV – This is what we mean when we talk about text and task complexity, which I think will help address this issue, along with the creation of classroom libraries.

TK – also I would say that to that question about our ESL and DL learning needs, there is a lot of overlap. We are working on those areas of overlap, especially with Ms.

Booczko after school along with other teachers.

AV – For years the DL staff was under-staffed

LS – is there a plan to address arts integration, which I know is part of what CPS is pushing?

AV – I'll speak to that as an art teacher – I've always done arts integration and will continue to do that. As an advocate for arts integration I would love for everyone of us do it every time.

LS – what about in the non-arts classrooms?

TK – when we first became a magnet cluster we were provided with 2 full time essential teachers (beyond the regular 5 essential teachers) who pushed into classrooms and did arts integrated units within regular classrooms. Then they took away one position and we've been losing funding and have no federal and minimum of state money, so now all the arts essential teachers are within the five essential slots, and are not able to push into the classroom the way they used to be able to do.

AV – it was certainly easier in the past. Right now we do that through the STEAM initiative.

Ms. Rivadeneira (AR)– For example we use the Art Institute as a resource to integrate arts into art, history, and literature.

LS – I agree and would just love to see this work reflected in the CIWP.

AV – we can definitely emphasize that in the CIWP. Teachers are making with kids a lot.

TK – Fine Arts is a specialization for teachers in CPS, so STEAM helps change the mindset and allow teachers who work in math, science, etc to work with art principles.

CB – I know it's been awhile since we covered the CIWP, so I was missing a little the metrics for success.

AV – we used those numbers to create action steps.

CB – which numbers?

AV – the SQRP data and Five Essentials.

NA – we did gather evidence

GFR – In the past we offered a presentation on the NWEA MAP data. Recognizing that it is only one part of a complex picture of student achievement, I wonder if we could see a public presentation of this data as we have in the past. It helps us identify areas where we are making significant gains and areas that may need some additional work.

AV – and sometimes is showed slight dips with new curriculum

GFR – Exactly, it helped us see the dips with the introduction of new curriculum, usually followed by gains. But it also showed areas that might benefit from new curriculum or other investments in professional development.

AV – I think we can do that or a future meeting.

Sandy Barlow – I know we've been working on differentiation but would love to know more what that looks like. How is it being measured?

AV – That's what we were looking at in the Five Essentials data and recognizing that we need to challenge students more.

RW – During my lessons I can differentiate higher or lower, but in terms of finding work for a variety of students I give leveled work during focus time. There are more complex things you can do in class but focus time throughout the day is most helpful.

Theresa Moulton – similar question. Where will I see it and know about it as a parent?

AV – growth mindset

AR – it is different for each classroom, but I do it in individualized reports within my classroom. You could always ask you teacher to look at those reports. Or in parent-teacher-student conferences. In 6th grade they take a whole day to reflect on where they are as students. It became a positive in growth mindset in terms of goal setting.

Mary Gallery – is there a system the school uses to help identify reading levels?

AR - MAP reports give you the reading levels (Lexile scores etc). We also use CAFÉ and good fit books. It's a little different grade by grade.

AV – One of the points that came from our Network walk through was that text and task complexity could happen with the classroom libraries.

Old Business

Vote to approve final summative Principal Evaluation score to be entered in PEOT.

ES – to be clear this is from last year.

JR – do we have a motion to approve? CB approves motion, ZK seconded (All approved with Ballasch abstaining because not on the LSC when the original PE was conducted. Mr. Williams not yet able to vote).

New Business

a. Checks to approve:

a. All Seasons Basketball uniforms \$1123.50, Check #2458

b. Worlds Finest Chocolates 8th Grade Fundraiser \$3095.00 Check #2459

Motion to approve, RW, LN seconded. All approved. No abstentions or nays.

Reports

JR - Before the reports I want to cite a couple of quick notes. Big Night is coming up and we are very excited about this. The Pop Art exhibition is Thursday January 30th – ton of work for Ms. Vecchioni and volunteers. Shout-out to our school – there was a grandparent community member at pickup who said you could tell a lot about a school based on what's going on after school. That's a reflection of the staff, students, and parents' investment. We heard that from a community member and wanted to pass it along.

ES – wanted to give a shout out to Mr. Kurz, Mr. Orlov and Mr. Archer...basketball season is upon us. We have a lot of teams playing in the Northside Basketball League (NBL).

TK – The NBL was organized a few years ago to replace the CPS league which was unsatisfactory in terms of organization and competitions. Thank you for recognizing all that the

teachers are doing here. The after and before school programming were added by me as a principal because as a parent I recognized that if I needed before and after care programs so would other parents.

Parent – Great support from teachers and coach after my son broke his foot at basketball game. Thank you guys.

a. Principal Report (10 min)

See report.

b. BAC (5 min)

c. Budget (10 min)

d. Facilities and Grounds (5 min)

TK: Requested that my engineer put down salt. No one was deployed by CPS or Aramark as we used to have in the past. I was on the phone all day working to get Aramark to do the work. I've heard that their contract was renewed another year.

E. CIWP

See presentation from earlier

F. Principal Evaluation

LS – Mr. Wall and Ms. Blasch met with the teachers about the idea of “observations” of Ms. Kipp.

RW – I explained that the word “observation” was a misnomer, it wasn't intended as a mechanism to “observe” teachers, but there's still a concern on part of teachers that they would be incidentally observed and that it wasn't a good use of LSC time.

LS – so we've dropped the idea of “observations”

RW – I still argue that there could be other mechanisms for getting data

LS – One thing coming down the pike is the paper surveys (which we need to translate and figure out how to distribute at Report Card pickup day in both English and Spanish so we have time to meet the deadline for the final review and submission of the PE)

g. PPLC

Ms. Ballasch (PB) – PPLC falls under open meetings act so we will follow the LSC model and have open meetings with announced times, public comment etc. This winter our focus will be reviewing the CIWP and selecting the new action steps. Mr. Wall and I are the chairs of the PPLC as the default chairs. If you have any questions please let us know.

h. Fine Arts

LS -Next month Julie deBettencourt, the Head of CPS Office of Arts Education, will present next meeting.

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Carolyn Byerly Dean – there’s a missing teacher in 4th grade, the kids have been spreading the rumor about his potential return and we were wondering if we could get a response directly from administration or teachers.

TK – duly noted.

Adjournment:

List of action Items before next meeting (chief agent for instigating action is underlined):

New Action Items:

- TK, PPLC reps, and CIWP members on LSC – analyze the school performance data (Spring 2019 NWEA MAP scores etc) and present a synopsis to the LSC. (Erica has made heat maps before, which was very effective)
- TK – follow up on Aramark contract and confirm the length of their renewal (since they provide such essential tasks as snow removal and salting etc)
- Principal Evaluation Committee – in place of the LSC directly observing the principal (at times selected by the principal), it was suggested that there may be other mechanisms for getting appropriate data. The PE Committee should identify those mechanisms to provide a fuller, more accurate, and more equitable picture of the principal’s work and accomplishments.
- Budget committee – provide secretary with budget updates or PDFs of budget reports to include with minutes.

Old Action Items:

- Facilities & Grounds will try to get a weekly meeting with Construction Crew to provide updated information to the community. *Zack Koutsky is following up with Alderman on this issue.*

- Principal Evaluation Committee will establish schedule for more regular meetings to spread the tasks over the course of the school year (amended: set for before/after next three meetings).
- PPLC will meet and provide update at next meeting
- TK and Fine Arts Committee will determine schedule of meetings and review CPS self-evaluation tool mentioned in the Fine Arts Committee report.