



**Waters Elementary School
Local School Council**

Meeting Minutes - APPROVED

Date	Tuesday, October 20 2020
Meeting Type	Regular Meeting
Time Start/End	6:34pm/8:31pm
Location	Google Meet
Chairperson	Jason Rieger
Minutes Prepared By	Lydia Milman Schmidt
Attendees	Present: Peggy Ballasch, Chris Brannan, Greg Foster-Rice, Ari Frede, Titia Kipp, Zach Koutsky, Alison MacDonald-Ryan, Jason Rieger, Lydia Milman Schmidt, Rielly Wall, Mark Williams Not present: Erica Smith
Minutes Approved Date	November 17, 2020

Actions

Approve Agenda	JR: Motion to amend agenda to remove statement from Hermelinda Garcia (#5) and add BAC update to Reports section. CB: Second Unanimous approval
Approve Minutes	CB: Motion to approve minutes from September 15 and September 29 Special Meeting AF: Second Unanimous approval

Public Comment

Hermelinda Garcia	<p>Regarding the previous LSC meeting. Mr Fourcher brought up an incident that happened two years ago. She thought it had been resolved. Read an exit slip from his son about drama class. Spoke to another parent of a child who was on the leadership team and other parents regarding complaints in last month's meeting. Other staff were in and near the annex and would have reported "yelling and screaming". Read two more exit slips from students.</p> <p>JR: In the future, we want to get away from the back and forth regarding faculty. This is not the appropriate venue.</p>
Erica Battin (via email)	<p>Was at the LSC budget committee meeting and still had some questions regarding the delay for finalizing fifth essentials teacher. Also concerned about the delay in allocating funding from Waters Today. Wondering why there is a delay in how much funding is coming from CPS.</p> <p>TK: We have more information. Would like to have another budget committee meeting before communicating to the wider public.</p>

Special Presentations

Waters Today Update	<p>Kortney Moore: Pending the fundraising approval that is on the agenda tonight, we are moving forward with the pledge drive this fall and will be combining it with the maker fair. There is an event currently at Gideon Welles.</p> <p>Internal funds update: There is some money coming in from recurring donations (\$3000) and refunds from parties from last year's Big Night (\$12,000). This year's budget of \$128,000 is later on the agenda.</p> <p>The maker fair will be online. Watch Green Notes for information.</p>
Nature Playspace Update	<p>Alex Enarson: We have broken ground on the nature play space, working closely with Mr Leki and other volunteers from the garden group. Making good progress. Would like to get at least two of the four anchor features in before Thanksgiving or when the ground freezes. Is generally there 8:00am-4:30pm. Please stop by.</p>

	<p>One anchor is a nautilus shaped deck, which will probably be the highest points in the play space. All natural materials. The second anchor is the shelter/nest area, which is farther east on the bushes between the patio and the astro turf area. Will be creating a Leopold bench made from black locust timbers coming up out of the earth. The next piece would be repurposing the ash logs that are on site. They'll be cut and bent into giant arcs. The last feature is more for running and jumping, which will be on the south end near the garden.</p> <p>AM: Are you still interested in having parent volunteers?</p> <p>AE: Would love help. If there is a big earth moving day, for example, that's a good opportunity for parent volunteers. Will have to see what happens with Covid and CPS guidelines. He and his crew are masked and safe.</p> <p>JR: Can email waterslsc@gmail.com if you're interested and LSC can put in touch with Alex.</p> <p>Amy Vecchioni: Is there any potential for installations or student interpretation? Could we coordinate to provide an arts element? Would like to work together.</p> <p>AE: Absolutely. I'm building four blank canvases. We can work together. Hoping to re-establish some "play-proof" plants, but there will be lots of open space. Ground cover will be mulch. The space is what you make it.</p> <p>Kortney Moore: Waters Today can help organize volunteers.</p> <p>TK: Thank you for the presentation. It sounds really exciting. Will find out guidelines for volunteers. We are responsible for contact tracing and need to follow CPS guidelines.</p>
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New Business

Waters Today Request for Fundraising Approval for 2020-21	<p>JR: Recusing himself. Chris Brannan also must recuse himself, as spouses are both on board.</p> <p>Greg Foster-Rice takes over as chair.</p> <p>GFR: Please read request out loud. Explains that LSC must approve fundraising requests.</p>
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	<p>Kortney Moore: Waters Today is requesting permission to fundraise. Events are pledge drive and maker fair from November-December 2020. The previous request was for the entire school year. The profit was \$128,000 which was given to LSC to allocate.</p> <p>Anticipated revenue \$85,000, which would go to the school for ecology program and other school needs.</p> <p>GFR: Motion to approve the Waters Today fundraising. RW: Second. Nine yeses. Two recusals. Motion passes.</p>
<p>Partial Allocation of Waters Today funds</p>	<p>Jason Rieger takes over as chair.</p> <p>Chris Brannan: Sharing original proposed allocation from August. \$148,000 includes \$20,000 for the nature play space from last year. Had provisionally allocated \$25,000 for remote learning technology needs, \$10,000 for teacher-provided tutoring and \$10,000 for Circle of Help.</p> <p>In yesterday's meeting, we considered requests from Waters Teachers. We still have \$25,000 for remote learning support. This covers wish lists from teachers which included approximately \$18,000. We also added back in the funding for the ½ Essentials position. Waters Today had been trying to move away from funding personnel, but given the constraints this year and enrollment numbers, Waters Today has agreed to fund this position for this year. That is approximately \$50,000 for the year.</p> <p>The spend of \$67,556 is what we are proposing to vote on today. The total spend would be slightly higher than our budget, so we will need to look closely at our budget going forward. We are currently about \$19,000 over-budget.</p> <p>JR: Clarification - We had discussed voting on funding the full ½ essentials position for the full year, as well as the remaining Q1 expenses.</p> <p>RW: Can someone speak more about Circle of Help?</p> <p>Ms Booczko: We have been providing a lot of help to families in need.</p> <p>Ms Bricker: Circle of Help has provided coats, CTA cards, grocery store gift cards, etc.</p>

AMR: Can you speak to the \$25,000 for learning support? Do we just approve the entire amount? How does allocation work?

CB: Ms Kipp and Ms Alvarez have polled the teacher for needs. Approximately \$18,000 has already been requested. The remaining \$7,000 has yet to be allocated, but requests are coming in for things like printer ink. The idea is to approve the full amount.

AMR: This is to support teachers and staff. Is there anything else for students? Students have Chromebooks that are crashing. It feels like there is a slight disconnect there.

CB: This is for the teachers to be able to teach. The school has a significant number of Chromebooks. We bought new ones toward the end of last year. Ms Kipp and admin have been trying to match needs with students so they have the technology they require.

TK: We still have Chromebooks available for families. Some have broken, so we are seeing if tech support can repair them. We still have Chromebooks available in carts to loan out to students.

GFR: It sounds like we've got things figured out. All teacher positions are funded. We've got money to put towards teacher supports and Circle of Help, which may address some of Alison's concerns about meeting students' needs. Can Ms Kipp clarify what the 20th day numbers are and whether we anticipate getting any further money from CPS to offset the \$19,000 deficit in this proposed allocation?

CB: Official number from the website is 647.

TK: I wanted to talk to the budget committee first about funds received from the 20th day. The 647 number is not correct.

LMS: Does it make sense to over-budget by \$18,000 without knowing what money is coming in from CPS? Should we approve the first two quarters of the music teacher salary and see whether it makes sense to move Q3 and Q4 back to the school budget?

JR: We want to make sure that teacher salaries are funded.

LMS: The teacher's salary will definitely be funded. I'm apprehensive about having a deficit in the budget.

	<p>CB: We can monitor closely and can always re-allocate as we go.</p> <p>AMR: Should there be some carry-over to next year, knowing we may not raise as much money this year?</p> <p>CB: Waters Today wants us to spend all of the money. We don't always meet that goal. We met with training from CPS. Their take was that money should be spent the year after it was raised. Tend to agree that</p> <p>JR: This is all why we are doing a partial allocation, so we can reassess as needed and be flexible.</p> <p>We are talking about approving \$50,224 for ½ essentials position, \$25,000 for remote learning support and \$10,000 for Circle of Help. \$85,224 total. Any other concerns?</p> <p>JR: Motion to approve allocation of \$85,224 for the 2020-21 school year to fund ½ essential staff position, remote learning support for teachers and staff and Circle of Help.</p> <p>CB: Second.</p> <p>Roll Call</p> <p>CB: Aye</p> <p>GFR: Aye</p> <p>AMR: Aye</p> <p>PB: Aye</p> <p>RW: Aye</p> <p>TK: Aye</p> <p>ZK: Aye</p> <p>AF: Aye</p> <p>MW: Aye</p> <p>LMS: Aye</p> <p>JR: Aye</p> <p>Unanimous approval.</p>
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Old Business

Updating on final numbers for hiring homeroom teacher	<p>\$13K transferred from 21314 - Lincoln Square Presbyterian Church - to Benefits Pointer</p> <p>\$37K transferred from 21316 - Right at School - to Salary Pointer</p> <p>\$7,500.00 transferred from Office Maintenance/Repair to 115 Benefit</p>
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	JR: Motion CB: Second Unanimous approval
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Reports

Chair Report	Upcoming LSC election. Had a great candidate forum. Statements were emailed to everyone from Ms Kipp. Welcome Alison MacDonald Ryan to the LSC!
Principal Report	<p>Video of candidate forum will be posted to the website.</p> <p>There has been a lot of talk around remote learning and preK and cluster programs returning to school. Waters does not have preK or cluster programs. We will not be conducting a town hall meeting with the community on that topic because it doesn't pertain to us at this time.</p> <p>We had a wonderful candidate forum. Two candidates withdrew from the LSC elections. Chris Brannan and Susan Termini have both withdrawn their application.</p> <p>Thank you to newly formed technology support team led by parent volunteer Leah Rieger and teachers Ms Alvarez, Ms Cavey, Mr Archer and Ms Walsh. They've streamlined the process for Google meets, especially for essentials classes. Most tech issues around meeting links have been resolved. Thank you to Ms Aguilar for tireless attention to the website. She recently led a workshop for the BAC on Google Classroom, Google Meets and Aspen.</p> <p>Ms Landes and Ms Bricker recently conducted a diverse learner workshop.</p> <p>Congratulations to Bilingual Advisory Committee (BAC) officers: Erminia Aguilar, President Sheyla Z. Esparza, Vice President Carmen Chami, Secretary Griselda Miranda, Representative Janeth Eulogio, Alternate Representative</p> <p>and Alison MacDonald Ryan, new LSC parent rep.</p> <p>Construction will hopefully be vacating the building on October 30, just in time for professional development November 6. Will</p>

give an opportunity for staff to go back to school and start organizing classrooms. Teachers haven't been able to access their classrooms. Some teachers may be able to teach from their classrooms. No teacher will be required to come into the building. All CDC safety guidelines will be followed. Could coordinate a materials pickup.

(Full report attached)

Committees - Bilingual Teacher Committee, Arts Leadership Team, MTSS Team, Grade Level Teams, SEL Team, Google Support Team. Have settled in with remote learning, so now are further developing work around CIWP.

Fine Arts attended first Standards for Success professional development. Planning for academic language development, PD for all teachers re English Learners.

All Diverse Learner positions have been staffed - teachers and assistants. An additional assistant position has been approved, but hasn't been posted yet.

Ecology program family field experiences.

Safety concerns regarding Remote Learning have lessened due to improved district safeguards and streamlining access for google classrooms.

Upcoming events: Spirit Week (week of Halloween); no school on Election Day, November 3. No school on Friday, November 6. There is school on November 10 (Veteran's Day). November 18 conferences will be virtual. Waiting for details. Also LSC elections - still no information.

LMS: Any plans to have a survey for feedback on remote learning?

TK: There is a staff meeting tomorrow, can bring it up. Middle school teachers are meeting with parents to check in.

PB: There is ongoing check-in with students on how they are feeling.

Ms Bricker: Meeting with all classes this week. The topic is feelings, naming feelings.

AMR: As a working parent of three, I'm wondering if there is

	another resource for parents - sharing best practices with parents to feel less isolated.
Budget	We had a training with CPS as a full LSC. Chris and Lydia did an additional training with OLSCR around budget issues.
PPLC	PB: Most of the PPLC have stepped down. There would have been an election. It has to be run by union delegate. Hasn't happened yet. The demands of remote learning and different committees made it low priority. Mr Wall, Ms Ballasch and one other teacher are the only ones. There will be an election coming up. Not sure how much interest there is.
Facilities & Grounds	Not much to report beyond previous updates on nature play space and construction.
Principal Evaluation	AF: Setting up the principal evaluation feedback session. Coming up soon. JR: Agenda will be posted and Ms Kipp will set up the meeting and put it on the calendar.
CIWP	GFR: Ms Kipp indicated there will be planning forthcoming. We are due meetings to put together 15- week monitoring report. Would love to work with Ms Kipp to set up. TK: Will bring it up in the faculty meeting.
BAC	Ermidia Aguilar (BAC President): Held first meeting October 8. Talked about how to navigate Google Classroom and Aspen, led by Ms Beza and Ms Aguilar. Learned how to translate Waters website into Spanish. November 9 4pm-5pm social meeting conducted by Ms Beza and Ms Booczko. Will be sharing traditional recipes and family traditions. Next BAC meeting is December 7. AMR: Has the BAC seen the same uptick in attendance in the LSC has remotely? Ms Beza: There were about 7-10 parents attending. We are trying to reach more parents of bilingual students.
Fine Arts Committee	GFR: Committee members are myself, Lydia and Ari. We've been trying to pin down a meeting time with the Arts Leadership Team. We're going to hear about the October 9 Standards of Success training, creating statements of purposes, showcases, the book creation project. Ms Vecchioni is always in need of volunteers. Reach out directly to Ms Vecchioni.

	<p>There will be a school-wide CPS Arts survey. Ms Vecchioni will put in Green Notes. Will also be talking about the Creative Schools Arts Liaison report. Will have more to share at the November meeting.</p>
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Public Comment

Hope Wielgopalan	<p>I know that school has purchased Chromebooks. I would like to see if we could get parent volunteers to get a note out in Green Notes and any other way to inform parents that if children have Chromebooks that aren't working, parents can replace them. I'll volunteer to go to students' houses to pick up Chromebooks that aren't working and replace them. We are on our fourth. Replacing them is easy, but I have availability to go to school during school hours, but not everyone does. I'd like to help.</p>
Robert Sebanc	<p>I apologize. If I thought I would be able to effectively contact the administration or CPS with help, I would. I'm forced to make comments on this forum. In response to the comments earlier by a CPS teacher, Ms Garcia in regards to myself and my children made without my or my wife's permission, I find that troubling. I'll be seeking legal advice on those matters.</p> <p>In regards to my daughter, we opted her out of Ms Garcia's art class three weeks ago. I did not receive a response to my email about that. I'd like to read an email from 6th grade students to their teachers without parent help. (Reads letter from students regarding Design Thinking Art class).</p>
Darian Martyniuk	<p>I hope everyone is well. Remote learning is going well in my family. To Jason, we have nowhere else to go. We've spoken to the teacher, we have spoken to Ms Kipp, we have spoken to the LSC, we have spoken to Mr Segovia and some parents have gone over Mr Segovia's head. Please tell us where to go with our concerns.</p> <p>Ms Garcia, as the son of immigrants myself, I've never felt it necessary to bring my background up to defend myself against any comments. Regarding her comments about my son in her play last year, if she was under the impression I said she bullied him, he was able to stand up in her class. I have made multiple OIG complaints on my daughter's issues with Ms Garcia.</p> <p>We are complaining about a teacher. We're saying there's an issue with her class. There's a simple way for everyone in the</p>

	<p>community understand what's going on in her class, which would be to have people watch the video taped classes she has taught. If she's doing what she's supposed to do, I'll be glad to hear why.</p> <p>JR: I don't know what the union rules are around viewing video taped classes.</p> <p>PB: It's also a student privacy issue.</p>
Mike Fourcher	<p>I'm very grateful for the efforts for the sixth grade team. They have been excellent and my son has benefitted from them tremendously. I'm concerned about unprofessional behavior at Waters. This is the forum available to me, since the administration is unwilling to address them. Ms Garcia read private comments by my son without his consent. He was a nine-year-old fourth grader at the time. My comments last month reflect the experiences of many other parents. I resent the insulation of racism. I support teachers. I just have a problem with this one.</p>
Mark Williams	<p>Reminder that there is food distribution. Hopefully by mid-November we will be onsite at Waters. It's a nine-meal pack for any CPS student. It doesn't have to be from the school you go to. Any school distributing meals are available from 8am-1pm.</p>
Greg Foster-Rice	<p>Ms Kipp, I hope you can bring the parents and teacher together to address this situation.</p> <p>TK: I will address this situation. I'm not going to go into details in this public forum, but I will be addressing it in a timely manner.</p>

Adjourn Meeting	<p>Motion: MW Second: ZK Unanimous approval.</p>
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Action Items/Next Steps

Action Item	Owner	Due Date

Next Meeting Date & Time	Regular Meeting Tuesday, November 17, 2020
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