

**Final Meeting Minutes**  
Waters Elementary Local School Council  
Tuesday, OCT 14, 2014

John Neyer, Chairman called the meeting to order at 6:38pm. Terry motioned, Jessica 2<sup>nd</sup>, approved.

Not present: Josh Kalov, Community Representatives; Sean Rabiola, Teacher Rep. who is on paternity leave.

Present: Principal Titia Crespo, Parent Representatives: Greg Foster-Rice, Emily Haite, Jessica Blomquist, John Neyer, Melissa Rojas, Terri Versace, Greg Foster-Rice  
Community Representatives: Jacqueline Gaines, Teacher Representatives: Carla Barta

Seven parents/community members and teachers attended the meeting. Those participants who signed in were: Erica Smith, Erica Battin, Amy Szosak, Jeff Sullivan, Kate Prince, Jeff Korte, Fernando DeMaio, and Rick Bollinger

Agenda approval: Emily Haite, motioned, Greg Foster-Rice seconded, all were in favor, and the agenda was approved. John motioned to approve the minutes, Jacqueline seconded the motion, all were in favor, and minutes from 9-9-14 were approved.

Principal Crespo asked to amend the prior minutes to add Teacher Rep, Carla Barta, to the Principal Evaluation Subcommittee. Clarification was made that that there is no limit to the number of people who can serve on each subcommittee.

John noted questions from last meeting (old business).

The Committee Reports followed.

Chairperson report: Webcasting solution ready for next month.

Communications committee: Terri Versace and Melissa Rojas – beginning Los padres program trying to get into the classrooms, sending home info in folders to non-English speaking families, finding parents to dialog with regarding school issues and questions.

Terri showed the video in appreciation of Marianos and Ald. Pawar's assistance with the grant.

Josh will be updating website. He made a new page on Waters website to review the meetings and added Agenda/Min/presentations.

Terri Talked about HS choices and upcoming events.

Budget Committee: no report

CIWP: no report  
PPLC – no report, Carla noted the girl's volleyball win.  
Principal Evaluation review: no report

There was no Old Business on the agenda and John asked for additional Public/Parent Comments.

Principal Crespo noted that she had teachers attend Daily Café workshop, Ms. Alvarez and she are beginning teacher observation rounds, more training on multi-tiered support structure (flex days), talked about prep time, and how dedicated our staff is, they come in early and stay late and pitch in where possible. PARCC assessment test is coming, look it up and become familiar with it.

Erica Smith went to raise your hand event and knows about PARCC and offered to share what she learned with parents.

Discretionary funds approval: 8<sup>th</sup> grade Washington dc trip, yearbook order.

New business: none

### **Parent/Community Member Questions**

*(Answers may have not been revised to maintain changes, status and progress)*

17 Questions were written to the LSC and/or asked by those present and noted on the sign-in forms.

Q: Parent, noted, I am pleased that the PE policy what are the consequences for behavior and how do they align with our wellness policy in school?

Mrs. Crespo responded to take it up with Mr. kurz. And would get back to her at a later date with an answer on the behavior/Discipline policy.

Q: When is the Math Forum scheduled? (Prin. Crespo noted during CIWP meeting we would hold one early this year and try to include the math book editor/publisher) Where are we on this?

Principal Crespo Response: won't happen in this quarter. Waiting to see where we are at with math curriculum because cps has not approved (purchase of new materials). Will reach out to the staff to decide math forum. Trailblazers. \* Erica Smith volunteered to help with this and asked about the offering of tutoring for kids with math homework.

Q: Parent emailed 2 questions: The student numbers projection for this year was around 680 yet our current count is around 630.

Principal Crespo Response: Somebody downtown projects our enrollment, how are

projected student numbers calculated? The budget #'s are based on a trajectory. We didn't allocate a certain amt. of money because we anticipate the hit on our budget what was the final count for 2013?

Q: Do we record the attrition - how many students leave, from what grades and most importantly, why?

Principal Crespo Response: No there is probably a department downtown but we don't have time to do this? In future, how can we make a more accurate projection on student numbers so that we are at less risk of losing critical funding? Ever year there is attrition, job transfer, moving, not happy at waters, - again this happens from downtown. 2015-16 our funding will be less

Q: Jessica Blomquist, LSC, asks follow up – in the era of student based funding, if/when family's leave Waters can we do an exit interview so we can maintain best practices?

Principal Crespo Response: No, we don't have time to do this.

Q: Parent wrote we are now past day 20 of school and know our final student numbers. We also know that we are not losing funding due to the under enrollment. The CTU contract caps class size at 28.

Principal Crespo Response: They don't cap anything. They recommend it. Our two kinder classes are at 33 students.

Q: Are we going to get CPS funded full or part time aids for both kinder classes?

Principal Crespo Response: CPS is waters, we are looking at monies in our school budget to get final clarification on all of the sgsa funding and fed, state funds, we no longer get fed funds. Waiting for a final #. I am aware that we need to do something. We need to do something, but parents may need to do something too Does the administration have any plans to cap class sizes at 28 pupils as per the CTU contract, CTU does not cap anything and as has been done in other schools like Hamilton and Ravenswood? Spoke to prin. at Ravenswood and he has not capped anything. ???

Q: Parent wrote- a couple of years ago the Waters community raised a significant amount of money for the building of two new Science labs. Is it true that only one lab was built, as there were insufficient funds for the second one to be completed? If this is the case, what happened to the left over funds?

Terri Versace and Principal Crespo Response: We did not raise enough funds for 2 labs, we have purchased science equip for the other lab but it isn't done, constructed

Q: Parent wrote I learned recently that Mr. Leki teaches only one class to each grade per quarter. I understand students used to have Ecology once a week. What changed?

As one of our pinnacle programs and given that Mr. Leki has so much to offer our kids as a teacher and as a role model, how can we return to having ecology once a week? It is possible to get him an assistant so that he can spend less time maintaining the gardens and more time teaching our children?

Terry Versace/Principal Crespo Response: We are working in a partnership w. northeastern they are available to help maintain the program. In CIWP math is a priority, and while it is a part of our science curriculum, we can't solely teach ecology.

Public comments: Terri answered the question on frequency of Ecology class as a special and why it has decreased noting that 3 years ago, we ended up getting up \$ from cps for an extra position which we didn't use it for science teacher and instead made ecology/health a special that year. Crespo noted – we had shorter school day, more flexibility, and we can no longer do that.

Q: Parent emailed please describe how the meeting minutes are made available to parents following the LSC meetings. Are the September meeting minutes approved at the October meeting and then available via the website? #2 if so, is there a timelier manner to update parents?

Principal Crespo Response: LSC min. approved and should be posted by the next meeting. 1 month behind

Q: For example, if the Administration and/or the LSC have come up with some options to lower the current Kindergarten student: teacher ratio. How will the information be shared with the school community before the November meeting?

Principal Crespo Response: I would be sending out a letter or going out in green notes. Will be having that conversation with kinder parents.

Q: Parent wrote regarding kinder class size, in advance of the Sept 9 meeting (Sep 4). What has been resolved with regards to the kinder class sizes?

Principal Crespo Response: I would be sending out a letter or going out in green notes. Will be having that conversation with kinder parents.

Q: Parent asked, could parents fund aides/helpers to assist teachers in K-3 classrooms, at least for part of the school day? How much would this cost, and what do we need to do to make this happen for this school year? Could this initiative include a parent mentor/volunteer program? With kinder group to fund for teaching asst. in classroom.

Principal Crespo Response: I have been in conversation with them that they have a very large classroom and what we can do to assist? \$45,000 full time teacher asst. (inclusive of benefits)

This goes back to something we've discussed w/ classroom teachers, and if the

teachers desire to have a teacher aid/assistant or mentor, they are not coming to Mrs. Crespo to ask for one. Ms. Barta and Mr. Raviola's role on the LSC is to hear if teachers want this and they haven't asked for help.

Q: Parent emailed regarding a pop-up playground (Sept 3). The administration was also CC-ed. Has there been any follow-up on this public-private partnership?

Principal Crespo Response: Great idea. We are looking into it but could not do this last year. We contacted the parent directly

Q: Parent wrote regarding the policy of no parent volunteers in the lunchroom, in advance of the Sep 9 meeting (Sep 9). Has this been resolved?

Principal Crespo Response: Yes we have right at school now to manage this.

Q: Parents wrote RE: PE policy \*(whereas some of their questions were answered with the new policy, their follow up question was on the change in the Waters website posted wellness policy which was just changed to reflect sitting out from PE which is in violation of the CPS Physical Education policy) (<http://policy.cps.k12.il.us/download.aspx?ID=126>) and the CPS Wellness policy (<http://policy.cps.k12.il.us/download.aspx?ID=81>). These policies state that the only exceptions to the mandate that elementary children participate in PE are when the child presents a doctor's note or "when a parent/guardian presents an appropriate excuse, including, but not limited to reasons related to religious observances or prohibitions" (section C of the Physical Education policy).

Parent asked, how would Waters be implementing the CPS daily PE requirement? We are doing this through via dance, calm classroom, recess, other movement, etc.

Parent, asked if enacted, would students have to follow the PE uniform policy daily? The PE policy has been changing weekly and our children are still being punished, sitting out, or losing 10 points for lack of proper shoes/uniform. Will those missed minutes of physical activity and points be retroactively returned? Who is approving these changes and how long to parents have to adapt to the new policies? The online wellness policy was changed during this school year (since Sept) and conflicts with the policy given in the welcome packet.

Principal Crespo Response: The policy has been updated; no child will sit out unless they do not have proper gym shoes.

Q: Who are the Officers/Members of the Bilingual Advisory Committee? The Website states 2014-15 Officers and Meeting Schedule to be announced sometime soon after school starts, TBA noted on site since 2013-2014.

Principal Crespo Response: Mrs. Alvarez will update this

Parent/Community member asked from 7/14/14, "What does Waters do as a school to fulfill the best practices as outlined in the SCC 2013-2014 on pages 38-41 (Guidelines for Effective Discipline) of the document?" the addendum, Punitive measures were working, but they don't work long-term. How do you train per the SEL (whole child) help specifically in that area? The conclusion as Hovious recalled is that Ms. Versace and Principal Crespo were going to gather the student expectations and communicate them to parents at the beginning of the year.

Parent also asked from 7/14/14 for the 2012-2014 CIWP data and numbers and how we performed against our goals? Did we meet our goals? Principal Crespo has 2012/13 numbers, but not 2014, and agreed to get those numbers out to the public by the next meeting.

Principal Crespo Response: yes, these will be made available.

Q: Verbal Questions from parent: How can we provide foreign language in the daily curriculum? Could we offer it and other specials as in-school electives giving kids some freedom to choose drama, music, art, computer, language, dance etc.? Other CPS neighborhood schools in Area 4 are listed like ours as magnet cluster fine and performing arts school and have a language. Can waters today fund for this?

Principal Crespo Response: We have some amazing programs that other schools look to as models such as our art, ecology and music classes and this is our focus, we only have so many hours in the day with the new longer day and common core.

John motioned to adjourn the meeting, Jessica seconded, all in favor.

The meeting adjourned at 8:15pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jessica Blomquist, Secretary of LSC