

Waters Elementary Local School Council Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, December 9, 2014, 6:30pm-7: 30pm

John Neyer, Chairman called the meeting to order at 6:38pm and noted it would be recorded. He had planned to live broadcast the meeting but will have that done for next time. Mrs. Crespo noted that we are recording the meeting and copies will be available for listening a CD in the office.

All Present: Principal Titia Crespo, Parent Representatives: Greg Foster-Rice, Vice Chair, Emily Haite, Jessica Blomquist, John Neyer, Melissa Rojas, Terri Versace, Greg Foster-Rice Community Representatives: Jacqueline Gaines, Teacher Representatives: Carla Barta, Taureen Whiteman, Staff Representative, Sean Raviola, Teacher rep

19 parents/community members and teachers attended the meeting.

Agenda approval: Amended to add principal report to agenda. Greg motioned to approve, Jacqueline, seconded, all were in favor, and the agenda was approved.

Emily Haite motioned to add the correspondence to the end of the agenda. We need to go through the CIWP and Principal's report, which has not been given for last 2 meetings. Melissa Seconded, all in favor, agenda was amended.

A parent asked that the LSC respect that many parents are present tonight and could we also address their questions first

Meeting minutes from 11-10-2014 were approved, John motioned, Melissa seconded, all were in favor and the minutes were approved.

Chairperson, John Neyer, noted webcasting is awaiting approval by the downtown board from CPS/LSC.

Sub-Committee updates

- Communications – Terri noted, Erica Smith mentioned the assessments on line and the MAP ready, and we are trying to get actual dates, Erica is going to help to provide detailed descriptions. Reminder that the homework resource is on the website so that textbooks are online and other resources are on-line.
- Budget – no update, Mrs. Crespo will address it during the presentation in January for the budget committee. Like the CIWP committee is doing tonight.
- CIWP – Progress Report Presentation

Greg reported on the CIWP. See PDF of the presentation online. School Improvement plan for all schools an our 15 and 30-week reflections. This keeps us focused on what we said we were going to do, and what we need to do, and our challenges. The training for monitoring it came out while we were monitoring it. It is meant to be a living document. The new snapshot of the approved CIWP has not been updated. We have the old draft. On track for 80% of milestones (some have dates for Oct 2015), we are not behind in those areas. 20% we are behind in some, 3 milestones for math strategic priority.

Greg asked Mrs. Crespo and Teachers to explain using RIT in math for the vocabulary. Sean noted that they are math-related vocab that they need to teach/master. Mrs. Crespo, that means that our classroom teacher teams work alongside the math resource teachers. Teachers voted, per a union contract that time is being allocated. 5 preps per week, and during those hours the specials teachers cover those hours (math, drama, music, etc.) so it is difficult to pull those specials teachers during prep because they are covering for other teachers during the time. We are trying to use flextime to have those conversations. Greg, the math workshop is behind, but Mrs. Alvarez and I have contacted the publisher, and Greg sought feedback and parent survey with a target date of survey and presentation sometime in Jan 2015. In Science, all on track – the only thing that is behind is aligning the ecology with science, but is a priority for 2nd and 3rd quarter. In arts, all on- track, but we are adding the overall calendar. Diverse learners on track, diverse learner parent committee. Bilingual Education, Mrs. Alvarez (noted we are on track), only area behind is an Imagine Learning software program purchased and implementation.

Next steps and recommended actions: Parents and teachers are needed to fulfill the plan under lead personnel.

Q- Terri- fine arts and time for prep. Before the 7hr day and the strike, but is there a way to get back the collaboration time for the specials teachers. It would be nice to return to this. Crespo, certainly revisit and look at strategies and the staff now reaches out to classroom teachers to connect via individual meetings.

Q: Terri – vertical alignment. When you get up into upper grades where some kids never map that high. Are there many levels where kids stay at a level or get overwhelmed Crespo – backwards mapping where you start. This is more in line with the differentiated learning.

Q: Parent Andrea Gibson noted she was concerned with original adoption of CIWP, and commented that 80% is very good. “I am impressed with the detail and focus on this.”

Jessica and Josh asked to post the CIWP presentation and sheets. Greg responded he was not sure if we can post our draft document. He would look into it.

- **Mrs. Crespo’s Principal report:** Will have someone come out to present on the Elementary School Quality Rating Report since these are new CPS ratings. We received an excellent in we are thrilled with our results and reading and math, these results were phenomenal in the 88-90th and anticipating we will have just as good of results or better next year. Areas that are empty on the form are not priority groups (which were predetermined by CPS). Jackie if the sample size is not big enough they do not show it and % is not considered. Emily – pleased that Mrs. Alvarez and Mrs. Crespo went on to explain the results. Mrs. Crespo, thank you to Mrs. Alvarez for pointing out that the difference between attaining the next level which is only .4. There was only one school in the network that attained all green marks.
- PPLC - none
- Principal Evaluation – Jackie, we are working on a survey, update will be at next meeting.
Old Business

Discretionary Funds Approval (if any) None

Amundsen boundary. No update. Greg noted that our proposal is 2 yrs. ongoing – again Mr. Vitale. Josh noted that it might be dead, until next year as all school plans have to be approved.

New Business

Public Questions.

Parent: I appreciate the work, but if you present detailed information and documents, please don't wait 40 min after presenting to accept questions.

A: Terri well if you have pre-submitted questions just let us know.

Q: If 33% are not being targeted for growth, how are we identifying them not with a 504/IEP? A little bit of the grease can take care of that squeak.

A: Mrs. Crespo noted we would our teachers like to speak to struggling students. Mrs. Rabiola said as far as growth goes for math, we are making huge gains. Are we where we want to be yet, no, but we are getting there. We do have an RTI process. There are different ways to achieve this.

Mrs. Crespo responded if you are asking who they are, yes, are we addressing their needs, MTSS, RTI comes under that umbrella, and we have afterschool tutoring to address those students. Parent - can I suggest a metric where 33% and we've moved 50-kids out of that realm in the last 60 days, Mrs. Crespo, it goes by annual and based on non-growth then we lay on the grease.

Vanessa Herman, Treasurer of Waters Today, noted that she submitted questions and would like to strike all my pre-submitted questions to the LSC and just make one comment. I have talked to or think I talked to about everyone in this room about my concerns about the really negative reviews, like attacks on Mrs. Crespo, anonymous attacks on Mrs. Crespo on a website called great schools.org, which is picked up by every block. I am working out, I have no problems with criticizing Mrs. Crespo, you know you get reviewed, I know this, I am not a believer in the the Waters cool aid, I don't think it is the best place ever, no offense Terri, but my point is, I have a kid in another school, which is a better fit for my kid which is why I was wondering about the scores. But my point is that I have been exploring what to do, talking to other parents, getting feedback, asking them to write positive reviews, and just asking people to be honest. Just be honest. One person pointed with a lot of experience me to the office of LSC relations. I talked to Jose Luis Garcia in LSC and I was on the CIWP and I know Melissa has met, and I talked to him as a stakeholder parent. I didn't know. I really hesitated to contact him because it's the office of LSC relations and I'm not on the LSC. He welcomes any conversations. Stakeholders in the school who have concerns like mine or anything. He is just a very knowledgeable, professional, lovely person. So if you have questions or concerns and you are not sure where to turn, I would try Luis. He corrected some misperceptions, kindly, and gave me information and guidance. Sometimes I don't know quite what to do and how to help. He was helpful. His mobile# 773-551-9268 and he is just a good fellow, if you are a stakeholder in the school like I am and we talked about present Waters parents, but also future parents.

Greg yes. He is extremely helpful and he has a background in conflict resolution. Jessica yes, he used to be our LSC liaison, now it is Marcus Pitman.

Emily. As official timekeeper. We have had a problem in the past with written in questions, so once it is read then I will start timing the 2 min for each answers.

Q: A parent asked about the Million Dollar Quartet performance on November 2014 at Waters Auditorium. How was it funded? How were invites given?

A: Crespo responded the event was free. I also want to indicate that there are questions on here that do not relate to LSC business or its responsibilities and we won't answer those today. The performance was in partnership with CAPE. We had an opportunity to give back to teachers. It was Principal's discretion to invite attendees. We invited LSC, Waters Today, some other folks, parents, who have been instrumental in our school, elected officials. I want to note, that at no time was wine or food served.

Q: How to handle communication outside of LSC-related business to address parent concerns. How to provide all LSC members access to questions/Answers from the LSC gen Ed mailbox?

A: John, we are continuing to fine tune so we can present and attend to business as lsc. Mrs. Crespo – LSC meetings are not set up for this discussion and also looking with mrs. Alvarez to return to coffee with Crespo and may help alleviate of the questions at LSC meetings that don't pertain to council business. Terri and Greg offer support and allow for the public to interface and also allow those questions relate to LSC to funnel back to LSC.

Budget:

1. Q: Is the LSC responsible for approving the budget? Does it have the discretion to make recommendations or change things within the budget? Josh, LSC approves it budget hearing was in May, Emily, very little discretions and most of it is given to us from CPS.

A: Greg responded my understanding is that there is a new budget training module and the LSC approves the budget as – sign any item over \$1000, we often approve under this but don't have to. Direct guidance is done once a year in concert with CIWP. We should be getting budget updates more regularly and I anticipate a report in Jan. Josh is looking at pieces of data SQRP that we can put on the website and updated monthly. Mrs. Crespo reiterated that she always reported on items, and past meetings have been able to give a principal or budget report.

To be continued to old business at next meeting:

Q: Has the budget for the 2014/15 school years been made available to the LSC? Is it something that the school community at large can have access to? If it has not, when would you expect to have access to it? Is a report made on the budget every meeting? Are there often changes within the budget throughout the year and do those changes have to be ratified by the LSC? What happens in the event the LSC does not approve something?

A: X

1+ for Waters/Student Teacher survey used – 5 essentials

Q: I had a look at the past few year's results from my school parent, student and teacher surveys. We score a neutral on all categories except community participation/ investment - in fact our numbers come in consistently below those of similar schools and even in some cases the cps average. Is this of concern? How can this be addressed?

A: X

Q: Parent comment, Per a school review that a parent sent. I think you will agree that it is very disturbing that a parent feels this way. Is this a one off or are there other parents out there who feel the same way and how can we find out? If there are parents in our community who have this impression of our school, it is something that should be addressed? How do we go about finding out? And further, how can something be done about it? Are all questions to the LSC forwarded as a matter of course to Ms. Crespo for response? Do all members of the LSC have an opportunity to read all of the questions posed through the various forums and discuss prior to the meetings? Is there any opportunity at the meetings for discussion rather than presentation?

A: X

John With that I would motion our meeting, Terri. 2nd meeting adjourned at 8:05pm