

Local School Council Meeting

Tuesday, October 15, 2013. 4:00PM-5:30PM
Waters Elementary
Minutes

1. Foster-Rice called meeting to order at 4:10PM
2. Roll call: Julie Moore, Terri Versace, Titia Crespo, Greg Foster-Rice, Linda Garcia, Jacqueline Gaines
3. Quorum not met at this meeting – will not be able to approve of minutes or vote on any official business
4. Mr. Orlov gave overview of Daily 5 literacy program. It has been implemented from beginning of year. Allows students choice in reading material. Students get to use reading strategies through reading at their independent reading level and interest level. Focus is on strategies, not guided reading at specific level. Incorporates strategy-focused instruction and independence in reading.
Question from parent: Is there a plan to expand to higher grades? Ms. Crespo said yes, this is pilot, but hope to expand to older grades. Question: Do you need more books? Yes, we can always use more books at various levels. Process to donate -- bring to the office and Ms. Nissum and team will help level them.
5. Chair Report:
 - Common Sense Coalition of LSCs for Fair Funding updates:
 - They hoped for greater TIF surplus, will host press conference Wednesday 10/16 at 9:30am from City Hall joint press conference (Common Sense and Raise Your Hand)
 - Meeting tomorrow at Eckhart Park presentations by A Better Illinois, news about TIF surplus, mission and platform.
 - Ravenswood Elem has new principal, hope for continued collaboration. Ravenswood is kicking off a major campaign -- potential to collaborate?
 - Call for volunteers to help Julie with Fieldhouse fundraising. We have the letter of support from CPS.
6. Principal's Report:
 - Visit from the mayor last month. He was very interested in the garden program. Talked with our 8th grade social studies class.
 - Working with IT on increasing wireless bandwidth so that we can access it with all of our new technology. We are on the list for an upgrade. Hope this will solve issues with freezing, timing out.
 - Bike rack – unfortunately the rack we were hoping to get was cemented into ground, not able for us to take. We have applied through the City of Chicago for a free bike rack. In the meantime, our area contact is looking at closed schools.
 - Re-painting going on (interior) in areas in classrooms and hallways where needed.
 - Ms. Alvarez and Ms. Crespo met with Korean American Center. They have a multitude of workshops and programs for young children and parents – including Headstart and Ready to Learn. Developing partnership – potential for sharing our waitlist of preK students with their center.
 - Met with University of Chicago with the OrganWise program

- Bilingual parent meeting is this Thursday at 8:30pm-9:30pm. Not just for bilingual parents; is open to everyone. Topic: healthy relationships for young adults.
 - Next Monday 6:30pm – organization is holding meeting on Affordable Care Act. Ms. Crespo will attend, encourages teachers/community to attend as well to get information on ACA.
 - Ms. Alvarez, Ms. Nissim, and Ms. Crespo attended Professional Development workshop at National-Louis. *Teaching for Close Reading* – book that staff is reading for PD.
 - Ms. Alvarez and Ms. Crespo have begun official observations for evaluations. There will be additional observations this year (3 formal observations this year)
 - Student fees: 51% of students have submitted fees. Reminder notes will go out to individual families who still have not paid/submitted waiver. Reminder will also go in Green Notes. Question was raised: do we have a sponsor system? If a family cannot pay fee, another family can cover? No, not right now. Fundraising: Flower Power is in beginning mode for fundraising, need to be careful about not over-asking community.
7. Communications
- New website. We have been directing questions to website, as most answers can be found there.
 - Principal Crespo reminded that we do not have a lice epidemic – one or two children have reported lice outside of school. The official letter will not go home unless we see and identify lice in the actual school. Parent can tell a teacher if they find lice at home, teacher will notify office staff, and staff will do a classroom check. Suggestion was made to communicate the policy of lice-checking and notification. Will go on the website.
8. Budget
- No members present, but two new members have joined the committee. They are working on setting up a time. Budget report hopefully at November 19th meeting.
9. CIWP
- Big presentation of CIWP at the November 19 meeting. We will invite the teachers of the 5 strategic priority areas to present on their areas. Ms. Crespo noted that November 1 PD Day will cover CIWP.
10. PPLC
- Teacher comment box is in the office.
 - Ms. Griffin and Ms. Garcia have been meeting with teachers, discussing evaluations coming up and gathering data.
11. Principal Evaluation
- No members present, but noted that a parent forum for feedback will be sometime this autumn. Evaluation will be in January. Is 4 year contract review.
12. Public Comments:
- Jack Lewis from local theatre company was at a recent LSC meeting discussing a potential partnership, any follow up with that? Crespo: we have connected, but waiting to hear back on that. I will follow up.
 - Parent asked for plan and flow of how art/music/drama and how instruction connects. What are curriculum objectives and how do they connect? Ms. Crespo: we can put together a syllabus of what is happening in ancillary programs and we will post on Green Notes and website.
 - Parent asked: What is forum for raising concerns about homework (student has hours of homework)? Ms. Crespo recommended parents go directly to the homeroom teacher and request a meeting.

13. Exec Session for Principal Evaluation and approval of budgetary items will occur at next meeting: Monday, October 21 at 6PM
14. Meeting adjourned at 5:35PM