

Local School Council Meeting

Tuesday, September 17, 2013, 6-7:30pm

Waters Elementary

Minutes

1. Foster-Rice called the meeting to order at 6:06 PM
2. Roll Call: Mariuxi Benitez, Titia Crespo, Greg Foster-Rice, Linda Garcia, Carla Griffin, Julie Moore, Hugo Siguenza, Matthew Weinstock, Terri Versace
 - a. Public attendees: Kristen Brandt, Emily Haite, Gunther Werner, Camri McAvay, Megan Wade, Amy Szostak, Angela Silvia, Rebecca Daly, Tamra Nelson, Colleen Herman, Karen Yarbrough, Jill Smith, Erica Lauf, Aimee Petersen
3. Approval of Agenda: Foster-Rice motioned to approve the agenda, Weinstock seconded. Approved
4. Approval of minutes from previous meeting: Gaines motioned to approve the minutes, Versace seconded. Approved
5. Announcements/Introduction of Guests: none
6. Correspondence: Foster-Rice noted that he received correspondence requesting more bike racks at the school as well as people complaining about traffic patterns around the school during drop-off. He shared those matters with the administration, noting that both are out of the LSC's statutory mandate.
7. Foster Rice noted that received correspondence regarding bike racks and traffic. Forwarded those to the administration, out of scope of LSC.
8. Reports
 - a. Chairperson
 - Report on Common Sense: Coalition of LSCs for Fair Funding - they are currently awaiting the expected release of some TIF funds after meeting with the city budget director. Common Sense is asking the Waters LSC to participate in a survey that they intend to use as part of their final campaign to ensure that amount is meaningful and to push for long-term reform to education funding.
 - Grow 47 hosted meeting on Barbara Byrd Bennett on August 22 to give her personal stories on how the budget impacted schools. Bennett explained that CPS is in a serious budget crisis for the next 5 years. Even with TIF surplus and even if there's pension reform, projections of \$400-\$500 million in losses for next five years, every year.
 - Amundsen Collaboration: Foster-Rice spoke Bennett's chief of staff who suggested that something could happen for Waters in the near term. Amundsen LSC wants to engage more with Waters.
 - Fieldhouse update: Foster-Rice reported that the Waters received a letter of support from CPS regarding the goal of the Fieldhouse.

Class at IIT would begin modeling and meeting with Waters community in spring or fall of 2014. Fundraising would be to apply for grants. IIT won't commit until Waters has an initial influx of money to fund the project. Projection is \$300,000. Weinstock motioned that the LSC formalize project management committee to oversee Fieldhouse project, including: planning, budget, IIT collaboration, CPS and community input. Moore seconded. Approved. Nominations were tabled until the October meeting

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9. Principal

- See attachment
- Due to personnel matters, Crespo reporting making a change to the math program. Mr. Moreschi is running 3-4 grade math. Crespo noted that there have been parent concerns about the math lesson plan and she has met with Moreschi to address them.

10. Public Comments (two minutes each):

- a. Aimee Petersen raised concerns about the math program. Crespo reiterated that she's working with the math team to continue to refine the curriculum and ensure that students are catching up.
- b. Foster-Rice suggested that more communication be sent to parents regarding the math program. Crespo has asked the math team to present at the October LSC meeting.
- c. Committees
 - Communications – Versace noted that the website is active and updated daily. She commended Crespo for being outside and walking the grounds during morning drop-off.
 - Budget – composition of the committee. Foster-Rice said a few public members are interested in serving on the committee, including Andrea Gibson. Waters Today would like to add member as well, Vanessa Herman. Siguenza will serve as LSC member. Foster-Rice motioned, Moore seconded. Approved.
 - CIWP: Foster-Rice noted that at the November meeting the will review the CIWP now that it has been revised.
 - PPLC: Garcia said that the PPLC will meet once a month and have a box in the office for teachers to input comments/suggestions. The committee met with new teachers to welcome them to the school and answer any questions/address concerns.
 - Principal Evaluation – No report; additional training scheduled for after the LSC meeting

11. Public Comments none

12. Old Business

a. Discretionary Funds Approval (if any)

- See attachment. Siguenza motioned, Weinstock seconded. Approved.

13. New Business

- a. Colleen Herman, Waters Today president, asked for approval for the group to raise money on behalf of Waters school. The goal is to raise \$125,000 for music, ecology, supplies, operating budget and communication expenses. The Flower Power goal is \$45,000. Waters Today would use community events, sales efforts and other retail events. Foster-Rice motioned. Siguenza seconded. Approved.
 - b. Crespo made a request to approve fundraising efforts for 7-8 field trips, gym uniforms and the yearbook. Versace motioned, Foster-Rice seconded. Approved.
14. Public Comments: Parents commented on having difficulties meeting with the principal and getting prompt answers to emails. Crespo said she responds to emails regularly.
15. Adjournment: Weinstock motioned, Baker seconded. Adjourned at 7:30PM.

9/16/13
LSC Meeting

School Leadership

Principal Directed grade level team meetings- collaborating weekly with individual grade levels to address student data, educational initiatives Foci-RTI, DATA, Math and writing, LA and writing across the curriculum, Science
All initiatives directly impact school vision and mission

Met with Math Focus Team to address vertical alignment- areas of concern and how to close the gaps

Instruction

Review weekly lesson plans
Review weekly grade level team meeting minutes-address any concerns, issues
Discuss student data to drive differentiated instruction at the grade level meetings
Discuss resources and supplemental instructional materials to further develop curriculum
Tutoring program
Tech meeting in regards to keyboarding
Encourage student field trips that impact classroom instruction
Might Acorns Fall trips
ACCESS, TRC, DIBELS, BRI, MAP FALL TESTING FOR NEW STUDENTS, SAT10 FOR HIGH SCHOOL 8TH GRADE ONLY

Student Centered Learning Environment

Continue to set high academic standards for students through teacher conferencing with students
Boys Soccer
Girls Volleyball
Developing tutoring program Fall 2013 grades 1-8
Held Fire evacuation drills in compliance with Board rules
Follow Student Code of Conduct regarding student discipline

Professional Development and Human Resource Management

Continue staff observations in accordance with Board rules, policies and procedures, and collective Bargaining agreements
Weekly Principal Directed PD with staff
Focus Teams
Vertical curriculum alignment and Horizontal alignment discussions
Attend monthly Principal meetings

Parent and Community Outreach

Address Wilson Avenue parking concerns with local officials
Encourage teacher/parent communication ie. Green Notes, emails, phone calls, folders and other tools as needed
Continue to work parent volunteer coordinator to assist with parent services for school
University partnerships-DePaul,
Albany Park Community Center-Between Friends
Organ Wise Guys-University of Chicago
Right At School
Early Birds

School Management and Daily Operations

Request additional bike racks
Organized Water drive during the extreme heat days late August/early September
Communicate daily with staff to ensure coverage for all classroom needs
Communicate daily with Engineer and Lunchroom manager for all building and food needs including but not limited to cleanliness of the building adequate food supply etc.
Continues to upgrade technology needs and provide support to staff as needed
Budget tied directly to school instructional needs- done yearly
Continues to seek grant opportunities to offset additional cost to school to enhance school programming needs, submitted Field Foundation grant via Julie Moore for Ecology program
Continue to seek out support and resources for IIT project
Include monthly Internal Accounts and Board of Ed budget at each LSC meeting

Interpersonal Effectiveness

Meet regularly with teachers, students and parents to resolve concerns

Meet with teachers, parents and community members to discuss new initiatives for school

Continue to encourage teachers and parent communication via phone, email, letters and meetings

Send emails regularly to staff to notify of all and any concerns, upcoming events, etc.

Hold meetings to inform teachers, parents and community of new initiatives in the school and district

Maintains professionalism and confidential information