



Skinner West Local School Council Monthly Meeting Tuesday, October 18, 2016 6:30 P.M.

MEETING MINUTES

Deborah M. Clark
Principal

Armando Chacon
Community Representative

Melvin Flowers
Parent Representative

Sharlene P.B. Hobson
Parent Representative

Sheila Howard
Staff Representative

Tom Kim
Community Representative

Matthew Letourneau
Parent Representative

Fadi S. Matalka
Parent Representative

Michael McMurray
Parent Representative

Donna McSpadden
Teacher Representative

Nell Strong
Parent Representative

Ramel Werner
Teacher Representative

1. Call to Order

- a. The meeting was called to order at 6:52 pm by President M. McMurray.
- b. Present were LSC members D. Clark, A. Chacon, M. Flowers, S. Hobson, M. Letourneau, F. Matalka, M. McMurray, D. McSpadden, and R. Werner.
- c. LSC member N. Strong arrived at 6:54 pm.
- d. LSC member M. Flowers departed and returned at 7:15 pm.

2. Approval of Agenda

- a. The agenda was approved (F. Matalka, S. Hobson).

3. Approval of Meeting Minutes

- a. The September 20, 2016 meeting minutes were approved (A. Chacon, R. Werner).

4. Announcements & Public Communications

- a. Friends of Skinner West (FOSW): Per Marla Sedler, FOSW raised \$53,000 at the Walkathon, less \$2-3,000 in expenses. There will be ice cream parties for the top classrooms and credit for the top ten collecting teachers. M. Sedler will plan to meet with the board and D. Clark to discuss spending needs. Michigan Avenue Realty donated \$7,500 through the efforts of F. Matalka. Michigan Avenue will be included on the thank-you banner. Laurie Mullick became FOSW Vice President to fill a vacancy, leaving the Secretary position now open.
- b. PTO/Forum: Per N. Strong, the PTO is meeting at the same time as this LSC meeting to discuss bylaws changes and the upcoming Halloween party on October 28 from 4-7 pm.
- c. West Loop Community News: Per A. Chacon, there several events coming up this month: a [West Central Association](#) luncheon on October 27 at Revel and a [West Loop Families](#) Halloween event on October 28, which will be preceded by a food drive. Skinner students will participate in the tree lighting ceremony at Mary Bartelme Park in December. Soul City Church offered access to their new facility (now under construction) for use by Skinner students.

5. Committee Reports

- a. Bilingual Advisory Committee: Leentje De Leeuw was approved as president of the committee (S. Hobson, M. McMurray). Per L. De Leeuw, the Committee held their first meeting on September 21. The committee has installed a bulletin board on the first floor, which is now decorated for Diwali. There will be a Diwali presentation on October 26 for grades 2-4. The next committee meeting is scheduled for November 16.
- b. Chairperson's Report: Per M. McMurray, no report.
- c. Principal's Report:
 - i. D. Clark introduced new teacher Mr. O'Brien (4th grade, Neighborhood).
 - ii. The kindergarten classes visited CNA for a workshop with Sesame Street characters.
 - iii. The open house was very well attended.
 - iv. The Yankee Candle fundraiser raised \$2,100. S. Hobson suggested that the candle fundraiser be moved back in the year to separate it from the Walkathon fundraising effort.
 - v. Ronald McDonald visited the school this past month.
 - vi. A few school faculty members (Mr. Lomax, Mrs. Robinson, Mrs. Wardanian, Mr. Hicks, and Mrs. Clark) were invited to Mercy Home for Boys and Girls.
 - vii. NWEA fall testing is complete.
 - viii. The CPS strike was averted.
 - ix. The Achieve 3000 reimbursement (\$34,600) was obtained through support from CPS.
 - x. We have purchased Common Core books for grades 3, 4, 5, and 6, Mandarin books, and debate files.
 - xi. A first meeting was held with CPS about the building expansion.
 - xii. The room parent meeting was well-attended, but more room parents are needed.
 - xiii. Phase I of the wireless upgrade is complete. As part of the upgrade, there will be two networks: one for students and staff and one for guests. This requires that Mr. Lomax reconfigure each computer and Chromebook to connect to the new networks. FOSW will reach out to volunteers to assist Mr. Lomax. AT&T will be completing the second phase (bandwidth expansion) next.
 - xiv. A plumbing problem is nearly fixed.
 - xv. The custodial team had some reassignments.
 - xvi. Our enrollment by the tenth school day fell below the 1,060 student threshold, causing a loss of \$83,000 from our budget. As a result, the second Mandarin teacher position has been removed, meaning that Neighborhood students from first to fourth grade will have no foreign language and Classical students in grades 1-3 will not have a Mandarin class option. Several options were discussed for reintroducing the lost foreign language classes, e.g., hiring an uncertified instructor (which would make the class ungraded), bringing in a private language school. D. Clark will investigate these options and report to the LSC. The LSC can then distribute a survey to parents to determine which option is preferred. In addition, D. Clark will contact CPS to see about reinstating the sibling lottery and magnet lottery in the future.
 - xvii. A high school fair will be held on November 3.
- d. Professional Personnel Leadership Committee (PPLC): Per D. McSpadden, no report.
- e. Special Education/LRE: Per R. Werner, the committee met recently to discuss ways Skinner can collaborate with Mercy Home for Boys and Girls.
- f. School Improvement: Per S. Hobson, the committee met on October 4 to discuss school fee collection ahead of the November 15 deadline, to review the Continuous Improvement Work Plan (CIWP), to talk

about starting a citizenship program, to discuss substitute teachers, and to schedule the next meeting on November 3 at 4:15 pm (all are encouraged to attend). The 2016-18 CIWP was distributed to the LSC. Mrs. Robinson will investigate online payment for school fees.

- g. Facility Services: Per F. Matalka, no report. The plumbing lines need to be rodded.
- h. Communications: Per D. Clark, the committee met on October 12. The Skinner website upgrade continues. D. Clark will bring up the possibility of having room parents distribute the Principal's Report to parents.
- i. LSC Advisory: Per M. McMurray, he was unable to attend the most recent meeting, but he has requested meeting materials for review.
- j. Expansion Committee: Per M. Flowers, who sat in on a meeting with CPS, the expansion will include 15 new classrooms (smaller than current rooms with less storage, e.g., 8-900 sq ft) and auxiliary spaces. The new structure will run along Monroe. Soil testing and other preliminary steps are being taken now. The design will conclude in the spring, with construction to begin in the summer of 2017 and finish prior to the 2018-19 academic year. School operations will continue as normal during construction. The project will be led by the Public Building Commission.

6. Old Business

- a. None.

7. New Business

- a. A proposal was made to spend the Achieve 3000 reimbursement (\$34,600) as follows:
 - i. Photocopying = \$4,500
 - ii. Quaver Music curriculum = \$4,015
 - iii. Common Core textbooks = \$20,000
 - iv. Supplies = \$6,085

The expenditures were approved (R. Werner, S. Hopson).

8. Public Comment

- a. None.

9. Adjournment

- a. The meeting adjourned at 8:54 pm (M. Flowers, D. McSpadden)

Respectfully submitted,
Matt Letourneau
Skinner West LSC Secretary