



# Skinner West Local School Council Monthly Meeting Tuesday, November 15, 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. Matalaka**  
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 6:50 pm by President M. McMurray.
- b. Present were LSC members D. Clark, M. Flowers, S. Hobson, S. Howard, F. Matalaka, M. McMurray, D. McSpadden, and R. Werner.
- c. LSC member M. Letourneau arrived at 6:55 pm (S. Hobson agreed to record minutes until his arrival).

### 2. Approval of Agenda

- a. The agenda was approved (M. Flowers, R. Werner).

### 3. Approval of Meeting Minutes

- a. The October 15, 2016 meeting minutes were approved (D. McSpadden, M. Flowers).

### 4. Announcements & Public Communications

- a. PTO/Forum: Per N. Strong, Yankee Candle sales up to \$2600; flat beds were ordered and received, but have not been set up; the Halloween event was a huge success, the group is discussing how to make the event even better next year; a guest at the most recent PTO/Forum meeting proposed the dissolution of the partnership between PTO/Forum and Friends of Skinner West; any such proposed action would require a review of both organizations' missions, charters, etc., and the LSC would have to approve; Ms. Clark will follow up with the appropriate parties.
- b. Friends of Skinner West (FOSW): Per Laurie Mullick, FOSW has a meeting this week. The holiday fundraising effort is starting up. Technical training for teachers on the Promethean Boards took place. FOSW will be meeting with Mrs. Clark to discuss the spending of Walkathon funds (e.g., foreign language). Cat N Mouse Games donated 10% of its profits from Saturday; Brooklyn Boulders is interested in doing a similar fundraiser.
- c. West Loop Community News: Per F.Matalaka and M. Letourneau, Skinner students will participate in a tree lighting ceremony at Bartleme Park on December 3. The Menorah lighting ceremony at Bartleme will occur on December 27. The Skinner Park PAC will hold its tree lighting ceremony on December 3.

**5. Committee Reports**

- a. Chairperson's Report: Per M. McMurray, no report.
- b. Principal's Report:
  - i. We had 96% pickup on credit card day.
  - ii. A fire drill was held.
  - iii. The PTO Halloween Ball & Family Fun Night was a big success.
  - iv. A high school fare was held November 3 with both public and private schools.
  - v. The professional development day (Promethean Board training) was a success.
  - vi. Author Dr. Raquel Monroe led a story reading event for the kindergarteners and first graders.
  - vii. New student officers were elected.
  - viii. The Communications Committee had a meeting to discuss the Skinner West logo/branding.
  - ix. An outlet near the stage is in need of repair (the stage lights will be disabled until the repair is complete).
  - x. The debate team fared well in a competition.
  - xi. Skinner achieved a Level 1+ school quality rating!
  - xii. Initial NWEA results have been received. Mrs. Clark will review them over the next few months and provide a "state of the school" report to the LSC.
- c. Professional Personnel Leadership Committee (PPLC): Per D. McSpadden, no report.
- d. Special Education/LRE: Per R. Werner, the committee met briefly today to discuss MedFest (to be held on December 7), which will take place at the United Center and involve meeting the Blackhawks.
- e. School Improvement: Per S. Hobson, the committee met on November 3 and elected Ms. Travis as Secretary. The group discussed restorative approaches to discipline, foreign language options for the classes that lost them, the five strategies of the CIWP, and the wi-fi network upgrades. S. Hobson has arranged for an autographed Chicago Bears football for inclusion in a future auction. The next committee meetings will be held on December 6 and January 19.
- f. Facility Services: Per F. Matalka, no report. The group will next meet on December 12.
- g. Communications: Per D. Clark, the committee met on November 4. The Skinner website upgrade continues.
- h. Bilingual Advisory Committee: Per F. Matalka, the committee hosted the second annual Diwali celebration with grades 2-4. "Around the World in 80 Dishes" will occur early in 2017. There will be a special Chinese New Year celebration in February. The second BAC meeting of the year will be held on November 16.
- i. LSC Advisory: Per M. McMurray, the next meeting will be held on November 21. The agenda includes a presentation on improving academic outcomes and increased independence for students with disabilities.
- j. Expansion Committee: Per M. Flowers, the committee is scheduled to meet on December 7. There will be an expansion update for the entire school from the Public Building Commission on November 16.

**6. Old Business**

- a. Mrs. Clark inquired with CPS about finding a foreign language teacher, but none are available. She will next look into Language Stars to check on pricing (CPS limits this expenditure to \$25,000) and check with the Chinese American Service League to find other options. F. Matalka brought up the idea of establishing a foreign language program apart from the school.

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Monthly Meeting**

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**7. New Business**

- a. None.

**8. Public Comment**

- a. None.

**9. Adjournment**

- a. The meeting adjourned at 7:45 pm (D. McSpadden, S. Hobson).

Respectfully submitted,  
Matt Letourneau  
Skinner West LSC Secretary