



Deborah M. Clark
Principal

Aisha Crump
Parent Representative

Sheila Howard
Staff Representative

Brett Hughes
Parent Representative

Ryan Johnson
Teacher Representative

Matthew Letourneau
Parent Representative

Stephanie Majca
Community Representative

Fadi S. Matala
Parent Representative

Marla Sedler
Community Representative

Melinda Sgariglia
Parent Representative

Nell Strong
Parent Representative

Ramel Werner
Teacher Representative

Skinner West Local School Council

LSC Meeting

Tuesday April 13, 2021

6:00 P.M.

MEETING MINUTES

1. Call to Order

- a. The online meeting was called to order at 6:05 pm by F. Matala.
- b. Present were Principal Clark, Assistant Principal Dr. Brown and LSC members A. Crump, S. Howard, B. Hughes, R. Johnson, M. Letourneau, S. Majca, F. Matala, M. Sedler, M. Sgariglia, N. Strong, and R. Werner.

2. Approval of Agenda

- a. The agenda was approved (M. Sgariglia, M. Letourneau).

3. Approval of Meeting Minutes

- a. The March 16 LSC meeting minutes were approved (R. Johnson, A. Crump).

4. Announcements & Public Communications

- a. **PTO/Forum:** Per S. Majca, the committee met yesterday and discussed tax filing and ways to celebrate teacher appreciation week (May 3-7). The next committee meeting is in May 10 at 5:30 pm.
- b. **Friends of Skinner West (FOSW):** Per M. Sedler, FOSW did not meet.
- c. **West Loop Community News:** Per M. Sedler, there will be a clean & green event at Mary Bartelme Park this Saturday (8 am – noon). The Madison Row Clean event will occur on April 24 from noon to 3 pm. A paper shredding event on April 24 will take place at the Kolkraft parking lot at Monroe & Aberdeen. The West Loop Branch of the Chicago Public Library has museum passes available for renting. M. Letourneau spoke about an increase in proposed residential development projects in the neighborhood, which will affect school population down the road.

5. Committee Reports

- a. **Chairperson's Report:** Per F. Matalka, no report.
- b. **Communications:** Per S. Wing, the committee continues to keep the website updated and generates weekly e-newsletters. They are looking for new committee members to replace those families that are departing. Mrs. Clark will provide information about upcoming hybrid learning informational sessions.
- c. **Principal's Report – State of the School Report:**
 - i. Various LSC committee meetings have taken place.
 - ii. Skinner sent out a survey for hybrid learning (to complement the CPS survey) to make sure that all families that want their Superstars to attend in person would be included.
 - iii. COVID testing is conducted for 25% of school staff each week.
 - iv. Two teaching assistant positions have been filled: welcome to Ms. Karla Jones and Mr. Krage Hervey! They will assist with teaching, lunchtime, and other events where adult supervision is needed to observe COVID procedures.
 - v. We also say goodbye to Jackie Garner, our special education classroom assistant and transportation coordinator for over 29 years!
 - vi. Some teachers have begun to report back to the school building.
 - vii. IAR testing will occur for grades 3-8 from April 21 to May 28.
 - viii. Hybrid learning informational sessions will occur on April 14 at 6 pm (kindergarten), April 15 at 5 pm (grades 1-4), and April 15 at 6:30 pm (grades 5-8).
 - ix. We will have 702 students in-person at the school in the fourth quarter (on Monday). The school is preparing for this influx of kids while adhering to COVID procedures.
 - x. There will be no school on Wednesday, April 21 for parent-teacher conferences and report card pickups.
 - xi. Eighth grade graduation photos have been scheduled for April 29. The virtual graduation will occur on Thursday, June 17.
 - xii. Friday, April 30 is the last day to complete the "My Voice My School" survey through CPS.
 - xiii. Mrs. Clark noted that teachers can take students outside, but she is awaiting guidance on when outdoor recess can begin.
- d. **Professional Personnel Leadership Committee (PPLC):** Per Mr. Johnson, the committee did not meet.
- e. **Special Education/LRE:** Per R. Werner, the Special Education Committee will miss Jacquie Garner and wish her a happy retirement!
- f. **School Improvement:** Per B. Hughes, the committee met on Thursday, April 8. The committee discussed the new social studies curriculum, issues with Spanish class instruction in the early grades, and how well the hybrid/virtual learning has been administered. The next committee meeting is on June 3 at 5 pm.
- g. **Facility Services:** Per A. Crump, a committee meeting will be scheduled soon. It was noted that parents are not yet allowed into the building. CPS is implementing a chimney height reduction this summer.
- h. **Bilingual Advisory Committee:** Per Mrs. Clark, Ms. Lee will be conducting screening meetings holding a meeting in April or May.
- i. **LSC Advisory:** No report.
- j. **Expansion Committee:** Per M. Letourneau, the committee met on Wednesday, March 24 at 5 pm and discussed class sizes, the new CPS class size committee, concerns about the impacts of neighborhood development, and reviews of returned mailings. The committee meets next on Wednesday, May 5 at 5 pm.

6. Old Business

- a. None.

7. New Business

- a. Mark Hamstra, principal for the [Chicago Bulls College Prep](#), a four-year charter high school, introduced himself and his school. Chicago Bulls is an open-enrollment high school located at 2040 W. Adams that has a Level 1+ CPS school rating. They offer seats for up to 350 freshmen each year, with enrollment through the goCPS application process. Acceptance is based on the CPS formula, which does not involve testing and instead focuses on school ranking identified by families during the application process.

8. Public Comment

- a. R. Giricz asked about when attendance four days a week might occur. Mrs. Clark said this will not occur this school year, but hopefully will be available next year.
- b. A. Rzepka asked about pod assignments. These were sent out on Friday, April 9 (contact Ms. Maldonado at scmaldonado@cps.edu with any questions or requests).
- c. Y. Martinez asked about drop-off and pick-up times. Mrs. Clark noted that the timing was included in the return to school plan. These will also be discussed in hybrid informational sessions this week. F. Matalka suggested that parents register with CPS to get text updates, e.g., daily screener reminders.
- d. A. Ferguson asked why some students that are learning in-person cannot sit in the same room as their teachers. Mrs. Clark explained that this helps to reduce movement and interactions, better protecting the pods. Mrs. Clark said that the school will reevaluate the process for the fourth quarter when there are more students on-site.
- e. Mrs. Clark noted that Skinner is following the 6 ft spacing guideline from CPS, 30 ft during lunchtime when kids aren't using masks. There was a COVID case in one class. The school issued communication about it, and the pod is under quarantine for the prescribed timeframe before they return to school. Mrs. Clark encouraged parents to follow the reporting procedures to keep everyone safe.
- f. R. Giricz asked about plans to teach students executive functioning skills. Mrs. Clark acknowledged the importance of organizational skills, especially during the pandemic conditions. It will take support from parents and teachers. This is a growth area for teachers and something that the School Improvement Committee could take on. Mrs. Clark thanked Ms. Luna for her tireless efforts to support students.

9. Adjournment

- a. The meeting adjourned at 7:28 pm (B. Hughes, R. Werner).

Respectfully submitted,
Matt Letourneau
Skinner West LSC Secretary