



Skinner West Local School Council LSC Meeting Tuesday May 18, 2021 6:00 P.M.

MEETING MINUTES

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

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 S. Howard, B. Hughes, M. Letourneau, S. Majca, F. Matala, M. Sedler, M. Sgariglia, and N. Strong. R. Johnson joined at 7:24 pm. A. Crump and R. Werner were absent.

2. Approval of Agenda

- a. The agenda was approved (M. Sedler).

3. Approval of Meeting Minutes

- a. The April 13 LSC meeting minutes were approved (M. Sgariglia, M. Sedler).

4. Announcements & Public Communications

- a. **PTO/Forum:** Per S. Majca, the committee met last week. They distributed gift cards for Teacher Appreciation Week. The group discussed fall fundraisers, e.g., the cookie drive. The next committee meeting is on June 13 at 5:30 pm.
- b. **Friends of Skinner West (FOSW):** Per M. Sedler, FOSW did not meet but started to discuss the 2021 Walkathon date, e.g., September. FOSW is interested in setting up the new STEM lab.
- c. **West Loop Community News:** Per M. Majca, there will be a Dachshund meet-up event at the Skinner dog park on June 5 at 11 am. UIC is providing COVID vaccines, either by appointment or walk-up. No membership needed. Per M. Sedler, Chicago Park District summer camp signup is underway (virtual or in-person). There will be a clean & green event at Skinner Park this Saturday (9 am – noon).

5. Committee Reports

- a. **Chairperson's Report:** Per F. Matalka, no report.
- b. **Communications:** Per L. Kostielney, the committee plans to meet soon. M. Sgariglia noted that the [mayor has announced new summer jobs for teens and other kids activities](#), like STEM coding.
- c. **Principal's Report – State of the School Report:**
 - i. Report card pickup and teacher conferences occurred.
 - ii. Eighth grade diplomas were distributed.
 - iii. Successful fire drills have taken place.
 - iv. Teacher Appreciation Week was a big success.
 - v. Testing has been going well, with many remote learners coming into the school for testing.
- d. **Professional Personnel Leadership Committee (PPLC):** Per Ms. Clark, the committee did not meet.
- e. **Special Education/LRE:** No report.
- f. **School Improvement:** Per B. Hughes, the committee did not meet. The next committee meeting is on June 3 at 5 pm.
- g. **Facility Services:** Per Ms. Clark, the Branch School parking lot was resurfaced.
- h. **Bilingual Advisory Committee:** Per Mrs. Clark, she met with Ms. Lee. It is expected that the committee will meet in September.
- i. **LSC Advisory:** No report.
- j. **Expansion Committee:** Per M. Letourneau, the committee met on Wednesday, May 5 at 5 pm and discussed returned mailings, which are being reviewed now.

6. Old Business

- a. None.

7. New Business

- a. Budget Expenditure & Transfer Approval Request
 - i. Mrs. Clark identified \$280,000 in 2020-2021 Salvage and Pointer Lines funds for this school year which result from unused teacher position salaries (\$185,000) and benefits (\$95,000). Mrs. Clark proposed the purchasing of several items, including over 300 new Chromebooks (which are needed since many of the older machines will not support applications that are coming in the near future), a new podium in the Multi-purpose room, clock repairs, projectors, graphing calculators, and many other requests provided by the faculty. The funds must be assigned by Friday, May 21 at 5 pm.
 - ii. The expenditures were approved (M. Sgariglia, M. Letourneau).
- b. School Budget Approval, 2021-2022
 - i. This year's Title II Teacher Quality Grant includes \$80,000 (a \$40,000 increase from 2020), which is \$39,329 short for ½ time for an intervention/pull-out teacher (this balance would be addressed with School Based Budgeting, SBB, funds). The budget was approved (B. Hughes, M. Sedler).
 - ii. The proposed budget applies the Supplemental General State Aid (SGSA) funding of \$158,020 (a decrease from \$162,725 in 2020 due to the school having less low-income families) toward a science teacher and a portion (\$28,348) of the school's technology programs. The budget was approved (B. Hughes, M. Letourneau).

- iii. The number of Classical students at Skinner has gone down, resulting in a decrease in Classical funding to \$314,000 (from \$324,000 from 2020). The proposed budget assigns this funding to Classical teacher salaries and supplies. This causes a \$16,358 shortfall, which would be addressed with SBB funding. The budget was approved (B. Hughes, M. Sgariglia).
- iv. SBB funds were again significantly reduced from the previous year, \$191,657 vs. \$345,000. To address this reduction, the proposed budget adds two (2) intra-unit transfers from teaching assistant positions to special education classroom assistants (\$122,073). The proposed budget calls for funding two (2) teachers for ½ time and several operational, instructional, and “bucket” and supplies costs. The budget was approved (B. Hughes, N. Strong).
- c. The school will receive an additional \$252,518 (\$155,875 in discretionary funding and \$96,643 in Out of School Time, or OST, funding) in July. This one-time funding will be allocated in the future.

8. Public Comment

- a. S. Rzepka asked if the school can book substitute teachers on a daily basis. Mrs. Clark noted the difficulties with this process and how they are working hard to hire to fill positions.
- b. F. Matalka asked about an issue with a classroom chat conversation. Dr. Brown investigated the situation and the school has addressed it.
- c. M. Sgariglia asked how teachers and students are being reminded about where to get a drink of water, since the drinking fountains are not to be used. Mrs. Clark noted this is an important issue and that bottled water donations would be welcome. These can be left by the gymnasium door.
- d. A member of the audience asked about having in-person eighth grade graduation ceremony instead of a virtual or drive-through graduation. Mrs. Clark noted that the school must follow CPS guidelines for graduation, which limits indoor capacity to 50 people and outdoor capacity to 100 people. The school is looking to implement additional steps that can be taken to celebrate the students' graduation, which include having the students receive their diplomas in the school (on a rotational basis) with photo opportunities outside as well. The virtual graduation would occur later in the day. Additional information will be sent out to eighth grade families soon.
- e. M. Letourneau asked about summer camp. The school is hoping to have summer camp, but it will depend on City and CPS policies. This will apply to in-person classes next fall as well.

9. Adjournment

- a. The meeting adjourned at 8:35 pm (B. Hughes, M. Sedler).

Respectfully submitted,
Matt Letourneau
Skinner West LSC Secretary