



Skinner West Local School Council Monthly Meeting Tuesday, February 28, 2017 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 7:00 pm by M. Letourneau.
- b. Present were LSC members A. Chacon, M. Flowers, S. Howard, M. Letourneau, and F. Matalka.
- c. LSC President M. McMurray arrived at 7:14 pm. LSC member N. Strong arrived at 7:15 pm.

2. Approval of Agenda

- a. The amended agenda was approved (M. Flowers, S. Howard).

3. Approval of Meeting Minutes

- a. The January 24 and February 10 meeting minutes were approved (M. Flowers, A. Chacon).

4. Announcements & Public Communications

- a. Friends of Skinner West (FOSW): Per Marla Sedler (via F. Matalka), FOSW voted to hire someone to help Mr. Lomax for eight (8) hours per week, since an intern has not been found. No budget amount has been established. ZOM (a local developer) may be offering a donation towards a STEM laboratory in the new school expansion.
- b. West Loop Community News: Per A. Chacon, the City is working on development guidelines for the West Loop.
 - i. Ed Wells from [Mathnasium](#) spoke about the new learning center, which is now open at 8 S. Peoria. The center has extended an offer to Skinner students for a free assessment and \$50 off the first month of instruction. They provided flyers for a number of their upcoming events and programs.
 - ii. Jeanne Stevens from [Soul City Church](#) spoke about their new 850-1,000 seat Transformation Center and auditorium, which will open in November. Ms. Stevens has requested that Skinner's gymnasium host the church's weekend services during the month of May. The church would pay all rental and janitorial services and would like to develop a partnership with Skinner

going forward. As part of this, Ms. Stevens has offered use of their new facility for Skinner events, e.g., graduation.

- c. PTO/Forum: Per N. Strong, the group talked about the upcoming Teacher Appreciation event, upcoming fundraisers, new parent members, and the need to repair lights outside of the school. The group also asked Ms. Clark to send out a letter asking for parent donations for PTO/Forum to offset budget cuts. The LSC suggested that the letter include all options for donating to the school.

5. Committee Reports

- a. Chairperson's Report: No report.
- b. Principal's Report:
 - i. The Skinner West ski trip took place on February 3.
 - ii. Ms. Jennifer Hill (upper grade special education teacher) has left Skinner for Dallas, TX. We hope to fill the position soon.
 - iii. Skinner has welcomed three student teachers from Roosevelt University.
 - iv. There was a great celebration of African American History Month today with the Saakumu Dance Troupe from Ghana.
 - v. The third graders did their wax museum projects this past week.
 - vi. The third graders also held their Engineering Convention at the end of January.
 - vii. Ms. Clark presented strong IXL participation usage numbers. Teachers have shown interest in adding other subjects to the IXL package.
 - viii. PARCC testing is coming up between March 6 and April 6. A schedule will be distributed. NWEA testing is coming up in mid-May.
 - ix. The cell phone collection policy will be extended to grades 2-5.
 - x. The State's Attorney's office will be at Skinner on March 1 to talk about Internet safety.
 - xi. There will be a "screen-ager" event about social media for grades 6-8.
 - xii. Ms. Clark met with CPS school expansion officials.
 - xiii. The teacher handbook is being updated.
 - xiv. Ms. Clark responded to the CPS budget request.
 - xv. CPS has stated that it will need to close school 20 days early if the budget impasse is not resolved.
- c. Professional Personnel Leadership Committee (PPLC): Per Ms. Clark, the committee is working on the teacher handbook update.
- d. Special Education/LRE: No report.
- e. School Improvement: Per S. Hobson, the committee met on February 23 and discussed ideas for increasing student recognition, options for indoor recess, the "Front Row" pilot, the teacher trip to NASA in Houston, CPS actions related to immigration changes, the upcoming Internet safety program, and social media training for parents. The next committee meeting is Tuesday, March 23 at 4:30 pm.
- f. Facility Services: Per F. Matalka, the lights in front of the school need to be repaired, the cameras have not been repaired due to budget cuts, and the stage lights have been damaged and would need \$1,300 to repair. The committee suggested enclosing the access panel to restrict access. There have been leaks in the branch school that need to be investigated and repaired. The initial bid to repair was rejected. Aramark (custodian) has requested some supplies.
- g. Communications: Per Ms. Clark, the committee is working on a new Skinner logo, something with a star(s) and the city skyline.

- h. Bilingual Advisory Committee: Per F. Matalka, the group met on February 20. The bulletin board has been updated and the next "Around the World" lunch will be held on Saturday, March 11. The group celebrated the Chinese New Year with a Lion Dance Assembly on January 31. The next committee meeting will be held before Spring Break.
- i. LSC Advisory: Per M. McMurray, there was a presentation yesterday about Medicaid enrollment hubs at schools.
- j. Expansion Committee: Per M. Flowers, the committee met with Ald. Walter Burnett in February. The alderman has not identified additional funding for a fourth floor of the expansion, but he plans to continue trying to secure the funds. M. Flowers, Ms. Clark, and Ms. Robinson met with CPS to discuss staging of the project. The fourth floor is not currently included in the design. Funding is in place for the project. A meeting will be held soon to discuss the latest design. Groundbreaking is planned for June. The discussion also covered the removal of items in the school to allow construction. The project will be completed by July, 2018. Bids go out May 22 with a bid opening of June 20. Contractors will be notified on July 28. The committee discussed traffic control for the project. No lane closures are expected. The committee will be meeting with CPS and PBC in the next week. The next Expansion Committee meeting will be held on March 14.

6. Old Business

- a. M. Letourneau discussed the need for a school traffic plan. He will distribute to the LSC a draft letter for local aldermen to call attention to traffic safety improvements that can be made.

7. New Business

- a. Ms. Clark made a budget request to repair the stage lights in the gymnasium. The expected cost is not to exceed \$1,500. The request was approved (S. Hobson, N. Strong).
- b. The midyear CPS cuts have been addressed in the Skinner budget.
- c. The LSC voted to approve allowing the Soul City Church to use the school gymnasium and cafeteria between 6 am and 2 pm on May 7, 14, 21, and 28, as negotiated and approved by CPS (N. Strong, M. Flowers with S. Hobson opposed).

8. Public Comment

- a. None.

9. Adjournment

- a. The meeting adjourned at 8:40 pm (M. Flowers, M. McMurray).

Respectfully submitted,
Matt Letourneau
Skinner West LSC Secretary