



# Skinner West Local School Council LSC Meeting Tuesday, October 20, 2020 5:00 P.M.

## MEETING MINUTES

**Deborah M. Clark**  
Principal

**Aisha Crump**  
Parent Representative

**Sheila Howard**  
Staff Representative

**Brett Hughes**  
Parent Representative

**Matthew Letourneau**  
Parent Representative

**Fadi S. Matalka**  
Parent Representative

**Donna McSpadden**  
Teacher Representative

**Kimberly Rachal**  
Community 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 5:09 pm by F. Matalka.
- b. Present were Principal Clark and LSC members A. Crump, S. Howard, B. Hughes, M. Letourneau, F. Matalka, M. Sedler, M. Sgariglia, K. Rachal, and R. Werner. N. Strong joined at 5:13 pm.

### 2. Approval of Agenda

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

### 3. LSC Candidates Forum

- a. The following parent representative candidates spoke to the audience: Aisha Crump, Fadi Matalka, Matt Letourneau, Lindsey Fimek, Sabrina Wing, Lorenzo Garth, Melinda Sgariglia, Brett Hughes, Nell Strong, and Joey Lynn Panaglia.
- b. The following community representative candidates spoke to the audience: Kimberly Rachal, Marla Sedler, and Stephanie Majca.
- c. Mrs. Clark encouraged the audience to vote in accordance with the rules.

### 4. Approval of Meeting Minutes

- a. The September 15 meeting minutes were approved (M. Sedler, A. Crump).

### 5. Announcements & Public Communications

- a. **PTO/Forum:** Per S. Majca, the committee has not yet met. Parents are encouraged to participate in PTO/Forum.
- b. **Friends of Skinner West (FOSW):** Per M. Sedler, FOSW has not met yet but they are awaiting permission to come in and set up the furniture for the STEM lab in the new Annex.

- c. **West Loop Community News:** Per K. Rahal and M. Sedler, the West Fall Festival takes place at Kolcraft at the corner of Monroe and Aberdeen. Per S. Majca, the tennis courts at Michelle Obama Field will be resurfaced soon. M. Letourneau reminded the audience to visit local businesses, including West Loop restaurants that are now using glass and plastic “igloos” for outdoor dining. Per M. Sgariglia, Morgan MFG and Bennett Day School are offering free COVID testing at the school, which is located at 959 W. Grand.

## **6. Committee Reports**

- a. **Chairperson’s Report:** Per F. Matalka, no report.
- b. **Communications:** Per M. Sgariglia, the e-newsletter and other school communications are distributed to the Skinner community. The committee is looking for information from classrooms, which will be conveyed in the e-newsletter. The committee expects that LSC voting process will be conveyed by CPS.
- c. **Principal’s Report – State of the School Report:**
  - i. Virtual learning is continuing with minimal disruptions.
  - ii. Assistant Principal interviews have been conducted; a decision is expected soon.
  - iii. Fifth week progress reports will be sent out by CPS.
  - iv. The administration continues to work through the backlog of returned report card mailings from last year.
  - v. Several new Chromebooks (300) have arrived.
  - vi. Enrollment in the school is 1,177 students, down from 1,223 at the end of last school year (a decrease of 46). This would have resulted in a budget reduction of approximately \$191,000 in SBB funds, according to CPS calculations, however CPS is not reducing budgets at this time.
  - vii. The debate team is going strong under Mr. Lee’s leadership. This year’s topic is “Resolved: the United States Federal government should enact substantial criminal justice reform in the United States in one or more of the following: forensic science, policing, sentencing.”
  - viii. Mrs. Clark attended several training sessions/meetings on various topics.
  - ix. A parent meeting will be held soon for Pre-K and cluster program families. Students in those classes/programs may return to the school building in November or December.
  - x. The group discussed questions related to the return to school, e.g., whether the hybrid model would be applied, who would monitor kids in the care room (where those who are not feeling well would report), whether new custodial staff would be needed. It is not expected that classes would return until January or later.
  - xi. Additional details can be found in Mrs. Clark’s full Principal’s Report.
- d. **Professional Personnel Leadership Committee (PPLC):** Per Mrs. Clark, the committee met as part of the Assistant Principal interview process.
- e. **Special Education/LRE:** Per R. Werner, the committee has not met.
- f. **School Improvement:** Per B. Hughes, the committee met on October 15. Most items from the discussion were covered in the Principal’s Report. B. Hughes noted that Skinner families are pleased with virtual learning this school year and thanked Mrs. Clark and the faculty for doing a great job. He also noted that the selective enrollment window is now open. The next committee meeting will be in December.
- g. **Facility Services:** Per F. Matalka, the committee did not meet. Mrs. Clark noted that the Pre-K rooms are ready to host students.
- h. **Bilingual Advisory Committee:** Per Mrs. Clark, Ms. Lee is working to organize the first committee meeting.

- i. **LSC Advisory:** No report.
- j. **Expansion Committee:** Per M. Letourneau, the committee will meet on Wednesday, October 28 at 5 pm. Topics will include: 1) optimizing school resources; 2) promoting manageable class sizes; and 3) advancing academic programming.

**7. Old Business**

- a. None.

**8. New Business**

- a. LSC interviews were conducted on Monday, October 19 with two strong candidates. The candidates will meet with Skinner students next, after which a hiring decision will be made.
- b. Mrs. Clark noted that CPS discourages schools from pressing families to provide school fees, unless they are tied to a specific club or program.
- c. There will be no school on Election Day, November 3.

**9. Public Comment**

- a. The audience asked if the LSC makes decisions about introducing magnet programs in the school, or if CPS does so. Mrs. Clark noted that this idea can come from the LSC but would need to be reviewed, approved, and implemented by CPS.
- b. A new Skinner parent asked about how to get involved with the Debate Team. F. Matalka provided Mr. Lee's CPS email address.
- c. The next LSC meeting will be held on November 10, 2020.

**10. Adjournment**

- a. The meeting adjourned at 7:05 pm (R. Werner, A. Crump).

Respectfully submitted,  
Matt Letourneau  
Skinner West LSC Secretary