



Skinner West Local School Council LSC Meeting Tuesday, September 15, 2020 6:00 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 6:04 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 7:23 pm.

2. Approval of Agenda

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

3. Approval of Meeting Minutes

- a. The July 13 meeting minutes were approved (M. Sgariglia, B. Hughes).

4. Announcements & Public Communications

- a. **PTO/Forum:** No report.
- b. **Friends of Skinner West (FOSW):** Per M. Sedler, FOSW has not met yet but is hopeful that a Walkathon can be held. All of the furniture for the STEM lab has been delivered but has not yet been set up.
- c. **West Loop Community News:** Per K. Rachal, the West Loop Soccer Club is accepting new players. The season starts October 2. The Michelle Obama Athletic Field is now open again. There is outdoor dining along the Randolph Street access roads and on Fulton Market Street from 11 am until 10 pm. Free COVID testing is available at Bennett Day School.

5. Committee Reports

- a. **Chairperson's Report:** Per F. Matalka, the LSC election will take place on Report Card Day on November 18. The LSC candidate submittal deadline is October 2. The LSC discussed options for picking up hard copy candidate forms and the potential for a virtual election. Mrs. Clark provided an overview of the LSC and its meeting process.
- b. **Communications:** Per M. Sgariglia, the e-newsletter and other school communications are now being distributed to the Skinner community.

c. Principal's Report – State of the School Report:

- i. Mrs. Clark thanked the faculty, staff, and CPS for their efforts to implement a smooth start to the school year.
 - ii. Virtual open house meetings were held before the start of school.
 - iii. Technology issues are being identified and addressed.
 - iv. Mrs. Clark is reviewing all of the class schedules. Remote learning plans have been posted to the Skinner website each Sunday evening/Monday morning.
 - v. All positions except for Special Education have been filled.
 - vi. CPS "Googlepalooza" training was conducted.
 - vii. Refund checks for the Washington, DC trip have been distributed. Refunds for the STAR Program are being sent out as well.
 - viii. Over 450 Chromebooks have been distributed to Superstars this fall (in addition to the 160 that were distributed in the spring).
 - ix. Food distribution takes place each day between 10 am and 1 pm.
 - x. Staff Shifts: Mr. Howard left at the end of the previous school year. Ms. Massour, Ms. Glab, and Mr. Rodriguez (Sodexo) have also left. We welcome new teachers Ms. Bottorff (PreK), Ms. McCanna (2nd), Ms. Barnes (4th), Mr. Hinterlong (5th), Ms. Ball (5th), and Ms. Florcyak (Art). Several other teachers have shifted positions within the school. The search for a new assistant principal continues (there were over 175 applicants).
 - xi. The school is implementing a website-based social studies curriculum (Discovery Education). We will use ELA Grammar & Writing program No Red Ink, Quaver Music, and Achieve 3000.
 - xii. For foreign language in the Neighborhood Program, Spanish will be offered for every grade except 3rd; Mandarin will be taught to 3rd graders.
 - xiii. Four (4) Neighborhood students joined the 7th grade Classical Program. Thirty-two students moved to an academic center (24 to Whitney Young, two to Kenwood, four to Lane Tech, and two to Lindbloom).
 - xiv. Enrollment dropped to 1,180 (a decrease of 41).
 - xv. The renovations to the Branch school are complete for the universal PreK classrooms. Sodexo will be repairing the Branch school parking lot.
 - xvi. Ms. Buick is the new Facilities Manager from Sodexo.
- d. **Professional Personnel Leadership Committee (PPLC):** Per Mrs. Clark, the committee did not meet.
- e. **Special Education/LRE:** Per R. Werner, the committee has started to identify discussion topics.
- f. **School Improvement:** Per B. Hughes, the committee did not meet.
- g. **Facility Services:** Per F. Matalka, the committee did not meet.
- 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 has not met but a meeting will be scheduled for October. As noted above, many CPS mailings have been returned due to address issues. The school will investigate to see if there are errors or if the affected families need to verify their addresses. A. Crump noted that Jones High School has an online address verification system.

6. Old Business

- a. None.

7. New Business

- a. None.

8. Public Comment

- a. The audience asked about the NWEA process and how 8th graders can gather their scores. Mrs. Clark and/or teachers can provide NWEA scores to families for use with the selective enrollment process. The school will find information about this topic and send it out to families via the e-newsletter.
- b. Parents asked about what information Skinner can provide about CPS high schools. Mrs. Clark offered to hold a parent meeting after more information is available.
- c. A parent asked about the transition back to school if 15-student pods are implemented. This could be a topic for an upcoming School Improvement Committee meeting (date TBD).
- d. The LSC candidate forum will be held at 5 pm on Tuesday, October 20 ahead of the LSC meeting at 6 pm (M. Letourneau, A. Crump).

9. Adjournment

- a. The meeting adjourned at 7:20 pm (R. Werner, A. Crump).

Respectfully submitted,
Matt Letourneau
Skinner West LSC Secretary