



Skinner West Local School Council

LSC Meeting

Tuesday, December 19, 2023

5:30 P.M.

MINUTES

Dr. Rhea Bush
Principal

Kevin Bolden
Parent Representative

Dr. Stephanie Frawley
Community Representative

Sheila Howard
Staff Representative

Fadi Matalaka
Parent Representative

Jackie Matthews
Community Representative

Nell Strong
Parent Representative

Dr. Katonja Webb Walker
Parent Representative

Dr. Ramel Werner
Teacher Representative

Daniel Orofino
Parent Representative

Vacant
Teacher Representative

Ronak Patel
Parent Representative

I. Call to Order

- A. K. Webb Walker called the meeting to order at 5:33 p.m.
- B. Present in-person were Principal Dr. Rhea Bush and LSC members F Matalaka, J. Matthews, K. Webb Walker, R. Werner, S. Frawley, K. Bolden, D. Orofino, N. Strong, R. Patel, and S. Howard.
- C. Quorum in-person was established.

II. Approval of Agenda

- A. R. Werner motioned to approve the agenda. Motion was seconded. Voice vote: passed with none opposed.

III. Approval of November 14, 2023 Minutes

- A. F. Matalaka motioned to approve the November 14, 2023, meeting minutes. Motion was seconded. Voice vote: passed with none opposed.

IV. Announcements & Public Communications

- A. Friends of Skinner West (FOSW) - F. Matalaka gave the update. Holiday giving drive was a success. Received donated gifts for 57 children. Painting of the gym will start on Friday, Dec. 22. FOSW will purchase some additional uniforms for both cheerleading and girls and boys basketball.
- B. West Loop Community News - No updates.

V. Committee Reports

- A. Chairperson's Committee - No update.
- B. PPLC - R. Werner provided the update. There is a need for admin access to update ipads, download apps, etc. CPS is cleaning up computers and updating passwords. Issue of cleanliness in the branch has been taken care of.
- C. Communications - No update.
- D. Special Education - LRE Committee - R. Werner provided the update. Special Olympics ends tomorrow with basketball. Ann Pearson from Teachers Supporting Teachers came to the meeting. She is working closely with Mrs. Newmark.
- E. School Improvement Committee - K. Bolden provided the update. Met Dec. 6. Discussed Spanish curriculum. Followed up on STEM curriculum and how the new teacher will work with the current teacher to coordinate. New student support functions. Next meeting will be Jan. 8, 4-6 p.m.
- F. Facilities Committee - No update.
- G. LSC Advisory Committee - K. Bolden provided the update. Met Dec. 18. Special briefing with COO of CPS to discuss Facilities Master Plan. CPS emphasized it is not an effort to close schools but rather an effort to evaluate needs for improvements. Phase One, community engagement, starts in the new year to inform Phase Two to execute changes over several years. Skinner's

region will have a feedback session Jan. 11. \$14.4 billion of work needs to be done. Oldest CPS school is 120 years old. Average age of school buildings is 80. Special briefing regarding SECA allocations and how students get assigned SECAs. Regarding CPS' plan to shift away from selective enrollment schools, Dr. Bush is anticipating a letter to principals which she will share as soon as she receives. CPS will be making changes to the budget review timeline to give LSCs more time to review school budgets before approval.

- H. Bilingual Advisory Committee - Dr. Bush provided the update. Since the last LSC meeting, Skinner has enrolled four more newcomers and transferred out two, so the current total of newcomers is 43.
- I. Advanced Math Committee - Dr. Bush provided the update. At the last meeting, discussed accelerated math and single subject acceleration. Dr. Bush shared instructional materials and information regarding What I Need (WIN) block, which will also be shared in the newsletter. Information on differentiated instructional plans for reading and math will be shared in the newsletter.
- J. Principal's Report
 - 1. Shoutouts:
 - a) Congratulations to Clarke Burnett, Skinner's LSC student member, who has been invited by CPS to represent students across the district in a podcast.
 - b) Student Council event - Nacho Ordinary STEM Night
 - c) Shoutout to Ms. Maatouk - CNA Insurance Company \$20k donation
 - d) Shoutout Mrs. Munoz, credited for contributing to ISBE Dyslexia Handbook
 - e) Shoutout to newcomer team for organizing food drive
 - f) Shoutout to FOSW for successful holiday drive
 - 2. Building is closed for the winter break to allow for various updates.
 - 3. Personnel: Spanish teacher, second semester schedule will have some shifts.
 - 4. CIWP: Jan. 12 Q2 distribution of Report Cards will be sent home. All admins participated in six-hour PD on teacher leadership. Quarterly CIWP check-in meeting is tomorrow. Collaborate with ILT to ensure instruction aligns with priorities.
 - 5. CPS Promotion Policy meeting changed to Jan. 22 for second, fifth, and eighth grade parents.
 - 6. Single subject & whole grade acceleration - original date was Jan. 12 for Iowa acceleration scale evaluations. CPS does not have enough materials. Test date has been pushed back. More updates forthcoming.
 - 7. Skinner has 167 EL students. 43 are newcomers. In January, Ms. Morales will administer the ACCESS test to assess English language proficiency and exit students that meet the benchmark.
 - 8. Push for parents to volunteer for recess. Shoutout to those that have signed up. Still looking for more.
 - 9. Reminder that public comment is 2 min. Not a Q&A. Opportunity to have concerns on the record.
 - 10. Addressing public comment from last meeting:
 - a) Feb. 8 at 3 p.m. is deadline to apply for LSC.
 - b) Regarding request for Black Student Organization - Skinner is so diverse that it is not conducive for school culture to have an organization just dedicated to one racial/ethnic group and may not be constructive to have individual groups for all the different racial/ethnic groups at Skinner. Current cost-free student orgs/opportunities include: LSC student representative, Student Council, Student Voice, all sports, peer buddies, dance, dungeons and dragons, etc.
 - c) Spanish curriculum: Skyline is the district curriculum adopted by Skinner and vetted by CPS teachers. Commitment to high-quality instruction. Vetted through PPLC. Run through Ed Reports. Treading dangerous waters talking about lowering standards for students, especially students of color. Spanish teacher has 252 students. By half way mark, 11% had D or F which happens in every content area, and at that point the teacher provides interventions.
 - d) Staff-student relationships: Dr. Bush has checked in individually. Cultivate survey - ILT is looking at data. Nothing alarming to indicate that students feel that staff do not support them. Will have 5Essentials climate survey in spring.
 - 11. Budget requests:

- a) Open cadre substitute position for remainder of year. Noticing increase in teacher absences and don't always have enough subs. Have one cadre sub funded through district. Would like to have one person who is always available. \$42k available in personnel line item. Transfer \$15k.
- b) Classical - two negatives to clear - \$1,926 (happens when teachers take benefit time) and \$8,655 (happens when teachers get lane and step increases during the year). Will need to ascertain what personnel the negatives are attributed to and split fund the teacher's salary.
- c) STAR - transfer \$100,000 from internal account to budget line to pay staff - clear negative and increase line item.

VI. Old Business

- A. LSC Member Vacancy - Current teacher vacancy will be filled with the upcoming LSC elections.

VII. New Business

- A. F. Matalka motioned to change the April regular LSC meeting date to April 23 to allow for Dr. Bush to attend a conference she was competitively selected for. Motion was seconded. Voice vote: passed with none opposed.
- B. N. Strong motioned to approve the three budget requests as presented by Dr. Bush. Motion was seconded. Voice vote: passed with none opposed.

VIII. Public Comment

- A. Carlil Pittman - Previous public comment regarding Spanish was not about lowering standards but that the teacher was not implementing the curriculum. Regarding student groups for marginalized student groups, should be a student decision.
- B. Karla Jones - Son currently in 8th grade. He had an F in Spanish and an A in every other class. Now he has a B. Concern with Skyline curriculum. A lot of memorization. Only have Spanish once a week for an hour. Is this the right curriculum for the neighborhood students? Older daughter that came through neighborhood program was behind in high school with foreign language.
- C. Stephanie Hall - Went to the Spanish teacher to find a solution. Met with admin and highlighted issues with instruction of curriculum. Son feels there needs to be an assessment done to establish baseline of where they are in the language prior to instruction. Thank you to FOSW for helping with the basketball team uniforms and helping with the restaurant fundraiser.
- D. Discussion among LSC members about Spanish. Will be discussed further at Jan. 8 School Improvement Meeting.
- E. Lizzie K - Request photos of Special Olympics for newsletter.
- F. Daniel Orofino - Request to add STAR program staffing to next meeting's new business.

IX. Adjournment

- A. F. Matalka motioned to adjourn. Motion was seconded. Voice vote: passed with none opposed.
- B. Meeting adjourned at 6:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
 Jaclyn Matthews
 Skinner West LSC Secretary