



Skinner West Local School Council Monthly Meeting Tuesday, January 23, 2018 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. Mataalka
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 6:51 pm by M. McMurray.
- b. Present were Principal Clark and LSC members A. Chacon, S. Hobson, S. Howard, M. Letourneau, M. McMurray, N. Strong, and R. Werner. M. Flowers arrived at 7:48 pm. Absent were LSC members F. Mataalka, D. McSpadden, and T. Kim.

2. Approval of Agenda

- a. The agenda was approved (A. Chacon, R. Werner).

3. Approval of Meeting Minutes

- a. The December 19 meeting minutes were approved (S. Hobson, S. Howard).

4. Announcements & Public Communications

- a. PTO/Forum: Per N. Strong, the group brought in \$534 from the pizza dough fundraiser. The cookie dough fundraiser runs from February 21-March 9. The group will announce fundraisers in the weekly e-newsletter in addition to the take-home folder.
- b. Friends of Skinner West (FOSW): Per M. Sedler, FOSW met this morning. Mr. Lomax and Mr. Shelton (computer consultant) reported that 90 Chromebooks are needed to replace broken ones. FOSW wants to start a new student Chromebook responsibility policy in the 2018-19 school year. This may involve having kids and parents sign a commitment to take better care of the computers. FOSW is considering asking students to buy their own Chromebooks in fourth grade (FOSW would purchase units for those than cannot afford to buy their own). The group will also establish a Google document to track equipment requests. The branch school bathroom doors have arrived for installation. The donations from the "Union West" development project are forthcoming. Brooklyn Boulders donated \$690 to FOSW.

- c. West Loop Community News: Per A. Chacon, there are several new development projects in the works, including a movie theater in Fulton Market and the Salvation Army site. There have been a few restaurant closings around year's end. Crime in the neighborhood seems to have decreased in recent weeks. Officer Wyman (a long-time fixture in the West Loop) has been reassigned and Officer Smith is our new beat officer. A committee has been formed to advocate for a West Central High School for Skinner and other nearby elementary school districts.

5. Committee Reports

- a. Chairperson's Report: Per M. McMurray, the council needs to fill the community representative vacancy (through June). Community groups can spread the call for candidates (February 22 is the deadline).
- b. Communications: Per Mrs. Clark, the committee did not meet in January.
- c. Principal's Report:
 - i. Congressman Danny Davis held an event in the Skinner gym.
 - ii. Winter NWEA testing is underway.
 - iii. The school celebrated Dr. Martin Luther King's legacy. The students wrote "dream statements", with a couple from each classroom selected for reading on the PA system by the authors.
 - iv. Eighth grade students are taking their high school placement exams.
 - v. All those eighth grade students that want to participate in the Washington, DC trip are now able to go through a fundraising effort led by M. Sedler.
 - vi. The contractor for the annex has installed a light for the building exterior.
 - vii. Ms. Salameda has returned from her maternity leave.
 - viii. Refer to separate Principal's Report document for more updates.
- d. Professional Personnel Leadership Committee (PPLC): No report.
- e. Special Education/LRE: Per R. Werner, accommodations were made for NWEA testing. Spring Games is schedule for May but no event details have been posted on the website yet.
- f. School Improvement: Per S. Hobson, the committee met on January 17. The committee discussed the "Catch You Doing Something Good" program and additional ways kids can be rewarded for doing good things on a regular basis. Purple pencils will be given to students with additional rewards each month. The committee also talked about how fourth and fifth grade teachers are developing ideas to make indoor recess more effective. The next meeting is February 21 at 4 pm in the library.
- g. Facility Services: Per Ms. Clark, the committee did not meet.
- h. Bilingual Advisory Committee: Per M. Letourneau, 45 people attended the January 14 Around the World event at La Taberna on Halsted. The eleventh "Around the World in 80 Dishes" will take place on March 4 at noon at Ghareeb Nawaz Pakistani Restaurant (807 W. Roosevelt). Those interested can register at skinnerpakistanilunch.eventbrite.com. Mr. Baron will develop an e-flier and email the newsletter team. We are not having a school-wide Chinese New Year assembly this year; something may be done at the classroom level. The next committee meeting is TBD.
- i. LSC Advisory: Per M. McMurray, no report.
- j. Expansion Committee: Per M Mrs. Clark, work on the Annex is ongoing. Mrs. Clark met with the vendors to order furniture, e.g., desks, file cabinets, chairs, rug gliders.

6. Old Business

- a. Parking lot signs have been selected and will be installed soon.

- b. We are awaiting further information about improvements for the playlot behind the branch.

7. New Business

- a. CPS provided a breakdown of FY17 Special Income Fund 124 Carryover funds amounting to \$103,974.13.
- b. A motion was made to move \$83,900 of Fund 124 Carryover funds towards the following items: \$15,098 to Operational items (\$8,798 to the maintenance agreements, \$300 to technology repairs, \$6,000 for toner & copier equipment), \$20,000 to the Instructional Technology Based (\$6,000 for supplies, \$2,000 for social emotional learning, \$12,000 for other technology programs), and \$48,802 to unfunded buckets (\$2,029 for custodian overtime, \$3,000 for substitute teachers, \$5,073 to ILT and grade level meetings, \$6,500 to the debate team, \$2,000 to student council, \$1,200 to math club, \$22,000 to faculty meetings, \$5,000 to professional development, and \$2,000 for a Chinese New Year celebration) (N. Strong, R. Werner).
- c. A motion was made to transfer of \$5,903.48 of SBB Funds to professional development. (S. Hobson, M. Flowers).

8. Public Comment

- a. Randy will soon become Mr. Merkin's teaching assistant.

9. Adjournment

- a. The meeting adjourned at 8:21 pm (N. Strong, R. Werner).

Respectfully submitted,
Matt Letourneau
Skinner West LSC Secretary