



LSC Meeting

Tuesday, January 24, 2023

5:30 P.M.

MINUTES

Dr. Rhea Bush
Principal

Kevin Bolden
Parent Representative

Sheila Howard
Staff Representative

Brett Hughes
Parent Representative

Fadi Matalka
Parent Representative

Jackie Matthews
Community Representative

Kori Milroy
Teacher Representative

Rekha Anand
Parent Representative

Nell Strong
Parent Representative

Dr. Katonja Webb
Parent Representative

Dr. Ramel Werner
Teacher Representative

Vacant
Community Representative

I. Call to Order

- A. B. Hughes called the meeting to order at 5:34 p.m.
- B. Present were Principal Dr. Bush and LSC members N. Strong, B. Hughes, K. Milroy, K. Bolden, J. Matthews, R. Werner, and K. Webb-Walker.

II. Approval of Agenda

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

III. Approval of December 20th Minutes

- A. K. Milroy motioned to approve the Dec. 20 meeting minutes. Motion was seconded. Voice vote: passed with none opposed.

IV. Announcements & Public Communications:

- A. PTO/Forum – N. Strong provided the update that PTO/Forum will be reaching out to Dr. Bush to schedule a meeting to discuss the future direction of PTO/Forum.
- B. Friends of Skinner West – No update.
- C. West Loop Community News – No update.

V. Committee Reports

- A. Chairperson's Report – B. Hughes provided the update that when the new Promethean boards were installed, the holes in the wall from the previous boards were still visible. Dr. Bush will connect with Facilities and provide an update at the next LSC meeting. B. Hughes also provided the update that he has received complaints about Aramark and the cleanliness of the building. Dr. Bush met today with the building manager who has escalated these concerns to the CPS facilities department. Teachers and staff are doing an excellent job of sending in pictures and videos to document these complaints. Skinner is not alone in being disappointed with the cleaning services provided by Aramark.
- B. Professional Personnel Leadership Committee (PPLC) – K. Milroy provided the update that PPLC met last week and discussed the math curriculum. Subscriptions are expiring in 2024. PPLC is taking the next year to vet different curriculum in collaboration with Skinner math teachers. The process will begin at the PPLC February meeting. PPLC also discussed the ELA curriculum and will be sending a survey out to teachers about Skyline ELA curriculum. PPLC also discussed restorative justice and will be inviting Mr. Lomax to a future meeting to discuss possibilities to support restorative justice at Skinner. PPLC also discussed ways to enhance enrollment in Skinner's neighborhood program through special aptitude programs. PPLC meetings are open to the public.
- C. Special Education/LRE - R. Werner provided the update that the committee meets every other Tuesday. Cluster classes are pushing in once a month with the general education classes to do fun activities, e.g., read alouds and team building. The January and February sport for Special Olympics is soccer. The goal of these activities is to increase staff and student awareness of Skinner's cluster classroom students.
- D. School Improvement Committee – K. Webb-Walker provided the update that the committee met yesterday evening. Dr. Bush walked them through the current

- E. dashboard and CIWP. The committee is looking forward to the new platform and process being released in April. Dr. Bush will invite school community to the planning period for the new CIWP. Committee also discussed Spanish instruction. Parents are saying that the new Spanish teacher is doing a phenomenal job and students are making clear progress. Regarding indoor recess, the plan has been modified to STEM projects provided through an outside vendor in the gym and multipurpose room. Beginning in February, teachers will get passes to hand out to students so all students get access. They could use more large format games to keep students active. Dr. Bush has made a request to CPS to expand to include one additional classical kindergarten classroom and one additional first grade classroom and is awaiting response. The committee also discussed the PPLC's recommendation to offer geometry for advanced students. In order to make this plan work, Skinner would need to identify a geometry teacher and would need to see how it would fit with the district's single subject acceleration application. PPLC also made a recommendation for a kindergarten-only open house and tour of the branch. The committee also discussed a classical sibling lottery and that Dr. Bush is seeing requests for more school tours. The committee also discussed that there seems to be a lot of variability between the amount of homework for different grade bands. Dr. Bush shared with the committee that teachers do collaborate on homework across grades and that homework does not contribute to grades, which may need to be communicated more widely to parents. Skinner will host a spring curriculum night combined with open house. Next meeting will be hybrid March 13 at 5 p.m. Dr. Bush met with the network chief regarding the classical expansion and adding two classrooms - one kindergarten and one first grade. Dr. Bush will discuss the homework policy with staff during the staff development day Feb. 23. Skinner will have a spring tour for interested families after IAR testing.
- F. Facility Services Committee – No update.
- G. Communications Committee – No update.
- H. LSC Advisory – K. Bolden provided the update that student LSC member elections are upcoming. While 8th graders can run according to the rules, they would not be able to serve on the council once they are promoted to 9th grade, so we are encouraging 6th-7th graders to run. Paper packets are in the office. Students can also download application online. Elections are also upcoming for the LSC Advisory Board. LSC members should get required trainings completed.
- I. Bilingual Advisory Committee – The new Spanish teacher will have an update for the next LSC meeting but is currently administering ACCESS testing.
- J. Advanced Math Committee – B. Hughes provided the update that Dr. Bush and the committee met on Jan. 20 and will inform parents about a clear plan for next year before the end of this school year. The committee will provide support to teachers about the current math curriculum. Dr. Bush may hold a curriculum night soon for parents. The next committee meeting will be March 6. This will be a closed meeting for the committee to meet with teachers and instructional coaches to check in and plan ahead.
- K. Principal's Report -
 1. Personnel - Skinner is advertising a temporary SECA position.
 2. Schoolwide instructional plan - Dr. Bush has asked the current gifted teacher to serve as the classical lead teacher to communicate with parents and collaborate with K-5 teachers. All classical teachers will participate in professional development this Thursday to promote advanced instruction for learners who are already advanced.
 3. Funding - Skinner has won \$30,000 Creative Schools Grant, which is an extension of the Lollapalooza Arts award. Shoutout to Mrs. Bailey and Mrs. Christensen who wrote the grant.
 4. Funding - Skinner was awarded a \$50,000 grant to promote STEM instruction during the school day, which is making the new plan for indoor recess possible.
 5. Assessments - Middle of year assessments are occurring: STAR 360 for grades 3-8, iReady for grades K-2, and ACCESS for ELs. The Illinois Assessment of Readiness (IAR) begins in March. Dr. Bush will provide student performance data in upcoming meetings. Preliminary data is showing positive growth.
 6. Middle school math intervention - Dr. Bush has looked at data for 6th-8th grade students and have identified a group of students who may need summer school. Instructional coaches will start providing tutoring interventions twice a week during the day with those students as soon as Star360 testing is

over to try to eliminate the need for summer school and make sure those students can graduate 8th grade on time.

7. Zero covid cases.
8. Facilities - The full roof at the Branch will be replaced this summer.
9. Budget - The Student Council invited Dr. Bush to a meeting. They would like to have activities to promote social-emotional learning and make school fun - rallies, dances, etc. They want to fundraise by selling candigrams for Valentines day and hosting school dances afterschool: Feb. 10 for grades 4-5 and Feb. 14 for grades 6-8 with \$4 admission.
10. Girls Rock Chicago has requested to rent full buildings over the summer including 15-20 classrooms, staff lounge, and parking lot June 23-Aug11 Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays. Weekend rentals require Skinner to pay for extra security and custodial services and for a building engineer or administrator to open the building. Dr. Bush proposes to request \$2,500 a week in rental fees for a projected profit of \$1800-2000 per week. Girls Rock Chicago would coincide on Fridays with summer STAR program.
11. Budget approval request to transfer \$150,000 from STAR to clear a negative from 2022 from staff working for STAR and to fund STAR for the rest of the year. Current balance is more than \$626,000.

VI. Old Business

- A. Vote: Expansion of Classical Classroom - K. Bolden motioned to expand the classical program with one kindergarten class and one first grade class. Motion was seconded. Voice vote: passed with none opposed.
- B. Student Vacancy - Covered by Mr. Bolden in LSC Advisory update.
- C. Community Representative Vacancy - The LSC has not receive any candidate applications to date.

VII. New Business

- A. K. Bolden motioned to allow the Student Council to host two dances and sell candigrams. Motion was seconded. Voice vote: passed with none opposed.
- B. J. Matthews motioned to rent the Skinner main building (15-20 classrooms, lounge, and parking lot) to Girls Rock Chicago this summer for between \$2,500-3,000 per week. Motion was seconded. Voice vote: passed with none opposed.
- C. N. Strong motioned to transfer \$150,000 from the STAR budget to the salary/benefits pointer line. Motion was seconded. Voice vote: passed with none opposed.

VIII. Public Comment

- A. Sara Beardsley provided comment on the classical expansion and sibling lottery.

IX. Adjournment

- A. R. Werner motioned to adjourn at 6:36 p.m. Motion was seconded. Voice vote: passed with none opposed.

Respectfully submitted,

Jaclyn Matthews

Skinner West LSC Secretary