



Skinner West Local School Council Virtual Meeting

Tuesday, October 18, 2022

5:30 P.M.

MEETING MINUTES

Dr. Rhea Bush
Principal

Dr. Jeffrey Brown
Assistant Principal

Sheila Howard
Staff Representative

Kori Milroy
Teacher Representative

Ramel Werner
Teacher Representative

Kevin Bolden
Parent Representative

Brett Hughes
Parent Representative

Fadi Matalaka
Parent Representative

Nell Strong
Parent Representative

Katonja Webb-Walker
Parent Representative

Vacant
Parent Representative

Jaclyn Matthews
Community Representative

Marla Sedler
Community Representative

1. Call to Order

- a. B. Hughes called the meeting to order at 5:31 p.m.
- b. Present were B. Hughes, K. Bolden, M. Sedler, K. Milroy, K. Webb-Walker, F. Matalaka, N. Strong, S. Howard, R. Werner, and J. Matthews.
- c. Quorum was met.

2. Approval of Agenda

- a. K. Webb Walker motioned to approve the agenda. Motion was seconded. Voice vote: passed with none opposed.

3. Approval of September 20, 2022, Minutes

- a. K. Milroy motioned to approve the September 20, 2022, meeting minutes. Motion was seconded. Voice vote: passed with none opposed.

4. Announcements & Public Communications:

- a. PTO/Forum - No update. PTO did not meet yet.
- b. Friends of Skinner West - Laurie Mullick provided the updated. Friends of Skinner West held the walk-a-thon, which raised the most funds ever. Friends of Skinner West awarded 10 additional prizes for a total of 20 classrooms. Friends of Skinner West is providing stipends for teachers to coach sports, purchasing basketball team uniforms, hosting a Halloween door decorating contest and a holiday giving drive for students in need, seeking donors to sponsor students for the Washington D.C. trip, and working on a Lou Malnati's fundraiser. The Jeni's ice cream social was a success.
- c. West Loop Community News - M. Selder announced various Halloween events in the West Loop. J. Matthews announced that the Illinois Report Card will be published on Oct. 27.

5. Committee Reports

- a. Chairperson's Report - B. Hughes addressed his comments at the last meeting. There is one open Parent Representative spot on the LSC. The deadline to submit

applications was Oct. 11. Three candidates submitted applications: Arthur Killingsworth, Rekha Anand, and Christina Dent. They will speak at the next LSC regular meeting. Then per LSC rules, the LSC will have a closed session meeting after the regular meeting to vote on whom to elect.

- b. Professional Personnel Leadership Committee (PPLC) - The committee met Sept. 23 to elect members of PPLC, then met again on Oct. 11 to set meeting dates for the year and begin discussions on priorities for the year, including incorporating teacher voice into decisions on the walking math program, access to ancillary classes (classes outside of core English language arts, math, science, and social studies), and potential ways to increase school enrollment. Additionally, two teachers who were teaching science are now teaching more lab-based classes through FUSE - STEM exploration.
- c. Special Education - LRE - No update provided as R. Werner had not yet joined the meeting.
- d. School Improvement/Expansion Committee - The committee did not meet yet.
- e. Facility Services Committee - The committee did not meet yet. F. Matalaka will conduct a walk-through of the facilities to help inform priorities. It was announced that the water is too hot in two of the bathrooms.
- f. Communications Committee - The committee met the prior week and is looking for photos for the newsletter.
- g. LSC Advisory - K. Bolden provided the update. The committee met on Sept. 16. K. Bolden reminded LSC members to get their fingerprints taken and background checks conducted as soon as possible. LSC members should email the LSC advisory email address to get certifications for completed trainings. K. Bolden reviewed student member voting rights (only for high schools). He will email out the October meeting schedule.
- h. Bilingual Advisory Committee - The committee does not yet have a chairperson. Dr. Bush announced that this would be addressed in the Principal's Report.
- i. Walking Math - Sue Bae provided the update. The parent committee was formed with one parent from each grade plus a teacher for a total of eight committee members. The committee met Oct. 17 with Dr. Bush. Walking math resumed Sept. 26 for grades 3 and 5. The school is working on reinstating walking math for K-2. The committee will work with the PPLC committee to include teacher voice in the discussions. New textbooks have arrived, and teachers will have books by Monday. Dr. Bush provided the update that there are uneven student distributions between classes, including a 5th grade class with 42 students and another with 25. The teacher with 42 students does have a teaching assistant. Chicago Public Schools passed an interim accelerated placement policy that will be sent out in the newsletter.
- j. Principal's Report - Dr. Bush provided the update.
 - i. The Boo Bash/Fall Festival is coming up.
 - ii. The next conversation with Dr. Bush will be held Oct. 27. Representatives from the CPS Gifted Department will discuss the classical program.

- iii. The staff member who supports English Learner (EL) students (have 119 ELs at Skinner) is taking a leave of absence til April. Dr. Bush has elevated the need to fill the positive to Human Resources. Staff for diverse learners took on the responsibility to screen EL students for services but cannot permanently take on both roles, especially as upcoming ACCESS testing occurs in January.
- iv. Report cards will be distributed Oct. 25. Parent Teacher Conferences will be held Nov. 21. Teachers are finalizing the parent-teacher conferences schedule.
- v. CPS interim accelerated placement policy will go out in the newsletter. The application for accelerated placement closes Dec. 2.
- vi. The school has no covid cases.
- vii. School enrollment is currently at 989 students, but 78 did not arrive and Skinner will not receive funding for them. Skinner will receive its budget from CPS around March. The loss of enrollment will result in loss of funding and will impact staff. Considerations to increase enrollment include a sibling lottery for the classical program, a magnet lottery, and adding a classical homeroom. There has been a districtwide enrollment decline.
- viii. Middle schools has been experiencing fights, but the issue has greatly improved due to the addition of sports and students playing volleyball together.
- ix. Skinner will have an internal account audit on Nov. 7 looking at July 1 to April 2.
- x. Outstanding checks/unpaid invoices from 2018 and 2019 total \$15,586.
- xi. Skinner received a request from the West Loop Soccer Club to rent the gym during inclement weather. Dr. Bush informed them that STAR club uses the gym until 6:30 p.m. Anyone who uses the building when Skinner children are in the building would have to go through the background check process, which this vendor is already going through. Dr. Bush will provide comparable rental costs to the LSC at the next meeting.
- xii. Budget approvals:
 - 1. \$4302.60 for supplemental instructional supplies for Spanish program
 - 2. \$5,000 to pay staff member salary who works with debate team
 - 3. \$5,000 for teachers and coaches salaries for weekend sports
 - 4. \$4,200 for teachers for missed preparation periods due to extracurricular teachers having to cover teacher absences
 - 5. \$11,998 for copier maintenance (copier does 1 million copies a year - already at 500k copies for the year)
 - 6. \$185,863.55 for Promethean boards (Skinner West will help with purchasing six new boards)
- xiii. Regarding facilities, there will be a branch root survey and a final roof report.

- xiv. The GoCPS application period for 8th graders is open. Counselors are leading work for all 8th grade students to apply.

6. Old Business

- a. There was no old business.

7. New Business

- a. Approval of Expenditures/Requests - K. Bolden motioned to approve expenditures as presented. Motion was seconded. Voice vote: passed with none opposed.

8. Public Comment

- a. Nancy Bian provided comment on the process to decide strategies to increase school enrollment.
- b. Sainah Syed provided comment on the positive work of Mr. Roman on the volleyball program.
- c. Lizzie K provided comment on getting information for the newsletter.
- d. Zhu-Song Mei provided comment on walking math for K-2.
- e. R. Anand provided comment on parent volunteers to provide support to teachers filling in during teacher absences.
- f. B Z provided comment on walking math for K-2.
- g. Ju Z provided comment on enrollment numbers.
- h. Jingjing Wan provided comment on enrollment numbers and the potential for additional classical classroom(s).

9. Adjournment

- a. R. Werner motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:30 p.m. Motion was seconded. Voice vote: passed with none opposed.

Respectfully submitted,
Jaclyn Matthews
Skinner West LSC Secretary