

Local School Council Meeting Minutes

Hawthorne Scholastic Academy

Wednesday, October 5, 2011 / 7pm

LSC Attendees: Roger Wilen, Anna Alvarado, Catherine Francis, Amy Lenz, Laura Durudogan, Carlton Oquendo, Tiffany Green Matthew Beaudet, Kathleen Lally, Daniel O'Connor and Jodi Hoare

Parent/Teacher/Community Attendees: *Too many to list. Record of sign in sheet in office.*

- ✓ **Meeting began at 7:02pm.**
- ✓ **Introduction of LSC members to parent/teacher/community.**
- ✓ **Approval of the minutes from September, 2011:** Roger Wilen made a motion to approve the minutes from September, Catherine Francis seconded the motion. Everyone was in favor. September minutes approved.
- ✓ **Robert's Rules of Order:** Roger Wilen reminded our meetings follow the RRO.

Principal's Report

- Enrollment currently at 569 students.
- After School Tuition Based Programs are in full swing. Lots of choices.
- After School All Stars program will begin October 24, focusing on reading and math support.
- 5/6th and 7/8th Boys Soccer and 5/6th 7/8th Girls Volleyball sports programs are currently running.
- High School Open House was Tuesday. Thanks to Amy Dominguez for a nicely planned evening. Many 7th graders were in attendance.
- Instructional Leadership Team (ILT) attended a network meeting where the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) in Reading and Math were discussed. Presented were a deeper understanding of the need for CCSS and its structure and content of the English Language Arts (ELA). The State of Illinois is now moving to the common core.
- On January 27th, Dr. Heidi Hayes-Jacobs, who was part of the initiative for CCSS will be at Hawthorne to present to the faculty. Very exciting opportunity.
- Chicago Consortium was a study conducted by UofC which surveyed our 5-8th grade students/parents (from surveys handed out on report card pickup day). Surveys came back strong on Hawthorne overall. Ambitious Instruction was area identified as average and will be worked on to identify way to improve.
- 7th Grade Coffee talk was held and there were many parents in attendance. The coffee talks are held all year long for the different grades and are a great opportunity for parents to collaborate on ideas and ask questions of each age/grade set.
- Dodge Ball team from School Yard Tavern will be renting the gym from October 17- Dec 19. M-Th.
- Starting Oct. 11, BIC will return to the LUNCH ROOM! Thanks to Anna Alvarado who gathered months of data to support the change. Breakfast will still be offered to any child who is late for school and needs to take to the classroom. Breakfast will still be served in bags.
- Asbestos Report has been returned. We received a good report and are in compliance. The report is in the office for anyone who wishes to review.

1st Public Comment

- Q = What happens to the extra food from the BIC? Can we send it to a food pantry? A = There are legal reasons that this can not done. The sentiment is agreed with. It is worth bringing up to the downtown office again.

- Q = Why is so much paper sent home with the children? Can we use smaller font? Why aren't both sides always printed on? Why can't electronics be used to communicate more? A = Some curriculum is supplemented with information that is not in text books. Teachers will be reminded to print on both sides. Electronic communication is utilized, however our entire community has to be considered and not all families have computers sitting in their home, therefore, paper has to go home.
- Q = What happens to the money of the turf rental? A = The funds are used to supplement shortages. This year it is being used to supplement a teacher's aide position.

Committee Reports

Financial Affairs (Roger/Laura) ó No report.

PPLC (Amy Lenz) ó A first meeting has taken place.

Curriculum (Carlton Oquendo) ó The team is working to ensure that the Vision Statement of the school fits the school culture and it is mapped directly to the SIPPAAA plan.

SIPAAA (Anna Alvarado and Linda Feaman) ó No report.

Building and Safety (Dan) ó No report.

By-laws (Matt) - No report.

PTA (Laura)

- Sunday, 9/11 Family Fun Fest was a big success. Great weather, great attendance.
- Innisbrook Wrapping Paper fundraiser will be extended to 10/11. 50% of all monies go to HSA.
- Walk-A-Thon - October 16 and 17th.
- Shop On Roscoe - Friday, Oct. 7. A percentage of purchase goes back to the school.
- PTA 2011-12 meeting on Wednesday, Oct. 12 at 8:45 a.m. Stop by, have coffee, and share ideas.

Community (Kris and Catherine) ó Nothing to report.

Old Business

No old business.

New Business

LSC has vacant a position for LSC Community Representative. If anyone knows of someone within the boundaries of the community please pass on the news.

Craig Benes the Network Chief of the Ravenswood/Ridge Network (our current area) was introduced. Craig spoke about Hawthorne and hit on some points:

What makes Hawthorne great?

- ✓ Hawthorne is strong due to teacher and parents who collaborate.
- ✓ Our strong community exceeds that compared to other schools of smart children because of our involvement.
- ✓ We are one of the fastest developing schools due to our leadership, teachers and administration.

What does Full Day mean?

- ✓ We know it is coming. We cannot change it.
- ✓ Downtown is offering a Pioneer Program to jump start schools.
- ✓ The only way a Pioneer Program can be successful is if there is teacher consensus. Principals do not have the ability to make that decision.
- ✓ If teachers feel it is not right, the parent community must honor that.
- ✓ No school is being forced to do it prematurely.
- ✓ By November/December teachers/administration can engage LSC and parents.
- ✓ Dialogue is how that is done.
- ✓ A new position has been created in each district for a Committee Family Engagement Specialist.

Matt Leskin Teacher Union Rep spoke on the following points:

Waivers and Pioneer Program

- ✓ Waivers are changes to the current teachers contract.
- ✓ Waivers typically cover a change to a paragraph or two. The Waivers for the Pioneer Program are much more than that.
- ✓ Extended day is being driven by downtown
- ✓ Lots of coercion by downtown.
- ✓ There have been lots of layoffs.
- ✓ No one can outline what the 90 minutes will be spent doing. Teachers want a better day, not more standardized testing.

Laura Durudogan on Raise Your Hand Coalition meeting at Cooney Elementary:

- ✓ 130 people, plus the Alderman and Teacher Union in attendance.
- ✓ Cooney is not for Pioneer program this year.
- ✓ 68% of the people are for a longer day, but 17% did not want the full day (+90 minutes).
- ✓ Quality v Quantity was the main issue. Schools want things like Lab, Music, Art and teachers aide positions to help make it meaningful.
- ✓ How do some schools start this process with out things like Teaches Aides?
- ✓ A domino affect will begin in that park districts and sports program will all have to be altered. The change and affect is huge.
- ✓ How do we get to the quality side of the equation?

2nd Public Comment

Community, Teachers and Administration exchanged ideas and shared their thoughts about the 2011-12 School year 90 minute Full Day changes, including the following comments:

- Is CPS going to listen? Do parents have any say in this change?
- Pilot program is a choice. The 90 minutes for a Full Day is not.
- The 90 minutes only account for 45 minutes of math and reading. That will not make our children smarter.
- Remember, the \$150K or \$75K is only for one year. How will we sustain the extra funds afterwards?
- Is there really a 30% increase to the teachers work day? Why do we need more staffing for recess?
- We should take the pilot program \$75K available right now and devote it to cutting edge technology. Those schools that made the switch last year are ahead of the game.

- CPS is asking teachers to give up so much in the short term for the long term and it seems like a lot. What would you do if your job asked of you the same?
- Where did the \$150K come from? A = Central Office closed non-successful programs.
- How can we increase our foreign languages?
- Not for a big change at the beginning of the day.
- How do we really know what we are to be discussing? We need to know what parameters we are to be collaborating on or right now it is a waste of time.
- Why is 90 minutes the choice? A = 90 minutes added on to the day puts us up to par (in the 50% range) with other urban districts and the length of school day.
- When will there be answers? Will we have any chance of being able to change the number of minutes being added to the day?
- Will 90 minutes be open or closed campus? A = Closed campus.
- Being #4 and having happy kids is better than being #1 with kids who are not happy.
- LSC thanked the members of the community for being at the meeting. It is important to keep a strong community.
- How does the Full Day process move forward, and in what forum will it be presented?

Comment from Anna Alvarado: We want to maintain balance of our community of culture. We have a house of brick, not straw. I have to have a vision of what those extra 90 minutes will be and I need to know it will be successful and energize our staff. Lots of logistics have to be considered, i.e., bussing, lunch, recess, reading blocks, math blocks and so on. My goal is to sustain our brick house, while both teachers and parents feel supported. The plan is due to CPS by December.

Comment from Craig Benes the Network Chief Final 6 Principals at all schools are to submit a plan for their school by December to CPS. Each school is to develop their own plan. The union will not be involved. All of the community should share ideas.

Adjournment

Roger Wilen made the motion to adjourn the meeting. Jodi Hoare seconded and all approved. The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 PM

The next scheduled meeting will be Wednesday, November 2, 2011 at 7pm

Notes submitted by Jodi Hoare, LSC Secretary.