



## Burley Local School Council Meeting Minutes October 21, 2020

### Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order at 6:05 pm.

### Roll Call:

**Present:** Stephen Soltanzadeh, Rebecca Armatis-Furr, Catherine Plocher, Mary Renouard, Amy Walsh, Bob Blitstein, Laurie Barry, Carolyn Skibba, Rob Moon, Liz Wiedegreen

**Absent:** Teresa Merritt

### Approval of Minutes:

The Council reviewed the September 2020 LSC minutes. Mary Renouard motioned to approve the minutes. Stephen Soltanzadeh seconded. All voted in favor. Minutes approved.

### Technology Report:

Ms. Skibba said they continue to be delighted by the resilience and participation of the students with remote learning. The Tech team has supported the staff as they start implementing some new features - for example breakout rooms in Google Classroom. Adding them has given more capacity to continue focusing on the educational values at Burley and being active not passive students. The Tech team has been pleased with Google updates.

Ms. Skibba reminded everyone that having meetings open for a long time is taking a toll on the tech, the Tech team is working on fixing that. We have limited resources and capacity for upgrading and replacing the technology so focusing on points of starting to keep up with the calls and what we can do to support everyone.

### Candidate Forum:

The parent, community and teacher representatives presented their statements.

#### Parent Representative Candidates:

[Katie Jasinski](#)

[Elliot Ransom](#)

[Jessica Newman](#)

[Amy Walsh](#)



Teresa Merritt-Medina

[Mary Renouard](#)

Community Representative Candidates:

[Bob Blitstein](#)

[Rob Moon](#)

Teacher Representative Candidates:

Carolyn Skibba

Erin Stanfill

LSC election is November 18. Parents and guardians and staff can vote by mail. If you are eligible to vote by mail you'll receive the ballot. You can still vote in person. If you vote in person you will be screened like everyone who enters a CPS building (temperature checks, social distancing, masks, etc.) You should receive a ballot prior to November 18. Everyone votes for every position. We are still looking for a non-teaching staff position for the Council.

**Principal's Report:**

Ms. Plocher said the District is beginning a phase-in approach of returning to school starting with pre-K and cluster programs. Both are less than 15 students. Burley does not have a cluster program, nor a pre-K. Tried to articulate that to many families. Cluster programs are a specialized program that is self-contained. So Burley does not have any students returning to the building during this phase. The District will see how it goes and re-evaluate around January. Ms. Plocher's assumption is the next phase would probably incorporate the hybrid model which is a very different preparation. The District is preparing every building; people are constantly checking buildings, looking at the ventilation system, there are 6 feet apart stickers all over the building, hand sanitizer stations, we're piloting hand washing stations on the second floor, working on care rooms and the District is working on PPE. There's between 500 - 600 buildings and every building is unique and many were built in the 1800s. The District is working hard.

Due to this, we are in the midst of preparing 2nd quarter packets. They won't be at the same level as 1st quarter packets since students already have Tech, Art, Steam, some PE and classroom packets. We are scheduling packet pickup for the week of November 2. Teachers have been hard at work getting those packets together.

As Ms. Skibba mentioned there was a Google Meet update. This offers more ways to build and enhance collaboration, not just provide small groups, but the big value is



collaboration with students talking to each other. Virtual it makes it hard. We're experimenting -- allow kids to do 'turn n talks', book clubs, etc. It's successful. Ms. Plocher gave a big shout out to the staff - they teach each other and have taken the lead in helping each other with what they're learning and sharing it broadly.

The administration is preparing the end of 1st quarter survey for parents.

On election day - Tuesday, November 3 - there is **NO** school.

The PTA is hosting a pumpkin carving competition in lieu of Fall Fun Fair. Pumpkins will be displayed outside the west door, vote via QR codes. Scholastic gift cards will be the prizes.

The PTA announced Burley merchandise will be selling shortly. There is a newly designed sweatshirt and masks. They will also be selling some vintage items from before. It's open for a week. Item pickup will be in early December.

The virtual book fair is this week through November 1st. We love the virtual Scholastic book fair, if you purchase up to \$25 in books there is no shipping fee.

There are still some FOB sign-up events and their campaign for the annual fund just wrapped.

FOB and PTA brainstorming ways to keep people safe and connected and build community.

The staff is also in the midst of 8th grade 101 high school meetings. Have had some meetings, but doing annual 1-1 meetings to discuss where each family is.

### **Financial Report**

There are no transfers to approve.

Ms. Plocher hasn't made much movement in internal accounts. The main changes is the 115 line (per pupil funding) she has about \$13K. The majority is teacher supply union money. \$5800 is allocated for bilingual money. Since we don't receive a dedicated position (because there aren't many second language learners) we are given \$5800 to buy materials to support within the community.



The 124 line looks different (brought in from internal accounts that has to move into budget when purchases are made). If we don't spend that money by the end of year the District takes it back, but 124 money is brought from outside and rolls over which we received about \$40,000 rollover money in mid-October.

We have paid bills and the leadership team the money we owed them from July.

Ms. Plocher received her 10th day communication on the budget. The district shared a negative on what I owe (it doesn't show up in budget yet). They have given me my staffing allocations from the loan and the balance that we owe the District is \$32,172.39. If CPS is required to have Burley pay it back, Ms. Plocher has options on how to pay it back.

Burley hasn't had a negative balance before. The loan was taken due to large numbers in Kindergarten class. Some families have matriculated out due to e-learning. In the end Ms. Plocher is comfortable with her decision. She couldn't have figured out how to support the high amount of kindergarten students. Ms. Plocher found amazing high quality Kindergarten teachers. Ms. Plocher is at peace with the \$32K - it's something she can figure out. Ms. Plocher is not expecting this borrowing to be a common pattern for Burley. The school fee should cover some of it. It takes CPS a few months to share out the budget possibly through November. They'll reach out once it's settled.

### **Chair Report:**

Reminder about LSC elections on November 18.

### **Public Comment**

What happens if some neighborhood students come back to school next year who unerolled this year?

Ms. Plocher said that's a very common question, unfortunately we don't have a crystal ball on that. If people can come back we also have to make decisions that are best for our school. It's sad to see the families go, it does impact us financially. There's sadness from families about going and not wanting to leave but their personal situation makes it challenging. As principal I need to maintain school and the finances no matter what happens. Ms. Plocher hopes people come back, we might have some large class sizes.

Next year could we end up with an overcrowding problem?

Ms. Plocher said that's something we couldn't avoid. If we didn't lose population, Ms. Plocher needed to bring kids in from the lottery to stay afloat. No fault of anybody's in



this situation, it is possible. People left for a variety of reasons, (city, state, private schools). Once you are brought in from the lottery you stay in as long as they want.

How many new devices were purchased at the beginning of school year?

The Cubs made a donation and bought 25 iPads. Burley purchased about another 25-35 iPads.

How much is the budget for technology per student?

Ms. Skibba said we don't budget a certain amount. If there are additional funds we purchase as much as we can. We start conservative, we do not purchase the internet, don't pay for electric, all of that is through the District. We don't know what funding we'll need from year to year or month to month. Once we had the 1-1 model in place, we kept the class set largely in terms of the age of when they were purchased. There is some swapping out. We keep batches of tech together when funds are available and, for example, replace the 7th grade Chromebooks because those are now the oldest.

What is Burley's approach to budget planning for technology, how much does it cost, how do we advocate for our school in terms of meeting needs for every student?

Technology is always a priority area in the CIWP because it is our Magnet Cluster focus. The CIWP is a public document where you can see school priorities and goals, and we use that to define and articulate our budget needs and then determine budget lines and purchases.

What was enrollment on the 10th day?

569

### **Next Meeting**

Next meeting is Wednesday, November 11 at 6pm.