



## **Burley Local School Council Meeting Minutes January 22, 2020**

### **Call to Order:**

The meeting was called to order at 6:13 pm.

### **Roll Call:**

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

**Absent:** Liz Wiedegreen

### **Approval of Minutes:**

The Council reviewed the December 2019 LSC minutes. Mary Renouard motioned to approve the minutes. Teresa Merritt seconded. All voted in favor.

### **Technology Report:**

Ms. Skibba discussed that the Technology Committee will soon launch their Parent Book Club. The book is *Raising Humans in a Digital world* by Diana Graber. The book takes a balanced look and potential benefits of technology in our children's lives. The Technology Committee will be sending out communication at the end of January, but there will likely be an in-person meeting and an online Q/A. The first session will be in February, the closing session will be in May.

Also in February, the Technology Committee will be launching some messaging about being purposeful with technology including a family creativity challenge. They are exploring options on how we might use tech at home and school that are active and less passive.

### **Principal's Report:**

Ms. Plocher mentioned that the Board of Education is having town hall meetings throughout the city to discuss school funding. They're doing these community meetings to get feedback from the community and set the framework about school funding which might go into effect in the future. We are approaching budget season; typically principals receive their budgets around April or May for the next school year. Ms. Plocher is attending the meeting at Amundsen on January 29th and encourages others from Burley to attend to see how the district is considering making changes to the current budget



approach. The district has hosted town halls before, but Ms. Plocher doesn't remember one on budgets.

Ms. Plocher just received information from the district regarding the Illinois Accelerated Placement Act. According to the Illinois State Board of Education website, "the Accelerated Placement Act calls for schools to have a policy for identifying and advancing a student who needs early admission to kindergarten or first grade or grade level or subject acceleration."

This is now being put into effect. In addition to Kindergarten accelerated acceptance, students in 3rd - 6th grade can apply for accelerated math and reading. The window for applications closes on February 7th.

The students have to meet certain criteria of MAP scores and grades (have to be at 95% or above for reading and math) they can take an assessment to see if they qualify. The assessment is done at IIT and costs \$250 for whole grade and \$35 for single subject. If the student scores high enough they can potentially skip a grade or skip a subject - but just reading or math. Students can only skip one grade. Students can't use this to jump schools.

This is from a law passed in 2017, public act 100-0421. Ms. Plocher and Ms. Skibba expressed concerned about the logistics or working with varying schedules and the social and developmental differences of students in each grade.

#### Continuous Improvement Work Plan (CIWP)

Ms. Plocher reminded the LSC we are at the end of the current 2-year CIWP. The teachers don't work on everything at the same time, it's a living/changing document. The next CIWP process is coming up again. At the end of the year, the LSC will start reviewing/approving a new CIWP.

The four areas of focus for the current CIWP are:

- #1 - reading/literacy alignment and progression (this will always be a focus since Burley is a literary magnet cluster)
- #2 - assessment alignment and progression
- #3 - revisiting and revising restorative practice
- #4 - increasing tech integration (Burley is also a technology magnet cluster)

Over the next four months at LSC, Ms. Plocher will do a deep dive on each strategy, examining how the teachers did and where they see themselves going.



**Financial Report:**

No new transfers this month, the LSC signed last month's three transfers for approval.

Ms. Plocher just received the Cubs winter party \$25,000 matching check from 2019. This is not a new donation, it was verbally given last year, but just added in to internal accounts.

**Closed session:**

The LSC held a closed session from 7:09pm to 7:27pm.

**Chair Report:**

The LSC voted on Ms. Plocher's summative professional practice score which is a 3.73/4.00 in the CPS rating scale. Bob Blitstein moved to approve the score. Amy Walsh seconded. All (except Ms. Plocher) voted in favor. Motion approved.

The LSC then voted on Ms. Plocher's contract renewal. Rob Moon moved to approve the contract renewal. Bob Blitstein seconded. All (except Ms. Plocher) voted in favor. Motion approved

The Chairman reminded the LSC that elections for LSC are happening this spring. The deadline to apply is March 5. On April 15 the LSC will hold a candidate forum and April 22 is the LSC election (report card pick up day).

As a reminder, the LSC consists of:

6 parents

2 teachers

2 non-parent community representatives

1 non-teacher representative

**Public Comment:**

A Burley parent wanted to follow up on her comments from the December meeting inquiring about grant writers to get more after school club opportunities. One member of the LSC is a grant writer in her professional life and shared her experience that it would be very rare for a grant to be bestowed on an individual school; they are usually awarded to school districts or large non-profits. Ms. Plocher mentioned that Burley frequently applies for grants and is often denied due to the demographics of the student



body. For a school to receive such grants, usually 60 - 90% of the student body have to be low income.

Another parent asked about the process of how indoor recess is decided. Ms. Plocher explained the building is managed by Sedexo and there's an approval process for overtime for the building engineers. She assured everyone that her first choice is always to have outdoor recess and snow removal will be expedited in the future.

**Closing of meeting:**

At 8:04 Laurie Barry motioned to adjourn the meeting. Rebecca Armatis-Furr seconded. All voted in favor. Meeting adjourned.

**Next Meeting:**

Next meeting is Wednesday, February 19 at 6pm.