



Burley Local School Council Meeting Minutes April 18, 2022

Call to Order:

Elliot Ransom (Chair) called the meeting to order at 6:11 pm.

Roll Call (Listed Alphabetically):

Present: Nick Anderson, Bob Blitstein, Teresa Merritt, Jessy Newman, Catherine Plocher, Elliot Ransom, Mary Renouard, Sidney Reed, Carolyn Skibba, Michael Valitchka

Absent: Rob Moon

Approval of Minutes:

The Council reviewed the March 2022 LSC minutes prior to the start of the meeting. Michael Valitchka motioned to approve the minutes and Mary Renouard seconded, pending a spelling correction. All were in favor.

Approval of Verizon Cell Tower Contract Renewal

Ms. Plocher shared an overview of the cell tower history and the contract terms. The contract is for 25 years. The district splits the income with the school, with $\frac{2}{3}$ going to the district and the remaining $\frac{1}{3}$ going to Burley (approximately \$20,000 per year, an increase from what has been approximately \$12,000 per year). The Council asked questions about the value and the drawbacks. Carolyn Skibba motioned to approve the cell tower contract and Sidney Reed seconded. All were in favor.

Approval of School Budget

Ms. Plocher provided an overview of the budget - the majority coming from student-based budgeting ("SBB" which is per pupil funding) based on enrollment. Burley does receive other funds however this is minimal - for example, approximately 95% of the district receives Title I funds because of their high percentage of lower income students and most other schools receive supplemental aid however Burley does not qualify for these funds.

Because CPS uses the prior year's enrollment to establish the budget, Burley anticipated a decrease of approximately \$170,000 given the decrease in school population from 569 to 519 (current), with enrollment continuing to decrease. Ms. Plocher shared an overview of the positions that are funded through SBB versus through the district and described the budget shortfall Burley is facing. To mitigate the budget shortfall, Ms. Plocher will have to close the



technology coordinator position and will also use \$80,000 - \$100,000 from saved funds. Ms. Plocher is making these decisions to avoid direct impacts on classroom staffing.

Bob Blitstein motioned to approve the 2022-2023 budget as proposed. Jessie Newman seconded. One Council member was absent and the Council has one vacant position. As such, nine Council members voted in favor of the budget as proposed.

Technology Report

Ms. Skibba did not share a technology report during the meeting.

Principal's Report

Updates. Ms. Plocher shared updates including the following:

- New CPS calendar for next year starting on August 22, 2022
- Roscoe Village Lakeview Chamber of Commerce awarded Burley a grant for a community event, to be held Saturday, June 4th from 2-5pm.
- Ms. Plocher received a garden grant for Burley's gardens and the sustainability club.
- Anderson Books is offering a 4th-8th grade book bash as part of our work with them on the book fair. The event will be Friday, June 3rd with Michael Leali.
- April 20 is report card pickup, parent-teacher conferences, and LSC elections.
- 8th grade camping trip is next week at Camp Duncan and 7th grade will go in May.
- 7th and 8th grade dance is Friday, May 6th.
- Walkathon is May 20th
- Springfield trip is Monday, June 6th
- Mr. Lewis' last day before paternity leave is Wednesday, April 27th. Ms. Haderlein will take over in his absence.
- Merit assembly with band and choir performances on June 2nd.
- Cullerton and Williams donated \$130,000 to Burley five years ago to fund air conditioning in the gym. (The current cost would be approximately \$400,000.) We have scaled back plans to find a solution that will cost an additional \$168,000 and CPS has agreed to cover the cost and this will happen over the summer.

Financial Report. Ms. Plocher provided an overview of Burley's financials and plans to end the year.

Public Comment

Members of the public made statements and asked questions about the following:

- District and school budgets



- Facilities, maintenance, and capital projects
- Timing of the LSC meetings
- Declining enrollment in Chicago Public Schools
- Critical race theory
- Attendance (excused versus unexcused)

Chair Report and Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 18, 2022, at 6:00pm.

Close of Meeting

Carolyn Skibba motioned to close the meeting at 8:15pm. Michael Valitchka seconded and all were in favor.