



## **Burley Local School Council Meeting Minutes February 16, 2022**

### **Call to Order:**

Elliot Ransom (Chair) called the meeting to order at 6:08 pm.

### **Roll Call (Listed Alphabetically):**

**Present:** Nick Anderson, Bob Blitstein, Rob Moon, Jessy Newman, Catherine Plocher, Elliot Ransom, Sidney Reed, Carolyn Skibba, Mike Valitchka

**Absent:** Teresa Merritt, Mary Renouard

### **Approval of Minutes:**

The Council reviewed the January 2022 LSC minutes prior to the start of the meeting. Rob Moon motioned to approve the minutes and Mike Valitchka seconded. All were in favor.

### **Technology Report**

Ms. Skibba shared technology updates including the following:

- The technology committee met twice since the last meeting to discuss Burley's needs (e.g., grade levels with the oldest iPads) and inform the school budget. Hoping to replace classroom sets of iPads, older projectors, and teacher laptops, along with associated supplies.
- CPS has two Apple professional learning specialists who are available for co-teaching and coaching. One was with Burley last week co-teaching which was very fun.

### **Principal's Report**

**Updates.** Ms. Plocher shared updates including the following:

- Mrs. Lewis is returning from maternity leave and Mr. Lewis will be going out on paternity leave for the last two months of school. We will be receiving support from Ms. Hafen as a substitute teacher; we no longer have a miscellaneous support staff person to assist. We are searching for a temporary position with a PE certification to fill in as well.
- Picture day, retakes, graduation pictures are complete.
- Recently completed the new STAR360 testing. The assessment is new and Burley, along with CPS, are still learning how to analyze the data and make meaning from it.
  - Mike Valitchka asked about the information they anticipate receiving from the assessment and what the "so what?" might be from those data.



- COVID-19 updates:
  - 88.1% fully vaccinated (only 61 students are not full vaccinated). 100% of staff are vaccinated. Boosters continue to roll in as well.
  - CPS has aligned with the rest of the state and CDC guidelines and now requires a 5-day quarantine as long as symptoms are receding.
- Chicago Women's Health Center provides 4th-8th grade reproductive health. A session for parents was held last night and classes begin next week.
- Teacher mentoring program is still up and running. The group did another visit of classrooms, meeting with newer staff or reconnecting because things have been remote.
- Friends of Burley winter party is coming up on Friday, March 18 at the Ravenswood Event Center
- The IAR (state test; required) spans 5 sessions total (2) reading and (3) math over 3 days is happening at the end of March.
- LSC elections are coming up!

**Financial Report.** Ms. Plocher provided an overview of Burley's financials. CPS withdrew the repayment for the loan Burley received (\$72,000). Ms. Plocher then went through the salary lines to ensure the staffing positions are stable (health care costs have cleared) and reallocated budget lines as necessary to ensure all accounts are settled.

This is the time of year when CPS pulls current budgets in preparation for the next year. CPS looks at the 20th day attendance to create the following year's budget, based on per pupil allocation. Burley's 20th day numbers (the estimates for next year based on this year) are approximately 60 students less, which is approximately a \$180,000 reduction in the school budget for next year. That is the equivalent of more than two teaching positions. Formal and final budgets are usually shared with the school in April, at which point Ms. Plocher will have to find ways to balance the budget going forward.

Bob Blitstein asked about current enrollment compared to prior years. We are currently at 514, compared to past years that have ranged from 550-570. Nick Anderson asked if the attrition was in specific grades. Mike Valitchka asked if there are ways to identify or solicit information from the neighborhood to inform numbers in addition to the 20th day attendance metric.

Ms. Plocher provided an overview of the 115 (student-based budgeting) and 124 (internal accounts) budget lines as well as the purchases Burley will need to make (e.g., Burley has selected Everyday Math for the school and negotiated that contract and purchase, technology needs described by Ms. Skibba in the technology report, updates on the school marquee, air conditioning project, etc.).



Mike Valitchka asked about the anticipated budget shortfall for the next year and the Friends of Burley donation request.

**CIWP.** CIWP Strategy #2 is related to ELL Alignment and Development. Ms. Plocher provided updates on the overall CIWP process, including that CPS is allowing schools to revisit their old CIWP goals for tweaks and updates (given the pandemic and other unexpected events that may have made CIWP work more challenging). Burley does not have enough ELL students to receive support from CPS or the state, so the school teachers and staff have had to find other ways to support the ELL students who do attend Burley. Burley will continue to work on refining this CIWP strategy in the coming years.

Rob Moon shared that he has been surprised and amazed by how diverse the student body at Burley is. Members of the Council discussed the ways in which Burley has been responsive, the issues with the state formula for support in schools, and where there are areas to grow.

### **Public Comment**

Members of the public made statements and asked questions including:

- Masks for students - what is the plan?
- STAR360 exam
- White backgrounds for the school photos (why don't the students have other choices?)

### **Chair Report and Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 16, 2022, at 6:00pm.

Nomination materials for the upcoming LSC elections are now available. Materials must be submitted in person no later than 3:00pm Friday, March 4. Candidate forum will happen during the March 16 LSC meeting. Election is during report card pickup day.

### **Close of Meeting**

Mike Valitchka motioned to close the meeting at 7:42m. Elliot Ransom seconded and all were in favor.