



Burley Local School Council Meeting Minutes January 19, 2022

Call to Order:

Elliot Ransom (Chair) called the meeting to order at 6:07 pm.

Roll Call (Listed Alphabetically):

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

Absent: Teresa Merritt

Approval of Minutes:

The Council reviewed the December 2021 LSC minutes prior to the start of the meeting. Mike Valitchka motioned to approve the minutes and Rob Moon seconded. All were in favor.

Technology Report

Ms. Skibba shared technology updates including the following:

- This is the time of year when budgets begin to tighten. Looking early at technology needs. The goal is to maintain the 1:1 ratio and make replacements so a grade level can maintain consistency in the model across the grade level. Connecting with classroom teachers to assess the current state of technology through a needs assessment and budget review.
- Apple Distinguished School renewal application is coming up. Enables the team to refocus on vision and goals for technology in Burley, especially at a time where technology has become so central to what happens at Burley, and to share that vision with the Burley community more broadly.
- Some tried and true tools are fading out or no longer approved by CPS (e.g., Kid Blog) due to IL SOPA (student online privacy act to make sure companies are not selling childrens' data.) CPS is proceeding with extreme caution so many tools are being reviewed and approved/denied as they move forward and this influences what Burley can use. Rethinking new apps, existing apps in other grades, and other outlets going forward (e.g., Seesaw).
 - Mike Valitchka asked about the technology needs assessment and how much future-thinking goes into the decision-making process. Nick Anderson asked about the disposal process for old technology.



Principal's Report

Updates. Ms. Plocher shared updates including the following:

- Five in-house science fair winners are moving on to the city competition. Due to the COVID-19 omicron variant, the event will be virtual.
- Basketball teams are up and running and all four teams are practicing regularly. Season begins the week of January 24th through the We Got Game league.
- Spring clubs began this week (January 18) - all received high demand.
- Teachers are spreading the word about in-school testing and the number has increased, from 23% up to 41%. 81.1% of students are fully vaccinated and 100% of staff are fully vaccinated. Many older students are also getting their booster as well.
 - Mike Valitchka asked how much Ms. Plocher attributes the significant increase in in-school testing to the phone banking work by teachers and staff.
- Staff KN95 masks have come and were distributed. Waiting on student masks (most schools are) - expecting them by the end of January/early February.
- STAR360 testing will begin next week. This is information-seeking, there are no stakes in the testing at this point.
- End of second quarter is next week (1/27) and there is no school on 1/28 because it is a professional development day.
- Report card distribution is Friday, February 4.
- Burley received communication from CPS about the quarantine period updates. CPS will be aligning with the CDC guidelines and moving from a 10-day quarantine to a 5-day quarantine period. CPS will provide more of an update in the weeks ahead. The quarantine period remains at 10-days until further notice from CPS.
 - Mike Valitchka asked if Burley has had issues with having enough teachers and subs due to quarantine protocols.

CIWP. CIWP Strategy #3 is related to Literacy Culture & Alignment. Ms. Plocher provided updates on professional texts that teachers are reading, donations for classroom libraries (through Donors Choose and Friends of Burley), school wide "what are you reading?" boards, book tastings and other events throughout the building. Work around engaging and informing families, digital and non-digital activities to promote a culture of reading, and discussing/evaluating the use of reading log practices. Members of the council engaged in a group discussion about Burley's approach to literacy and asked questions related to reading logs and goals, ways students are sharing what they read with each other, matching books with readers, and developing an intrinsic love of reading which is core to Burley's vision and philosophy. Many members of the council shared kudos for the intentionality of the teachers and staff and practices at Burley.



Financial Report. Ms. Plocher provided an overview of the 115 (student-based budgeting) and 124 (internal accounts) budget lines. There will be a large math curriculum, technology, and literature purchase in the future which the team is preparing for along with other necessary supplies.

Public Comment

Members of the public made statements and asked questions including:

- Appreciation for the communication during the school closures last week.
- Contact tracing at the school-level
- STAR360 testing
- Reading and sharing books among students with similar interests, audiobooks for bilingual students who are learning English
- Incidents with the restrooms and writing on the wall
- Plans for 8th graders this year
- Temperature restrictions for standing outside in the morning before school and going outside during recess (CPS limit is 15 degrees)

Chair Report and Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 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 likely happen during the March LSC meeting. Election is during report card pickup day.

Close of Meeting

Mike Valitchka motioned to close the meeting at 7:30pm. Sidney Reed seconded and all were in favor.