



Burley Local School Council Meeting Minutes September 22, 2021

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order at 6:02 pm.

Roll Call (Listed Alphabetically):

Present: Bob Blitstein, Teresa Merritt, Rob Moon, Jessy Newman, Catherine Plocher, Elliot Ransom, Mary Renouard, Carolyn Skibba, Erin Stanfill

Approval of Minutes:

The Council reviewed the June 2021 LSC minutes prior to the start of the meeting. Rob Moon motioned to approve the minutes and Mary Renouard seconded. All were in favor.

Parent Representative Candidate Statements

The Council has two open parent representative positions. The Council heard from interested candidates in random order. The following parent representative candidates delivered a statement:

- Matt Dean
- Mike Valitchka
- Beth Weinmann
- Nick Anderson
- Courtney Goodman
- Nancy Griffin
- Jessica Macaluso
- Soni Bedi
- Jana Grabarek

Upon conclusion of the statements, Elliot Ransom moved to transition to closed session. Mary Renouard seconded and the Council transitioned to closed session at 6:43pm.

Return to Open Session

Elliot Ransom motioned to return to open session at 7:29pm. Jessy Newman seconded.



Nominations of Parent Representatives

Jessy Newman nominated Mike Valitchka to the first open parent representative position. Teresa Merrit seconded the nomination and all Council members were in favor.

Jessy Newman nominated Nick Anderson to the second open parent representative position. Rob Moon seconded and all council members were in favor.

Mike Valitchka and Nick Anderson joined the Council immediately and for the remainder of the meeting.

Technology Report

Ms. Skibba shared the technology report, which included the following:

- Burley went through a tech experience last year that we wouldn't consider optimal but we are now looking about recentering use of tech around curriculum and core beliefs. Had a staff kickoff meeting before school started to discuss this and refresh staff on strong practices.
- The magnet cluster program, of which we are a part, is taking a turn in the comp sci and computational thinking direction. Ms. Skibba is attending their professional development to learn more and see how it fits into what we do.
- Ms. Plocher and Ms. Skibba are attending a virtual global meeting with leaders from other Apple Distinguished Schools to discuss leadership and innovation during times of change. In addition, 6 Burley teachers are joining a CPS Apple teacher portfolio cohort where they will be integrating new tools and reflecting on the impact on kids. Ms. Skibba will be trying what they learn with colleagues.

Principal's Report

Updates. Ms. Plocher began by sharing updates about the school:

- A lot of events recently and coming up including movie night, early bird, curriculum night, ice cream social, and volleyball.
- Club packets went home today; all teachers and vendors are required to be vaccinated, kids will be masked, and clubs will have smaller rosters/
- High school application process is undergoing an overhaul, big changes in the district (e.g., no more MAP testing)
- FOB fall social is coming up and so is the Fall fun fair
- Health and safety updates included street shutdowns, COVID safety measures, lunch processes, bathroom processes, and hand washing



- Jessy Newman asked a question about time to eat lunch and Ms. Plocher provided information about transitions and hand washing before lunch.
- COVID testing has not happened yet but is coming soon. The protocol is a swab pool test, self-administered by students. The testing company will email parents within 24-48 hours. Burley staff will share more information when available.
 - Mike Valitchka asked about communication happening locally from the school versus through CPS and Ms. Plocher clarified that it all comes from the company. Mike suggested that more communication from the school about what will happen could be helpful. He also asked if she knows the percent of Burley students who volunteered for testing but Ms. Plocher doesn't have access to that information.
- Overview of quarantine protocol: if there is an identified case of COVID, the class moves to quarantine until contact tracing can complete their investigation; this includes a 10 day quarantine window because that is the infectious window but close contacts are under quarantine for 14 days because it takes 14 days to ensure the infection isn't communicable. If a whole class has to quarantine, the class moves to a similar schedule to remote last year. If a student has to quarantine because they were exposed but did not expose the class, then that student is mostly asynchronous but has 25% synchronous (remote in for the lesson, work independently). The travel quarantine is 7 days with test 3-5 after return or 10 days; no remote learning option.
- Recess: all kids wear masks at all times during recess.
- Staffing updates
 - Ms. Stanfill is moving to the Netherlands, Friday is her last day
 - Working on maternity leave for Ms. Lewis
 - SECA - 3 out of 5 staff, 2 on boarding
 - Working with CPS on class size teaching assistant (3rd grade, advocating for K as well)

Ms. Plocher then opened the discussion to questions from the Council.

Financial Report. Ms. Plocher provided an overview of the budget lines and explained how the Friends of Burley contribution supports the school and fills in gaps that are not otherwise covered by CPS or federal funds.

- Mike Valitchka asked Ms. Plocher if she feels like the budget is healthy. Ms. Plocher shared her perspective, highlighted where things are tight and how she makes things work.
- There were questions about the number of students at Burley (517) and Ms. Plocher explained the 10th day attendance and adjustment process. Many students have left Burley and we are expecting a significant budget cut this spring.



- Jessy Newman asked about the reengagement funds that flow from the federal American Rescue Plan and Ms. Plocher provided more information.

Public Comment

Members of the public asked questions about the following topics:

- Air conditioning in the gym
- Field trips
- School lunches
- Band program
- School fees.
- Number of positive COVID cases (2 cases and 2 classes)
- Teaching assistant positions for classes with more than 32 students (“excessive class size”)
- MAP testing
- Opening the school lottery this year

Chair Report and Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 20, 2021, at 6:00pm.

Close of Meeting

Elliot Ransom motioned to close the meeting at 9:28pm. Teresa Merrit seconded and all were in favor.