

**Burley Local School Council Meeting Minutes  
November 10, 2021**

**Call to Order:**

The meeting was called to order at 6:05 PM

**Roll Call (Listed Alphabetically):**

Present: Nick Anderson, Bob Blitstein, Teresa Merritt, Rob Moon, Catherine Plocher, Elliot Ransom, Sidney Reed, Mary Renouard, Mike Valitchka

**Approval of Minutes:**

The Council reviewed the October 2021 LSC meeting minutes prior to the start of the meeting. Mr. Valitchka moved to approve the minutes and Ms. Merritt seconded. All were in favor.

**Introduction of New LSC Teacher Representative:**

Ms. Reed was introduced as a new LSC Teacher Representative. Ms. Reed fills the vacancy left by Ms. Stanfill. Ms. Reed has worked in the Chicago Public School System for four years and was recently hired at Burley as a 7<sup>th</sup> grade teacher focused on diverse learning.

**Approval of Fundraising Proposals:**

Ms. Plocher reviewed the 2021/2022 school year fundraising proposals that were submitted by Friends of Burley:

- 2021 Fall Social @ Rizzos (already occurred)
- Lakeview Taco Fest (already occurred)
- 2021 Annual Fund Campaign (in process)
- May 2022 Walkathon
- Burley Backer Campaign
- 2022 Winter Party
- 2021/2022 Brick Legacy Campaign
- Muskie Fest

Ms. Plocher noted the Fall Fun Fair is handled separately because it is run by the school, whereas fundraising proposals are organized and coordinated by volunteers and non-Burley personnel. Ms. Plocher also discussed the book fair. Given COVID protocols it has been difficult to find the space to set up and run the book fair this year, so Burley and the book club organizers are trying to determine whether it can be done. The Council discussed and Mr. Valitchka suggested reaching out to landlords on Ashland or Lincoln Avenue for a pop-up book fair. It was agreed that this could be a solution.

Mr. Valitchka moved to approve the Friends of Burley fundraising proposals and Mr. Moon seconded. All were in favor.

**Principal Report:**

Ms. Plocher delivered the Principal Report which included the following:

General Updates

- The Fall Fun Fair occurred and was very well attended with positive feedback from the Burley community.
- 8<sup>th</sup> graders took the high school admissions test on November 9<sup>th</sup>. Burley is wrapping up 1:1 high school application meetings and will be conducting high school parent working sessions on November 17<sup>th</sup> and December 8<sup>th</sup>.
- The first quarter of the school year ended and report card conferences are being held on November 17<sup>th</sup>.

- Picture day for K – 7<sup>th</sup> grade is taking place November 19<sup>th</sup>. 8<sup>th</sup> grade graduation photos will be taken in January / February 2022.
- Spring club packets will be sent with students the week of December 6<sup>th</sup>.
- The volleyball season is wrapping up.
- The basketball season is beginning in January. The boys' team has conducted its information session, tryouts and first practice. The girls' team is holding their information session soon.

#### Staffing Update

- The new 2<sup>nd</sup> grade teacher, Ms. Gadbois, is in place.
- All Teaching Assistants are on board for K and 3<sup>rd</sup> grade classes.
- All paraprofessionals are on board.
- Ms. Plocher is finalizing Ms. Lewis's replacement during her leave

#### Vaccination Awareness Day

Ms. Plocher has been making arrangements for the upcoming Vaccination Awareness Day on November 12<sup>th</sup>, which was announced by CPS to encourage students aged 5 – 11 to get their COVID vaccination. Many parents were concerned about their ability to secure childcare on short notice. Ms. Plocher reached out to We Got Game to hire counselors for students without childcare to spend the day at Burley. We Got Game has committed counselors and Ms. Plocher reached out to families to offer this support; a fewer number than expected had signed up as of the date of the LSC meeting. The cost of the counselors will be funded from the school budget.

#### CIWP

Ms. Plocher discussed the fourth strategy of Burley's CIWP, Student Voice, Choice and Engagement. Burley staff have been reading and discussing "Start Here, Start Now" which addresses antibias and antiracism. Examples of curricular and extracurricular incorporation include student identity maps, older student "buddies" working with younger students and the creation of a Student Voice Group. Ms. Reed mentioned class exercises focused on students understanding context and putting themselves in the position of characters in the stories they are reading. Ms. Plocher and Ms. Reed also discussed a student survey designed to collect feedback on academic, social and emotional support in the Burley community.

#### Financial Report

Ms. Plocher discussed several budgeting topics:

- Burley has been funding the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade Teaching Assistants out of the budget in order to make timely, high quality hires. This funding will move over to the district now that CPS has formally approved the positions.
- Details are still being worked out with We Got Game to pay for the counselors during Vaccination Awareness Day.
- There will be a transfer for the basketball coaches and league fees. Families typically cover 33% - 50% of the cost.

#### **Public Comment:**

Mr. Ransom opened the floor to members of the public:

- A member of the public asked about when students would learn the results of the 8<sup>th</sup> grade high school admissions test in order to inform their applications. Ms. Plocher responded the results are to be shared after Thanksgiving, but more likely the first week of December. There is a make-up test on December 8<sup>th</sup>, however, the scores for the make-up would not be available in time for applications.

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

Mr. Ransom noted the December LSC meeting would be held on Wednesday, December 15<sup>th</sup>.

#### **Close of Meeting:**

Mr. Valitchka moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:27 PM and Ms. Merritt seconded. All were in favor.