

Burley School LSC Minutes

June 10, 2020

Motion to approve minutes from the previous meeting: Bob Blitstein; seconded by Rob Moon. Approved unanimously.

Technology report

- The faculty Technology Committee is beginning some focus groups and surveys of staff about lessons learned during Remote Learning: digital tools, organizational structures, equipment and subscriptions, pedagogy and lesson design.
- Ms. Skibba is wrapping up final morning announcements and 8th grade individual videos.
- Faculty and student teams are editing media pieces for graduation and planning for the live stream ceremony under the leadership of Ms. Fournier.

Principal's Report

School updates

Graduation - We have been brainstorming and rallying to celebrate and acknowledge our 8th graders.

Here are some of the plans:

- Pollock photography banners are on the fence in front of school, and community members have been chalking their congratulations on the sidewalk; Pollock did this at cost and was a great partner in making this special for the kids.
- Friday - there will be an alternative to the kickball game: Kahoot Olympics. First the 2 8th grade homerooms will compete, and then the winner will play the staff. It's also a test run for families to learn how to access YouTube live (which we will use at Graduation).
- Graduation ceremony, Monday 6/15 at 10:00 - students will be on Zoom, but families will watch via YouTube. Zoom is the "stage" and YouTube Live is the "audience". Credit to Ms. Fournier and her event producer connections for setting up this incredible live event.

Last day of school - Thursday, June 18.

Yearbooks - pick up will be by last name with social distancing.

Staff summer reading - our staff has decided to read widely off of recommended anti-racism book lists.

We are creating virtual book clubs, and staff members are nominating books for staff members to choose from. Every staff member will choose what to read and engage in virtual discussion.

Budget

The 7th Special Education position that was not included in the original CPS staffing allocation has been restored. All previous budget allocations remain the same.

We are only budgeting for 20 teachers as we did previously. Last year, Burley had to take out a loan from CPS to cover a new position to account for homeroom expansion and allow Ms. Plocher to hire someone. Then once a sufficient number of students register, the funding for that position comes through from CPS. This is the process we may have to go through to fund and hire a third 2nd grade position (and maintain 3 teachers in Kindergarten) if kindergarten registration numbers necessitate 3 teachers in kindergarten.

Motion: Bob Blitstein moved to approve the budget allocations; Mary Renouard seconded. Approved unanimously.

CIWP

The Continuous Improvement Work Plan (CIWP) is a legally mandated document to define the focus of the school over the coming 2 years. It's a working document, so we can make revisions and updates in response to different circumstances.

12 staff members across grade levels met to engage in evaluation and reflection and define action steps. The 4 main areas of focus for the new CIWP are:

1. Math Alignment and Curriculum - the Math Trailblazers curriculum has not maintained alignment with the shift to Common Core. We seek a new curriculum that is aligned to Common Core but also in alignment with Burley's values for math instruction and plan for its selection, implementation, communication, and support.
2. ELL Alignment and Development - We don't receive any personnel to support English Language Learners, so we aim to build in-house capacity to support students and expand our professional knowledge in this area.
3. Literacy Culture and Alignment - This focuses on developing and strengthening the reading lives and habits of our students and promoting awareness among all families and staff.
4. Student Voice, Choice, and Engagement - Burley aims to go beyond student council to empower students with greater choice and involvement.

Ms. Plocher discussed each of the 4 areas and the action steps outlined.

The council discussed connection and continuity with previous CIWPs, as well as adding in for Strategy 2 to reach out to other CPS schools and to engage in professional reading in this area.

Motion: Bob Blitstein moved to approve the CIWP as amended; Carolyn Skibba seconded. Passed by unanimous vote.

Chair Report

Principal Evaluation update - the parent survey is complete, Ms. Plocher is engaging in self evaluation. Staff survey will go out Friday, so all data will be gathered by Monday and the committee can engage in the rating and approval process.

LSC Elections will now be in November. Current members will continue to serve unless they resign or become ineligible.

Public comment

Ms. Nash shared her gratitude and appreciation for the staff in its thoughtful implementation of Remote Learning.

Rebecca Armatis-Furr shared that her kids' teachers had addressed the current protests and the topic of racism very thoughtfully with the kids.

A parent shared her appreciation for teacher thoughtfulness in remote learning and also asked:

1. If the budget approval also covered the staffing needs for potential expansion to 3 Kindergarten, 3 1st grades, and 3 2nd grades. Ms. Plocher's answer: no, the budget does not yet cover a third kindergarten for this coming year, because the enrollment numbers are not yet there, and students are not considered part of the school until they are enrolled. Once Ms. Plocher can show the district that our numbers require another staff position, we can advocate for that additional position. The district will likely provide a loan to allow the position to be opened in advance of the enrollment numbers meeting the threshold.
2. She asked about social distancing needs and cleaning as well, and whether the budget will cover those guidelines. Ms. Plocher responded that the state of Illinois, city, and CPS need to come to a decision about how to proceed, but Burley has very little money left in its budget, and much of this will be a central office decision.
3. She asked as well about the Field House as a classroom and the challenges of that for students whose homerooms are located there. Ms. Plocher responded that we don't have a lot of options for locations for classrooms and what will go where, and that will be an in house decision.
4. Also, she asked about staffing for the needs outlined in the new CPS/CTU contract, such as nurses and case managers. Ms. Plocher replied that it's a 5 year plan, and schools in higher need areas will likely receive the positions first. Ms. Nash and Ms Barbour have shared the case management responsibilities in the interim.

Laurie Barry moved to adjourn at 7:42, Carolyn Skibba seconded. Approved unanimously, adjourned.