

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order at 6:16 PM

Roll Call (Listed Alphabetically):

Present: Nick Anderson, Teresa Merritt, Rob Moon (arrived after roll call), Catherine Plocher, Elliot Ransom, Mary Renouard, Carolyn Skibba, Michael Valitchka

Approval of Minutes:

The Council reviewed the July 2021 LSC Organizational Meeting minutes prior to the start of the meeting. Teresa Merritt moved to approve the minutes and Mary Renouard seconded. All were in favor.

The Council also reviewed the September 2021 LSC meeting minutes prior to the start of the meeting. Michael Valitchka moved to approve the minutes and Teresa Merritt seconded. All were in favor.

Technology Report:

Ms. Skibba provided an update on Burley's participation in the Apple Teacher portfolio. Six teachers from Burley are participating. The group meets on a monthly basis and so far the program is going very well. Burley will be applying for the fourth renewal of its Apple Teacher certification.

Principal Report:

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

General Updates

- Burley's club programming is up and running
- Volleyball and Merit Music programs are confirmed
- COVID testing continues for students that have opted into the program. Testing is done on Fridays and results are generally available within the following 48 hours
- Burley's staff are participating in Professional Development Reading; currently the theme is antiracist teaching, later in the year it will change to mathematics
- Staffing updates:
 - The Special Education teacher background checks cleared and all of them will be working by the end of the week
 - The new 2nd grade teacher's background check is still in process, but the teacher has been coming into the classroom in an observational role
 - Burley's request for two Kindergarten Teaching Assistants (TAs) was approved by CPS; one TA is onboarding and the other is starting shortly
 - Burley was also approved to hire two 3rd Grade TAs; one is starting shortly and an offer for the second position is expected to be made soon
 - The position to stand in for Ms. Lewis during her maternity leave has been hired
- Ms. Plocher and Ms. Nash are holding virtual meetings with 7th Grade and 8th Grade families to discuss the transition to high school and the new testing protocol. The MAP assessment is to be replaced by the High School Admissions Exam
- The Fall Fun Fair will take place this year, including the haunted house

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

- Michael Valitchka asked about the status of the Math Exploratory Committee and the decision on a new curriculum. Ms. Plocher noted the options have been narrowed and a decision would be made over the coming months.
- Nick Anderson asked whether CPS was funding the full cost of the new TAs. Ms. Plocher confirmed that CPS will fund from the date of approval through the end of the school year. Elliot Ransom asked whether the TA

positions were secured even if class sizes drop below the TA funding threshold; Ms. Plocher confirmed that they are secured through the end of the school year even if the classes get smaller.

- Ms. Skibba asked the Council what members are hearing with regards to student participation in the COVID in-school testing program. Several members of the Council shared their perspectives.

CIWP

State law requires every school to have a Continuous Improvement Work Plan in place. Burley is on a two-year planning cycle and the current plan is in the second year. Since the start of the pandemic, the focus has been on learning to teach remotely due to COVID, but with the resumption of in-person instruction, the school is able to get back to the plan as crafted. Following are the four strategies chosen for Burley's CIWP:

- Math alignment & curriculum
- English Language Learners alignment & development
- Literacy culture & alignment
- Student voice, choice & engagement

Burley will need to develop a new CIWP to be approved by the end of the current school year.

Financial Report

Ms. Plocher reviewed the budgeting process and how funds are allocated from the district and Burley's fundraising efforts.

Public Comment:

Elliot Ransom opened the floor to members of the public:

- An employee of the local State Representative's office asked about Burley's COVID testing procedures and statistics. Ms. Nash noted that 14% of the student population had opted into the school testing program.
- A member of the public asked about public access to LSC activities and actions taken. Elliot Ransom noted that meeting minutes were accessible online once approved.
- A member of the public asked about Burley's complaint procedures and accountability. Ms. Plocher responded that this depends on the nature of the complaint and offered several examples of how complaints are typically addressed.

Chair Report and Next Meeting:

Elliot Ransom noted the November meeting would be held on Wednesday, November 10th due to the Thanksgiving holiday later in the month.

Close of Meeting:

Michael Valitchka moved to close the meeting at 7:36 PM. Teresa Merritt seconded. All were in favor.