



## **Burley Local School Council Meeting Minutes February 19, 2020**

### **Call to Order:**

The meeting was called to order at 6:04 pm.

### **Roll Call:**

**Present:** Catherine Plocher, Mary Renouard, Amy Walsh, Carolyn Skibba, Rebecca Armatis-Furr, Bob Blitstein, Teresa Merritt, Blanca Fernandez, Rob Moon

**Absent:** Stephen Soltanzadeh, Liz Wiedegreen, Laurie Barry

### **Approval of Minutes:**

The Council reviewed the January 2020 LSC minutes. Rob Moon motioned to approve the minutes. Teresa Merritt seconded. All voted in favor.

### **Technology Report:**

Ms. Skibba shared that the Technology Committee had their first Parent Book Club meeting. The book is *Raising Humans in a Digital World* by Diana Graber. The book takes a balanced look and potential benefits of technology in our children's lives. There will be online Q/A every two weeks to discuss specified chapters. The first session will be in February, the closing session will be in May.

The Technology Committee will be launching a family creativity challenge around March 1. This will be an opportunity for kids and parents to engage together in various creative activities while actively using tech at home and school.

### **Principal's Report:**

Ms. Plocher received an email from the District that they are updating and adjusting the budgets from contract salary adjustments (new teachers contract) and will make adjustments back to July 1 including extended day salary adjustments. By the next LSC meeting in March, Ms. Plocher thinks the budget will be adjusted for the rest of the year.

On January 29, Mr. Plocher and many others from the Burley community attended budget workshops at Amundsen High School. The district provided general budget information, explained their priorities and general feedback, and gathered feedback in groups with a CPS facilitator at each table. The District is said they would consolidate the information and prepare an overview from all the meetings they've hosted in the next couple months.



The Poetry Assembly was a success on January 24 - Burley loves celebrating literacy in all forms, especially poetry.

8th grade pictures recently took place.

February 5 was World Read Aloud Day. Ms. Nash and Ms. Plocher were excited to clear their schedule and read aloud with every classroom. Ms. Plocher paired her reading with Black History month.

There are a lot of audits and inspections occurring right now. Currently there's a blitz facility inspection happening - they check out the outside of the building, the tuck pointing, they check all over the interior, teacher rooms, it's a complete facility inspection.

Burley is also in the middle of a different two-day audit. Blanca, Ms. Nash and Ms. Plocher have been responsive to the questions regarding safety and security, culture and climate, internal accounts, the security sign-in books, all record keeping, contracts, fire drills, etc. Basically anything Burley has a record of, the auditors want to see we're following protocols accurately. These audits are occurring in every CPS school.

There will be another audit which is more a surprise safety and security audit between now and June. This will be a 2 - 4 hour safety check of our security systems, this is a more thorough look. On a separate unannounced visit, auditors will attempt to enter the school and wander around to assess visitor monitoring and accessibility.

The winter band concert and the Night of Arts and Science is February 20. The Winter Choir concert is February 27. This is for the 4th grade choir and older.

The city Spelling Bee is March 12. Burley will have a student representative - George Lefebvre from the 8th grade represent Burley at the city-wide competition.

On February 21, twelve Burley teachers are going to Milwaukee for a reading and writing workshop full day conference. Almost all 3rd - 8th grade reading teachers will be taking advantage of this professional development opportunity. On March 13, nine teachers will be attending a Responsive Classroom workshop on teacher language.

Big congratulations and thanks to Ms. Manata who applied, wrote and helped Burley receive a \$10,000 Ingenuity K-2 dance grant for a 10 week residency. Beginning March 9th, all K-2 classrooms and students will partner with Dancing with Class to learn about different cultures, countries and cultural dances from around the world. The residency



culminates with performances at the Multicultural Assembly where each class will perform their dance.

The Friends of Burley Winter Party fundraising event is February 28 at the Ravenswood Event Center.

### Continuous Improvement Work Plan (CIWP)

Ms. Plocher reminded the LSC we are at the end of the current 2-year CIWP. The teachers don't deep dive into every strategy at the same time, it's a living/changing document. The next CIWP process is coming up again and in May, the LSC will start reviewing/approving a new CIWP for the next two years.

The four areas of focus for the current CIWP are:

#1 - reading/literacy alignment and progression

#2 - assessment alignment and progression

#3 - revisiting and revising restorative practice

#4 - increasing tech integration

Ms. Plocher focused on the first strategy - reading alignment and progression. Ms. Plocher acknowledged the staff always hopes to do so much more in two years than is possible, however they did achieve most of their goals:

1. The staff completed their reading teacher survey about problems of practice around foundational pieces related to Reader's Workshop
2. The staff completed their data compilation from the survey to identify common problems of practice
3. It's an ongoing process for the staff to use the qualitative and quantitative data to select an area of focus within the current reading instructional practices for research and enhancement
4. The staff selected, read and implemented applicable ideas from 2 different selected text for Teachers as Readers (A Guide to Reading Workshop and Passionate Readers)
5. The staff is currently focused on developing a year-long professional development plan related to establishing learning progressing in reading
6. The staff completed the Teachers as Readers book and professional learning concept at Back-to-School professional development (A Guide to Reading Workshop for fall and Passionate Readers for spring)
7. The staff completed 4 grade level meetings related to vertical alignment of expectations and Reading Workshop practices (and have exceeded this goal)
8. The staff completed and continues to reflect upon and revise the reading workshop components articulated in the Burley Curriculum Binder



9. The staff completed and continues to form internal study groups and observation cycles of teachers to improve specific reading workshop practices by visiting classrooms, discussing and collaborating around practice.

Ms. Plocher acknowledged the staff has been putting #9 in the CIWP for years, but it's hard to execute. However, teachers are really working on going to other classrooms to watch their colleagues teach and reflect on teaching observed teaching practices that can be applied (both their current grade level as well as other grades). Of course, the teachers are also working on other content areas, but this was the main focus and a lot of this happened this year.

Next month Ms. Plocher will be sharing the restorative practices strategies.

#### **Financial Report:**

Ms. Plocher proposed 6 new transfers for LSC approval:

1. Requesting \$5,568 to pay for after school choir, requesting to transfer \$966
2. Requesting \$5,000 to purchase furniture for ELL supplies, storage cabinets for teacher closets and materials and other furniture needs.
3. Requesting to transfer \$1,000 for Mr Lewis' additional hours to close that line (no longer needed)
4. Requesting to transfer \$4,619.04 to pay teachers for extended day
5. Requesting to transfer \$1,013.87 into the tech supply line to purchase printer ink and toner cartridges.
6. Requesting to transfer \$4,000 from computer education line in to internal accounts to purchase iPad keyboards 3rd graders have to use to take their IAR exams.

Ms. Skibba shared frustration that money from her tech budget has to be used for equipment for the new 3rd grade online testing mandate. Ms. Plocher and Ms. Skibba have discussed it internally that this makes the most sense and it's a small price to pay instead of spending weeks and weeks on testing. Regardless, it would be ideal if that money could be used for other needs.

Bob Blitstein voted to approve all transfers. Rob Moon seconded. All voted in favor.

#### **Chair Report:**

Mary Renouard reminded the LSC that elections for LSC are happening this spring. The deadline to apply is March 5. On April 15 the LSC will hold a candidate forum and April 22 is the LSC election (report card pick up day).



As a reminder, the LSC consists of:

- 6 parents
- 2 teachers
- 2 non-parent community representatives
- 1 non-teacher representative
- principal

The principal evaluation will be addressed at March's meeting.

### **Public Comment**

A parent asked if Burley will be hiring a counselor and case manager anytime soon. Ms. Plocher said it is supposed to be in the district's 5 year plan for Burley with the new teacher contract agreement. Ms. PLocher is always looking for a counselor, but the case manager position will be a half time position once it is allocated from the district. Ms. Nash and Ms. Barber are currently working as case managers and Ms. Plocher wanted to recognize them for doing this job on top of their full time jobs. Case managers allocation determination is based on IEP minutes in each building, Burley is not considered a high needs school in the district or in a high stress community.

A Burley parent also asked about portion sizes for lunches.

### **Closing of meeting:**

At 7:30 Bob Blitstein motioned to adjourn the meeting. Blanca Fernandez seconded. All voted in favor. Meeting adjourned.

### **Next Meeting:**

Next meeting is Wednesday, March 18 at 6pm.