

**Audubon Elementary School
Local School Council Meeting Minutes
Monday, October 19, 6:30 p.m., Community Room**

Call to Order 6:31 p.m.

Roll Call

Present: John Price, Linda McBride, Mark Ferrante, Ellen Ericson, Barbara Kantrow, Jody Ebstein, Diane Berin, Brian Ortiz, Brendan Gilboy, Robin Kain.

Absent: Patty Jones

Approval of Agenda

Linda motioned to approve the Agenda after the deletion of “New Teacher Welcome.” Barbara seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Approval of September Minutes

Linda moved to approve the Minutes from September’s meeting, Jody seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Review of LSC Meeting Procedures

Ellen prepared and displayed a sign outlining the procedures for public participation at LSC meetings. If persons attending the meeting would like to comment on agenda items they must sign their name on a sign-up form. Each person may have 2 minutes to comment on an agenda item after the LSC has discussed same. If persons attending the meeting would like to comment on non-agenda items they must sign a sheet entitled “Public Participation.” During the Public Participation portion of the meeting said persons can have 3 minutes to discuss a non-agenda topic.

Public Participation

There was no public participation.

Budget and Internal Account Transfers and Donations

There were not any budget, internal account transfers or donations.

Discussing/Sharing Grades with your Children

Principal Price made a presentation about the grading policy at Audubon and how to discuss grades with your children. Grades are a summary of each student’s work. If is student is working at grade level with 85% accuracy then they earn a “C.” For students to earn higher grades they must be working at a higher level or at a greater accuracy level.

If a student earns a “D” in reading or math in 3rd, 6th or 8th grades then the student must complete summer school in order to be promoted to the next grade.

Grades in 7th grade and test scores matter for Selective Enrollment High Schools.

It is important to focus on your child's efforts and encourage them to do the best that they can. If your child received a low grade it is best to find out what areas your child needs help in and assist them in those areas.

LSC Vote on Daddy-Daughter Dance and Adult Tuesday Night Basketball Program

Alex Pramenko proposed to hold another Daddy-Daughter Dance in February 2010. Last year this event raised \$1700 for the school.

Brendan moved to permit the Daddy-Daughter Dance to occur, Jody seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Tuesday night basketball is currently postponed due to insurance issues. This program raised enough money in the past to purchase new backboards and padding for the gym. A discussion was held as to whether non-instructional groups at Audubon could pool their insurance efforts to get better rates. Kathy Argentar volunteered to look into this matter.

Mark moved allow the Tuesday night basketball program to restart once insurance issues are resolved. Linda seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Year Long School Proposal

Principal Price led a discussion about the "Year Long School Proposal." Chicago Public Schools CEO, Ron Huberman, is asking all CPS schools to consider going to "Track E" which is Year Long School. CPS is asking schools to consider this proposal because it would help eliminate the "summer setback" which is when students forget what they have learned over the summer.

This proposal would cause the school year to end at the same time in June, however, the students would have 6 weeks of summer break, return in early August, have a two week break in October, a 3 week break in December and a 2 week break in the spring. The amount of time in the classroom would stay the same. The difference is the scheduling of school breaks. If Audubon wants to change to this type of school year for the 2010-2011 school year, Audubon needs to apply by November 6. Audubon would have until January 2010 to change its mind.

A discussion regarding the positives and negatives of having this program at Audubon commenced. A major issue would be whether CPS would pay for air-conditioning at the school. If CPS does not provide air-conditioning it would be impossible to have classes here during the summer. The reaction of the parents in attendance at the meeting to switching to a year long school program was mixed. Some parents believed it would be beneficial to their children to have a shorter summer break, while others felt it would be hard to coordinate child care, summer programs, other children's schedules and vacation times.

A request was made to have the school look at specific Audubon data to assess the extent of the summer learning setback on Audubon students. Principal Price agreed to do this work.

Principal Price has the final decision over whether to change to year long school.

Extended Day Discussion

Principal Price began a discussion about having an extended day program at Audubon. An extended day would add an additional 35 minutes to the current school day. A committee met over the

summer to discuss ways in which it would be feasible to do this at Audubon. Vice Principal Fay developed a proposal for creating an extended day program at Audubon. He will present it to parents at the LSC meeting tonight and then present it to the teachers on Friday, October 23 at Staff Development Day. A committee comprised of three parent LSC members, three teachers, a union representative, and Principal Price would then vote on the proposal in January.

Vice Principal Fay explained his proposal for creating an extended day program at Audubon. The proposal would divide the day into 11 thirty-five minute periods. One day would be "A" the next "B", then back to "A," etc. This would enable all students to have a thirty-five minute recess each day. Positives for this proposal are that students would have specials every other day rather than once a week, students would not miss specials due to days off of school, lunch would be less crowded and teachers would get an extra 20 minutes of planning time. Negatives are that there would not be time for cross-grade meetings among teachers, the middle school would have difficulty having blocks of time for study, each grade would miss one special a year, after school would be reduced by an hour and pre-k would have very limited access to the gym.

There are very few additional costs to implementing this plan. However, the school may need to hire an additional person to supervise lunch or recess.

It was decided that LSC members, Ellen Ericson, Brendan Gilboy and Barbara Kantrow would be the parent representatives on the committee that will vote on this matter in January. The teacher representatives will be selected on Friday.

Review of SIPAAA Timeline & Next Steps for November

Ellen will be preparing surveys to be distributed to parents in the near future.

Reports – Principal/APTP/FoA

Principal Report

Principal Price prepared and distributed his "Principal's Report." Principal Price will be meeting with Chicago Public Schools CEO, Ron Huberman, on November 4 to discuss the Audubon High School proposal. Principal Price expects to have an answer on the viability of the proposal by January 2010.

A new middle school program has begun which permits middle schoolers additional freedom during passing periods in the hallway. This program is working well.

Teachers are doing a great job during new teacher led book clubs which have begun on professional training days.

Audubon will be holding a volunteer orientation for parents who want to participate in classroom activities on October 22. Additionally, a parent training will be held that day to train parents to support high achieving math students in second grade.

Redmoon Theatre will need to make changes to the way it gets funding in order for it to remain at Audubon past the 2011 school year. Audubon is beginning to look to new sources of funding so that Redmoon may continue its programming at Audubon.

Principal Price urged parents to consider running for LSC in the spring.

AT&T will be speaking at next month's meeting about its proposal to put a cell phone tower on top of Audubon. Parents with research or opinions about this subject are urged to contact Ellen and come to the meeting to voice their opinion on this matter.

Adjourn

Jody motioned to adjourn the meeting, Barbara seconded. Motion passed unanimously at 9:15 p.m.