

**Audubon Elementary School
Local School Council Meeting Minutes
Monday, November 16, 6:30 p.m., Gym**

Call to Order 6:33 p.m.

Roll Call

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

Absent: Brian Ortiz

Approval of Agenda

Robin motioned to approve the Agenda after the reordering of various agenda items and the inclusion of agenda item "Vote on Extended Day Proposal." Linda seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Approval of October Minutes

Linda moved to approve the Minutes from October'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.

New Teacher Welcome

Principal Price introduced Elizabeth Powell who was hired this year as a Learning Specialist. Prior to working at Audubon, Ms. Powell taught in Brooklyn, NY. She was presented with a gift by Diane on behalf of the teachers of the school.

Vote on Extended Day Proposal

Audubon is currently a "closed campus" meaning that teachers use their 45 minute free period at the end of the day. This year a proposal was drafted which would shift this free period to during the school day so that students would receive a recess period. Details of this proposal were presented at the October LSC meeting.

The committee empowered with voting rights on this matter consisted of three parents: Ellen Ericson, Brendan Gilboy and Barbara Kantrow; three teachers, Ms. Ferdinandt, Ms. Hennigan and Ms. O'Dowd; union representative, Jody Ebstein and Principal Price. This committee was formed based on

the requirements of the contract agreement. The proposal was defeated by a vote of 5-3. The teachers felt the new schedule would not benefit the students.

Presentation of Cell Tower Proposal

It was anticipated that the CPS Chief Officer of Real Estate, Paul Morris, would make a presentation to the school. However, he was unable to attend at the last minute. Due to the fact that the meeting had been so well publicized, Principal Price decided to keep the matter on the Agenda so that people could voice their opinion about whether Audubon should allow a cell phone company to install a cell phone tower on top of the school building.

LSC members Barbara Kantrow, Linda McBride and Ellen Ericson stated their opposition to having a cell phone tower on top of the school. Members Mark Ferrante, Jody Ebstein and Diane Berin were interested in doing more research before making a decision.

Ellen stated that she received 35 emails from parents and community members voicing their opposition to the tower. She received 3 emails in favor of the tower. These emails will be attached to the minutes of this meeting and considered a part of same.

Many parents and members of the community gave their opinion on this matter. The following individuals had general questions regarding the matter and/or would want more information before making a decision: Kathy Argentar, Eric Jagher, Cindy Goodrich, Jonathan Fairman, Nick Liberati, Jenny Tate, Cara Suarez, and Karen Lachcik. The following parents and community members were against the proposal: Robin Nathan, Ms. Manilow, Jill Bass, Nick Hardgrove (Nick supported the idea but if neighbors were opposed he would be opposed as well), Sara Remijan, S. Marcheko, Ellen Schneider, Sara Slodoje, Fred Simon, Beth Grady, Brian Appel, D. Bolton. The following parent was for the proposal: Alex Pramenko.

Principal Price stated that currently there is no proposal from a cell phone company to put a cell phone tower on top of the school. Should a proposal arrive, the school will hold another meeting where individuals will have the opportunity to express their views. The LSC members will vote on the proposal.

AT & T Representative, Bob Stapleton, stated he would be looking into the technical aspects of having a cell phone tower at the school and then decide whether to submit a proposal to Audubon. Currently, approximately 90 schools have cell phone towers.

Principal Price stated that while the anticipated amount from having a cell phone tower of \$30,000 per year would enable the school to do significant things, the school is not desperate for money. Last year, Friends of Audubon raised \$153,000 and 20% of current funding is now from outside sources.

Review of SIPAAA Timeline & Next Steps for November

A survey has been prepared and will be available for parents to complete during report card pick up on November 18. Focus groups will begin in December to discuss various topics.

Public Participation

Community resident and U.S. Cellular employee, Eric Jagher, stated that U.S. Cellular is having a promotion wherein members of the community can go to a local U.S. Cellular store and receive a code which would enable them to vote for Audubon online. The ten schools with the most votes will receive \$100,000 each. Mr. Jagher distributed fliers that further explain the program.

Budget and Internal Accounts transfers

Principal Price requested that the LSC approve the following:

1. Spend \$1,200 from account 2-3430 (Tuition Based After School) to replace and upgrade radios used for communication to YMCA staff.
2. Transfer \$5,000 from 2-8620, Gust Foundation, to 2-3320, Student Trips, to fund class field trips for the 2010 school year.
3. Spend \$2,800 from account 2-3430 (Tuition Based After School) to pay for Unicoi Art Studio art classes.

Robin moved to approve the above budget and internal account transfers, Mark seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Reports – Principal/APTP/FoA

Principal Report

Principal Price prepared and distributed his “Principal’s Report” and a hand-out entitled “Audubon Accomplishments.” The “Audubon Accomplishments” hand-out had two sections. One entitled “2009 Key Outcomes” and the other entitled “New Initiatives for SY 2010.”

Recently, Principal Price met with Ron Huberman to discuss the Audubon High School proposal. Mr. Huberman indicated his genuine interest in supporting the concept. He has assigned three of his top level people to assist with the proposal, specifically the space/facility issue. Another meeting in December has been scheduled to follow up on the proposal.

Recently, Audubon welcomed CPS Chief of Staff, Adam Case, as Principal for a Day.

Comparisons of disciplinary records from September and October of 2008 to 2009 indicate a 75% reduction in disciplinary referrals to the office.

The Science Fair for 6th to 8th graders was held November 10.

Temporary teachers with experience and endorsements in the areas they will be teaching have been hired to replace Ms. Chan and Ms. O’Dowd while they are on maternity leave.

The Erickson Institute will be working with Audubon to improve literacy instruction.

The first parent volunteer training workshop was held October 22. Parents were given a better understanding of classroom procedures and methods to assist students within the Audubon instructional

framework. A smaller group of parents was then trained on the new accelerated mathematics instructional program for second grade students.

Principal Price has met with Redmoon and he feels confident that the affiliation with the theater will be able to continue.

Principal Price decided not to apply for "Year Long School" for the 2010-2011 school year. He will continue to look at it as a possibility for future years.

Friends of Audubon

Kathy Argentar discussed the fundraiser at Barnes and Noble on December 13. A percentage of all books purchased with Audubon vouchers will go to the school. Last year this program raised between \$500-1000.

The 2009 Hawk Walk raised over \$15,000.

Adjourn

Jody motioned to adjourn the meeting, Barbara seconded. Motion passed unanimously at 8:09 p.m.