

**Audubon Elementary School  
Local School Council Meeting Minutes  
Monday, December 14, 6:30 p.m., Community Room**

**Call to Order 6:30 p.m.**

**Roll Call**

Present: John Price, Mark Ferrante, Ellen Ericson, Barbara Kantrow, Jody Ebstein, Diane Berin, Brendan Gilboy, Patty Jones, Brian Ortiz

Absent: Linda McBride, Robin Kain

**Approval of Agenda**

Barbara motioned to approve the Agenda. Jody seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

**Approval of November Minutes**

A discussion regarding the nature of the Minutes and what they should reflect took place. Jody moved to table approval the November Minutes until a sub-committee was convened to discuss this further. Diane 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**

Friends of Audubon (FOA) Board Member, Alison Kramme, asked for permission to use the school grounds for a "family fun fest" type of event to be held on June 5-6, 2010. This year FOA will be partnering with Star Events to put together a festival. The festival will be expanded from prior "Family Fun Fairs" to include adult bands, serving of alcohol, carnival rides and other activities. Star Events predicts that Audubon will raise approximately \$20,000 from the event. Insurance and security issues are still being worked out.

Brian moved that we approve the use of school grounds for the festival to be held on June 5-6, 2010 subject to insurance and security concerns being met. Jody seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Alison also reminded everyone to vote for Audubon on the Cellular One website by January 15, 2010.

### **Budget and Internal Accounts transfers**

Principal Price requested that the LSC approve the following:

1. Redmoon be allowed to rent the gym and various classrooms this summer. Redmoon will be having a program for approximately 50 children. Redmoon would use the space for 4 weeks.

2. "Go Get Your Smock" be allowed to rent the Community Room for 4 weeks this summer. They will be having program for 12-15 children.

All rental fees and reduction of enrollment fees for Audubon students would be negotiated by Mr. Price and CPS.

Mark moved that the LSC allow Redmoon and "Go Get Your Smock" to use the school facilities this summer. Barbara seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

### **Update on Cell Tower**

Principal Price stated that Audubon has not been approached again by a cell phone company to erect a cell phone tower on top of the school.

### **Discussion on Changing LSC Meeting Time**

Ellen presented an idea to alternate morning and evening LSC meetings in an effort to make it more convenient for some parents to attend the meetings. If Audubon held morning meetings then the school would need to pay for substitute teachers while the LSC teacher representatives attend the meetings. A discussion commenced regarding the pro and cons of changing the time of the meetings. At the conclusion of the discussion the LSC decided to continue having meetings in the evening.

### **Discuss LSC Election Timeline & Special Meeting**

Principal Price stated that LSC members are re-elected every two years. Applications for candidates are available in the office. Applications are due at the school by 3 p.m. on March 11, 2010. Candidates may also turn in applications at the downtown CPS office by March 4, 2010. There will be a candidate forum on March 22 at 6:00 p.m. preceding the LSC meeting on that date. The LSC elections will be held on April 21. The LSC will meet to certify the results of the election on April 26 at 7:30 a.m.

Audubon is also looking for individuals to act as judges on the election day. The judges must attend a training session and will be paid \$100 for their work. Individuals interested in acting as judges or who need more information on the election should see Karen Gandy in the office.

### **Parent-Teacher Communication & Conferences**

The LSC and public discussed parental concerns regarding teacher communication and conferences. It was suggested that since 1<sup>st</sup> grade is the first year students receive grades that Audubon should prepare an orientation for parents of first graders that explains the grading policy. Ideas about videotaping teachers at open house, holding a workshop on how to effectively communicate with teachers, and more use of email or monthly newsletters were also posited. Principal Price reiterated that all parents are welcome to observe in their children's classroom as long as they schedule time with the teacher. Mr. Price also stated that while

teachers could do more to communicate, parents can also be more assertive in asking for information, initiating contact with teachers, and scheduling follow-up conferences.

### **Present Parent Survey Results**

Principal Price prepared and distributed a report entitled, “2011-2012 SIPAAA Survey Results Summary.” Principal Price also presented a PowerPoint presentation via LCD projector to the public. The information culled from the survey will be used to prepare the SIPAAA. Principal Price was interested in getting feedback regarding issues the focus groups should discuss when convened in January. It was decided that some areas for focus groups to discuss further involve using technology on the classroom, graduation goals parents have for their children, areas of study parents think are important and diversity issues.

### **Review of SIPAAA Timeline & Next Steps for January**

Focus groups will meet in January to discuss goals for the SIPAAA. LSC members will lead these groups. A discussion was held regarding how to group parents into focus groups and the recruitment of parents.

### **Reports – Principal/APTP/FoA**

#### Principal Report

Principal Price prepared and distributed his “Principal’s Report.” Highlights include the following:

A teacher SIPAAA committee was established to assist with the development of the plan.

The second round of NWEA student assessments for 2<sup>nd</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> graders is underway. Preliminary results show a tremendous amount of growth for the students.

A consultant/coach from Erikson Institute has begun working with teachers and this is going well.

Unique Week concluded last week. Unique Week celebrates diversity and friendship through various activities.

On December 10 students participated in the Redmoon Winter Spectacle.

Bridget Nicholson is the latest Audubon teacher to achieve National Board Certification (NBC). Natalie Gondela is pursuing NBC this year. Audubon currently has five NBC teachers.

Audubon will be hiring an additional special education teacher to work with students who have IEPs. This position will be board funded.

Six staff members meet monthly with educational consultant, Paula Kluth, for an Authors Club.

The math enrichment program for accelerated students has been successful in second grade and will now be expanded to 3<sup>rd</sup> grade.

A decision from CPS on whether the Audubon High School proposal is accepted is expected in the next few weeks.

A closed meeting with local Aldermen and LSC members will be held on January 7, 2010. The Aldermen would like to hear why neighborhood families do not want to send their children to Lakeview High School.

**Adjourn**

Jody motioned to adjourn the meeting, Barbara seconded. Motion passed unanimously at 9:00 p.m.