

**Audubon Elementary School
Local School Council Meeting Minutes
Monday, February 22, 2010, 6:30 p.m., Science Lab**

Call to Order 6:30 p.m.

Roll Call

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

Absent: Jody Ebstein Patty Jones, Brian Ortiz

Approval of Agenda

Linda motioned to move “Endowment Fund - Review of Investment Strategy” to after “Approval of January Minutes” on the Agenda. Brendan seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Approval of January Minutes

Brendan moved to approve the January Minutes. Robin seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Endowment Fund – Review of Investment Strategy

Friends of Audubon representative, Kathy Argentar, discussed the investment strategy of the Endowment Fund. The Endowment Fund is to help fund the long term objectives and needs of school such as physical infrastructure and/or the establishment of educational programs that are sustainable through income generated by the fund. These needs are distinct from the day to day needs of the school. Furthermore, no expenditures can be undertaken that would decrease the value of the fund to below \$250,000. Currently, the fund has \$50,000 in it due to a one time anonymous gift. Persons wishing to donate to the fund must state their specific intent to do so.

In contrast, proceeds from Friends of Audubon fundraising programming such as the upcoming “June Jam” are to fund the current operating/programmatic needs of the school.

Review of LSC Meeting Procedures

Ellen announced 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 so Ellen used the opportunity to encourage others to run for the LSC. Applications are due March 11. Candidates will have the opportunity to give a two minute speech prior to the next meeting on March 22.

Budget and Internal Accounts Transfers

None.

Summary of SIPAAA Focus Groups

Principal Price discussed the results from the recent focus groups that were conducted to help gather information for the SIPAAA. Approximately 25 parents took part in the focus groups. The focus groups were asked 6 questions. Many good ideas came out of the groups. Many parents wanted to see more visual arts programming, an examination of the Spanish class structure, and continued emphasis on core subjects. A primary concern to parents was ensuring that students understand the importance of high school earlier in their elementary years. Additionally, parents shared ideas on ways to expose children to different cultures throughout the school year.

Review of SIPAAA Format/ Review Draft of SIPAAA Narrative/ Discussion on School Priorities for SIPAAA

Principal Price prepared and distributed a document entitled “CPS SIPAAA Planning Report.” This report listed 7 categories for the SIPAAA. The categories are Learning Climate/Safety, Mathematics, Science, Core Classroom Instruction, Technology, On Track to Graduation, and Bilingual/Multicultural Education. Of these categories, Learning Climate, Core Classroom Instruction and On Track to Graduation are listed as top priorities.

The category of On Track to Graduation is important because in 2008 only 70% of Audubon students who completed their first year of high school were on track to graduate. (60% of these students attended Lakeview High School.) Audubon wants to develop relationships with two non-selective high schools, as measured by the number of Audubon graduates attending, to support students beyond 8th grade.

In the category of Core Classroom Instruction, Audubon wants to improve program coherence and curriculum alignment across grade levels in writing (K-5), social studies (K-3), and reading (K-8), including after school curriculum; and improve classroom assessment practices.

In the category of Learning Climate/ Safety, Audubon want to maintain low class size, improve test scores for struggling subgroups: boys and Hispanic students; continue focus on and improvement of School Based Problem Solving and after school remediation to provide catch-up growth for below level students; and continue after school enrichment opportunities.

Audubon will maintain current math and science programs and purchase more technology items as necessary.

The next step in planning the SIPAAA is to find specific activities to bolster each goal. Teachers will be providing input on this aspect.

Reports – Principal/APTP/FoA

Principal Report

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

Kimberly Rebecca and Sheila Danaher will complete an evaluation of this year’s School Based Problem Solving Initiative. This evaluation will be completed by June 1 and will be used to improve our support systems for students next school year.

Julie Sajovec continues to work on the school’s internal evaluation of the 5th Math curriculum.

Seventh grader, Ian McCann, won the school spelling bee for the 3rd year in a row.

Morning announcements are now being read in English and Spanish in an effort to celebrate the linguistic diversity of our students and parents.

Gala event co-chairs Sarah Levens and Noreen Hardgrove have been working extremely hard on the 2010 Gala.

The Winter Social will be held on March 11. Prior to the social Audubon will be hosting a parent volunteer leadership development event aimed at increasing the number of parents involved with Friends of Audubon and the Parent Teacher Partnership.

Ron Huberman has used Board funds to purchase 28 lap tops for Audubon School. The computers will be used for the 5th grade classes.

Mr. Fay has rotated the classroom special schedules so that the same classes do not continue to miss the same special specials on Friday and Monday holidays.

Adjourn

Robin motioned to adjourn the meeting, Diane seconded. Motion passed unanimously at 8:30 p.m.