

**Audubon Elementary School
Local School Council Meeting Minutes
Monday, March 22, 2010, 7:00 p.m., Gym**

Call to Order 7:10 p.m.

Roll Call

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

Absent: Brian Ortiz, Robin Kain

Approval of Agenda

Brendan motioned to approve the Agenda. Linda seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Approval of February Minutes

Linda moved to approve the February Minutes. Jody seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

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.

Redmoon Presentation

Neighborhood Arts Director of Programming, Angie Tillges, made a presentation about Redmoon Theatre. Redmoon has been conducting classes at Audubon for the past 6 years. Redmoon works with classroom teachers to integrate arts into the classroom. In the past, the arts integration also included lessons in social studies, language arts, math and science. The arts programming meets CPS curriculum standards. The programming also involves the community. The Redmoon program culminates in an annual Spring Spectacle. This year the Spring Spectacle will be on May 21 and is entitled, "Journey from Darkness to Light." In April, parents will be able to access a blog that will provide more information about the spectacle. Redmoon is proud of their collaboration with Audubon and plans to use Audubon as a training model to help present their work nationally.

Discuss Audubon Budget Cuts

Principal Price prepared and distributed a document entitled "Audubon 2011 Budget" to the LSC members. He also showed the document via power point presentation to the audience. On March 15, Mr. Huberman held a meeting of Principals to explain the budget for 2011. A copy of Mr. Huberman's presentation is available in the Catalyst Magazine online. On March 15 and 16 Principal Price led staff meetings to explain the situation.

Mr. Huberman stated that pension costs are a main driver of the deficit. This is a state and national issue, not just a CPS issue. Huberman feels solutions need to come from Springfield. Possible solutions would be to get an extension on funding the pensions or a reprieve from pension related rules from the legislature.

Audubon is in a special pilot program where it receives money per pupil rather than via a quota system. Audubon gets a lump sum to divide as it sees fit. The benefit to the school is huge. This per pupil funding includes costs for administration, classroom teachers K-8, specials teachers (gym, science lab, tech). This money does not include costs for security, custodial, preschool, bilingual, special education, poverty funding, and O&M.

In 2010, the per pupil income was \$5,800 a student, or \$2,354,000. The staff needs were \$2,185,000. Therefore, Audubon had a surplus of approximately \$169,000 which was used to fund programs like the math differentiation specialist, the after school reading program, the purchase of new furniture, Redmoon, and the Merit Music program.

In 2011, the per pupil income is projected at \$4,750 per student or \$2,021,300, a decrease of 18% (\$333,000). However, our per pupil funded positions cost are estimated at \$2,370,000, an increase of \$185,000. The increase is driven by salary raises and benefits.

According to this new budget projection Audubon will lose \$518,000. This loss will result in the following necessary changes at Audubon. Reduction of office staff by one position, no replacement of Ms. Lobato as Spanish teacher, reduction of number of projected classes by creating a 6/7 grade split, elimination or severely reduce free after school teacher clubs. Cuts to the above programs will reduce our loss to \$250,000.

Other necessary changes are to increase FOA funding, increase kindergarten parent funding to nearly 100%, not provide a school subsidy for a kindergarten aide, change PFA to TBPK.5, and place a freeze on administration salaries. These cuts will result in about \$160-180k in savings.

After the above cuts are made the school will still be approximately \$100K in the red.

On Monday, March 29 Principal Price will find out more information about the budget for next year from Mr. Huberman. Some beneficial possibilities might be higher per pupil funds than projected, teacher union concessions, increased state funding before summer or increased enrollment. Some negative possibilities may be the loss of our bilingual position funding, loss of Magnet Cluster funding, deeper than expected cuts to state funding and the lack of union concessions.

Other possible cuts that may be necessary are the loss of the math differentiation specialist, loss of additional classroom or specials position and Mr. Fay may need to become a part-time teacher.

Special education funding is a separate budget. Audubon does not expect to lose any special education teaching positions, but may lose some aide positions. Principal Price is currently appealing the loss of the aide positions.

Principal Price urged parents to be active and contact their State Representatives to voice concerns, increase their participation in fundraising and volunteer next year at the school to help cover staffing shortage areas like the lunchroom and morning duty.

FOA has some money in reserve that Principal Price can access in case he needs to in order to prevent further cuts at the school. Principal Price is also lobbying RVN to continue to donate money to the school.

Reports – Principal/APTP/FoA

Principal Report

Principal Price prepared and distributed his “Principal’s Report.”

Adjourn

Jody motioned to adjourn the meeting, Mark seconded. Motion passed unanimously at 8:32 p.m.