

**Decatur Classical School
Local School Council**

Minutes Meeting on Thursday, November 20, 2014

- Meeting called to order by Jeannette Schar at 7:18 pm.
- Roll call:
 - Members present – Jeannette Schar, Kristin Boeke-Greven, Timothy McCaffrey, Victoria Giambrone, Steve Fix, Susan Kukielka, Marianne Sharping, Katherine Thomas, Arthur Regalado, Norman Gelfand, and Roland Paulnitsky. Absent – Laura Symons.
- Approval of Agenda:
 - Amendment: allow for Alderman Silverstein to speak if/when she arrives to meeting under New Business.
 - Amendment: add Approval of Minutes for 10/16/14 and 11/5/14 LSC meetings under item III. Approval of Agenda
 - Motion was made and approved by unanimous voice vote to approve amended agenda.
- Approval of Minutes:
 - Motion was made and approved by unanimous vote to approve amended minutes.
- Principal's Statement:
 - District-wide, fewer students qualified for SGSA funding, which allowed an increase in the per-pupil rate from \$783.00 to \$801.95; Decatur had 41 qualifying students, which resulted in an increase of \$7,824 (Initial SGSA allocation \$25,056 to \$32,880); as of today's meeting, funds were added to the school's budget line.
 - On 11/4/14, Andrik Miranda was permanently assigned to Decatur as the evening custodian; he is a 4-hour employee, but the school will request that his hours be adjusted to coincide with our special events.
 - On 10/22/14, Decatur held the 7th/8th grade school fair; the number of participating schools was small, but the fair was very well attended by parents and students.
 - Currently, Mrs. Chun's reading position has not been filled; as interviews are being conducted, Mr. San Agustin will temporarily oversee the classes with the support of Mr. Pfest and Mrs. Sharping.
 - Parent/Teacher conferences had a 99% pick-up rate.
 - On 11/18/14, Decatur hosted the second Open House for prospective parents with 84 guests attending.
 - On 11/5/14, Decatur hosted 2 teachers from Syracuse Latin School in Syracuse, New York; Decatur teachers (Miss Cole, Mrs. Thomas, and Mrs. Wachenheimer) spoke with the visiting teachers; their principal, Kelly Maynard, offered a huge thanks to the teachers and staff for their wonderful experience at Decatur.

- Ms. Kukielka presented the State of the School Report, which every school is mandated to do by the state. The PowerPoint Presentation will be made available on the website.
- Old Business:
 - Expansion Committee Report given by Kristin Boeke-Greven: LSC required to fulfill goals of CIWP plan, so the mandate of the Expansion Committee is to pursue all options for 7th and 8th grade. Other updates stated in the report:
 - 1) Survey results (survey written by Tim McCaffrey): 250 responses (70% in favor of exploring relocation to Stewart, 20% opposed, 10% no preference); 146 letters sent to LSC (79% in favor of relocation, 14% opposed, 7% no preference)
 - 2) Report on 11/13/14 meeting with CPS: Expansion Committee representatives asked for clarification on all expansion options for Decatur; Chief Operating Officer Tyrell responded by stating that currently, Stewart was being considered as the only possible option for Decatur and that Stewart would be repurposed whether for Decatur or not. CPS is continuing to do its due diligence, but the process may take months/years, so reminders to all parents that Selective Enrollment applications are due 12/12/14.
 - 3) Report on 11/19/14 CBOE Presentation: Expansion Committee representatives presented the results of the survey.
- New Business:
 - Motion was made that the LSC support the exploration of the potential relocation of Decatur to Stewart. The motion was approved with 10 yays, 1 nay, and 0 abstentions.
 - Arthur Regalado discussed a blended science and technology program for the 6th grade; the program would give students the opportunity to learn some electrical engineering by building a rocket and programming components of the rocket.
- Public Comment:
 - Speaker 1: Felt the survey stunk and was biased; did not appreciate that the decision was out of our hands and in CPS' hands.
 - Speaker 2: Did not like that parents from Decatur likened school to slavery at the CBOE meeting; feels like Decatur is a diverse school with students coming from various neighborhood schools, so Decatur should be treated as a city-wide school serving the entire city and we should not be considered outsiders if we move to Stewart.
 - Speaker 3: Felt writing letters to the LSC maintained a civil tone and that letters validated the results of the survey; felt like the survey given to parents reflected the discussions from previous LSC meetings; after the survey, the speaker can safely say that parents are in favor of a move.
 - Parent asked for what due diligence by CPS meant? LSC members responded by stating CPS was looking into whether funding was available, what the viability of moving the entire program to a new building was, analyzing the 7th/8th grade issue, addressing the issues of other schools ending in 6th grade, and the plans for the current building; Parent asked if we could get a progress report of due diligence.

- Parents and LSC members discussed the commitment of TIF money for Decatur and that neighborhood schools were the priority for Alderman Silverstein.
- Next Meeting: Thursday, January 10, 2015.
- Meeting adjourned by unanimous voice vote at 9:18pm.