

**Decatur Classical School
Local School Council**

Minutes Meeting on Thursday, March 19, 2015

- Meeting called to order by Jeannette Schar at 7:17 pm.
- Roll call:
 - Members present – Jeannette Schar, Timothy McCaffrey, Laura Symons, Victoria Giambrone, Steve Fix, Susan Kukielka, Marianne Sharping, Katherine Thomas, Arthur Regalado Norman Gelfand, and Roland Paulnitsky. Absent – Kristin Boeke-Greven,
- Approval of Agenda:
 - Amendment: add item B. Expansion Update (under Old Business); change Next Meeting date from April 16, 2015 to April 23, 2015
 - 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 March 4, 2015 minutes.
- Principal's Statement:
 - The first segment of PARCC testing has been completed, although some make-up testing is continuing to take place. 24 students refused the test. Go Get Your Smock and tap continued through testing.
 - Ms. Andrea Alatorre, the kindergarten helper, has taken a full position, effective March 23, 2015 and the process to find a replacement will begin once the position is vacated in the TALEO HR System.
 - Thanks to the work of Mr. Pfest and Ms. Melnicoff, Decatur has been accepted into the Computer Science for All program (CS4All), a coding curriculum for K-6 and it will be introduced to students in the 2015-16 school year.
 - The school continues to express concerns regarding the cleanliness and maintenance of the building with Aramark/CPS Facilities. Ms. K has met with Aramark to attend to Decatur's issues. The furnace is being worked on and temperatures seem to have stabilized. There are no updates on Angel's status.
 - The school received a thank you letter from Care for Real for the school's donations to the food pantry.
 - Ms. Andrea Cohen has been hospitalized and the school is working to place a consistent substitute teacher in the classroom until she returns. Students/classrooms are welcome to create cards for both Ms. Cohen and Angel.
- Old Business:
 - Ai) CIWP Committee met on 3/18/15. Input from parent and teacher surveys will be needed by May to help guide how funds might be allocated. The official

vote on the CIWP will be in October. The surveys will go out sometime after Spring Break.

- Aii) Principal Evaluations will follow the same template as previous the year; it will be made available in advance for parents and during Parent Teacher Conferences on April 16, 2015.
 - B) Board liaison asked for a last minute conference with Kristin Boeke-Greven. Dr. Mahalia Hines stated that CPS has not made any proposals regarding Decatur's expansion to the Board and that funding is at the crux of the matter. Funding may require a combination of money from the state and CPS. She did reiterate that Decatur should remain a classical school and that we should continue to seek out all paths. Dr. Hines also stated that it was important to get aldermanic support, although there is no status on the letter that was requested of Alderman Silverstein during the previous meeting with Decatur parents living in her ward. According to Ald. Silverstein, there is no TIFF money available. Invitations to Sen. Silverstein and Rep. Lang will be extended to attend a special night to meet with the Decatur community.
- New Business:
 - The new laptop cart is under repair – the laptops are not charging in the cart. Ms. Melnicoff is waiting for a part so that the cart can be fixed.
 - Public Comment: The school/administration was thanked for their handling of PARCC; information given on the School Project (10 minute documentary film screenings/panel discussions); 6th graders will begin their blended science projects developing water rockets; Happy Birthday Ms K!
 - Next Meeting: Thursday, April 23, 2015 at 7:15pm.
 - Meeting adjourned by unanimous voice vote at 8:07 pm.