

**Decatur Classical School  
Local School Council**

**Minutes Meeting on Thursday, September 17, 2015**

- Meeting called to order by Tim McCaffrey at 7:27 pm.
- Roll call:
  - Members present: Timothy McCaffrey, Laura Symons, Stephanie Saltouros, Steve Fix, Susan Kukielka, Marianne Sharping, Katherine Thomas, Arthur Regalado, Roland Paulnitsky. Absent: Victoria Giambrone, Norman Gelfand.
- Approval of Agenda
  - Amendment: add Vote for fundraisers as item C under New Business.
  - Motion was made and approved by unanimous voice vote to approve amended agenda.
- Approval of Minutes
  - Motion was made and approved by unanimous voice vote to approve minutes from the July 16, 2015 meeting.
- Election of Parent Representative
  - LSC received one candidate application from Mr. Stephen Lee.
  - Motion was made to appoint Stephen Lee as an interim candidate for a 1-year term. A vote of members present elected Stephen Lee unanimously.
- Principal's Report
  - New staff members, Mr. John Murray (Counselor) and Ms. Cate Schmittle (Music) were introduced to the audience.
  - Discussed enrollment numbers for Decatur in past years, which have held steady between 280-290 students; October 5<sup>th</sup> marks the 20<sup>th</sup> day and school could potentially lose/gain funds due to student population. Decatur's student population stands at 282 which is below the projected 289. The seven students equate to ~ \$31,000 that the school could potentially lose from the budget.
  - The school is due to recoup ~\$35,000-40,000 from teacher salary differential (teacher retirement to hire of first year teacher).
  - Budgeting for JCC, web-based products (BrainPop, Kid's College) on hold until the 20<sup>th</sup> day.
  - Decatur was not chosen to receive funding for the After School All Stars program, but will continue to run a number of programs after school; Parents were encouraged to bring in new ideas to Ms. Kukielka for possible after school programs.
  - New school-wide rules (Be ready, Be Respectful, Be Responsible) and curricula (myWorld Social Studies, American History Middle Grades, Science Fusion, GoMath) were discussed.
  - The school was notified that the Target Take Charge of Education program would end in May of 2016. This is an additional source of funding that the school will lose for the next school year.

- Volunteer clearance for LSC eligibility requirements were reviewed for current and new members.
  - A volunteer meeting was held prior to the LSC meeting to review CPS procedures for school volunteers, the role of volunteers and share the various opportunities available at Decatur.
  - Reminders to LSC members to turn in Statements of Economic Interest by Friday, October 30, 2015.
  - A letter from a former student was read.
- Old Business
    - Expansion update: Tim McCaffrey gave a brief, historical summary of expansion efforts at Decatur. Both Stewart and Trumbull, once considered possibilities for Decatur expansion, are moving forward with the sale of the buildings per CPS recommendations, although those sales are not yet final. CPS currently has \$8 million in their budget with nothing really attached to it. The Expansion Committee made calls to see if someone could help advocate for that money on Decatur's behalf. In other talks about expansion, it seems like the Mayor is aware of Decatur's situation. A Decatur parent, Kim Manning, was able to talk briefly with the Mayor about Decatur and it led to a meeting with Janice Jackson, who is second to CPS CEO Forest Claypool. The meeting with Janice Jackson is scheduled for September 22, 2015. Priorities for Expansion are as follows: 1) Expansion of current building/property (~\$19 million); 2) Trumbull (most economical solution for CPS); 3) Stewart.
    - September 21, 2015 meeting with JCC to negotiate costs.
- New Business
    - Motion was made to nominate Laura Symons as Vice-Chairperson of LSC. The motion was passed by unanimous voice vote to select Laura Symons as Vice-Chair.
    - LSC discussed possible days that Select Prep can be offered at the school.
    - Motion was made and passed by unanimous voice vote to approve fundraisers (6<sup>th</sup> Grade Fundraiser, School Musical, School Pics, Square 1, Target, and Scholastic Book Fair)
- Public Comment
    - Public comment was made.
- Next Meeting: October 15, 2015.
- Meeting adjourned by unanimous voice vote at 8:27pm.