

**Decatur Classical School
Local School Council**

Minutes Meeting on Thursday, September 18, 2014

- Meeting called to order by Jeannette Schar at 7:25 pm.
- Roll call:
 - Members present – Jeannette Schar, Timothy McCaffrey, Victoria Giambrone, Laura Symons, Susan Kukielka, Marianne Sharping, Katherine Thomas, Arthur Regalado, and Roland Paulnitsky. Absent – Kristin Boeke-Greven, Steve Fix, and Norman Gelfund.
- Approval of Agenda:
 - Amendment, addition of agenda items under New Business
G. Field Trips report by Mrs. Sharping and Mrs. Thomas
H. Vote to approve a check for textbook consumables (\$5957.40)
 - Motion was made and approved by unanimous voice vote to approve amended agenda.
- Approval of Minutes:
 - Amendment to minutes from July 9, 2014 meeting
 - Amend wording under Old Business (pg.2)– “Kristin Boeke-Greven, Timothy McCaffrey, and Ms. Kukielka also met with Rep. Lou Lang. Rep. Lang was advised that Committee at CPS created recommendations for Decatur and is still being reviewed. Rep. Lang was receptive about putting Decatur on the State funding List and encouraged the Expansion Committee to reach back out to Rep. Lang upon hearing a response from CPS Committee regarding recommendations.”
 - Motion was made and approved by unanimous vote to approve amended minutes.
- Principal's Report:
 - Student membership - 289 students; more Student Based Funds
 - New Staff – Greg Von Moser (Counselor/Case Manager); Phillip Brownlee (Music); both were summer hires after several interviews with administration, teachers and LSC/PTA parent representatives.
 - Announcement of Mrs. Amanda Coleman's pregnancy. Congratulations!
 - Custodial Issues – On Aug. 28, 2014, Aramark notified school that only 1 morning custodian was assigned to Decatur (1 custodian per 22,000 sq. ft.); Angel is a factor custodian (engineer) main job is to keep up the overall maintenance of the school; Guillermo was displaced as a result; Ms. K has contacted and met with Aramark several times to resolve the problem as afterschool programs may be affected without an assigned custodian during those times; Ms. K is trying to address the issue with Barbara Byrd-Bennett directly and is seeking parent support to resolve the issue.
 - On Sept. 5, Phil Salemi was named Network Chief of Network 2; Craig Benes was promoted to a new position.

- Budget – need to rebalance the budget for the FT Music position; currently there is a negative balance, but a re-vote is not necessary for the rebalance; some rollover funds may be used.
 - Second Step – teachers were trained in the Social-Emotional Curriculum over the summer; the curriculum is taught schoolwide on Mondays; Behavior Reflection forms have been modified to reflect the terminology and problem solving steps associated with the curriculum.
 - Teachers and administration will be reviewing forms, academics, attendance at the 5-week mark of each quarter and make contact with parents to communicate possible concerns.
 - Assessments – REACH assessments in Math and Reading (Primary grades) are tied to teacher evaluations; there is an option to retake NWEA tests
 - Open House on Sept. 9, 2014 was a success; Parent Handbooks were not passed out during Open House, they are available on the school website, but parents can request a hard copy.
 - LSC members were given a Statement of Economic Interest to fill out and return to Ms. K by Sept. 30, 2014.
 - Jeannette Schar suggested reaching out to Raise your Hand to help advocate for the school's custodial issues.
- Old Business:
 - Jeannette Schar reports on the Expansion Committee – CPS has a repurposing plan for the 59 closed schools; 2 Northside schools, Trumbull and Stewart, may be repurposed; the aldermen for those schools are speaking to their communities about how the schools will be used.
 - At the request of CPS, Expansion Committee members cannot disclose information from meetings with CPS representatives, as CPS continues to analyze Decatur's expansion request from different angles.
 - Ms. K will be meeting with Alderman Silverstein.
 - Discussions concerning a possible "home school" for Decatur students for the short term.
- New Business:
 - Vote to increase internal account transfer amounts (\$6000) to cover Stride Academy, Brain POP and Facing History. Motion to approve the increase was approved with 7 yays and 1 abstention; Motion was made and approved to clear negative budget balance with 7 yays and 1 abstention.
 - LSC bylaws need revision; Co-chairs Timothy McCaffrey and Steve Fix working on revisions
 - LSC Committees and chairs will establish purpose/goals of standing committees.
 - Motion was made Jeannette Schar and seconded by Victoria Giambrone to nominate Kristin Boeke-Greven as CIWP Committee Chair. The motion was passed by unanimous voice vote to select Kristin Boeke-Greven to be CIWP Chairperson.
 - Motion was made by Jeannette Schar and seconded by Katherine Thomas to nominate Laura Symons as Principal Evaluation Committee Chair. The motion was made and passed by unanimous voice vote to select Laura Symons to be Principal Evaluation Chairperson.

- Motion was made by Jeannette Schar and seconded by Laura Symons to nominate Victoria Giambrone as Safety, Security, and Discipline Chair. The motion was passed by unanimous voice vote to select Victoria Giambrone to be Safety, Security, and Discipline Chairperson.
 - Motion was made by Jeannette Schar and seconded by Laura Symons to nominate Roland Paulnitsky as Sergeant at Arms. The motion was passed by unanimous voice vote to select Roland Paulnitsky as Sergeant at Arms.
 - Motion was made and passed by unanimous voice vote to approve School Fundraisers (Square 1, Taffy Apple, Holiday Bazaar, Target, School Musical, School Photos)
 - Recess Policy – Board policy cites that students can play outdoors when cold weather is above 32°F with or without windchill; with temperatures between 15-32°F it is at principal's discretion to make the determination on recess based on student safety conditions, attire, playground safety evaluation; with temperatures below 15°F with or without windchill should be held indoors; Snow removal by parents was posed to CPS Operations and Decatur received unconfirmed answer from CPS
 - Ms. K reviewed the new CPS Food and Nutritional Policy from Learn Well; Students have the option of eating a school lunch or bag lunch; The Healthy Snack and Beverage Policy requires that schools adopt local school celebration guidelines or default to providing foods and beverages of minimal nutritional value only twice per year. These must be approved and documented by the Office of Health and Wellness.
 - Mrs. Sharping and Mrs. Thomas reported that teachers at all grade levels have discussed looking into new field trip opportunities; Teachers are looking into field trips that are more focused or guided to enrich student learning.
 - Motion was made and passed by unanimous voice vote to approve a check for textbook consumables in the amount of \$5957.40.
- Public Comment: None
 - Next Meeting: Thursday, October 16, 2014.
 - Meeting adjourned by unanimous voice vote at 8:45pm.