

**Abraham Lincoln Elementary School LSC Meeting  
June 8, 2021**

Meeting called to order at 6:05

Present: Kat, Carmen, Nada, Greg, Paula, Dr. Fay, Ursula, Melissa,  
Absent: Radhika.

Joined Late: Jane, Lityc and Ashley, per below.

**Roll Call**

**Minutes**

Nada motion to table the review and approval of May minutes until the next special LSC meeting. Paula seconds. Discussion ensued. Motion stricken because not needed.

**Agenda**

Discussion regarding agenda. Agenda was revised today to include two new voting matters. This updated version of the agenda is not on the website, and it was not posted on the school doors. Concern raised that we cannot vote on these matters since they were not part of an agenda that has been posted for at least 48 hours.

Nada made motion to modify the most recently revised version of the agenda to remove voting on two new items added today under “new business” (namely, (i) Vote on School Fees & its usage for 2021-22 and (ii) Vote on building usage by PTA (Thanksgiving fest, Bookfair, International Festival & Other), FOL (Fundraising events), Girl Scouts, JCC (After-school program)) and instead include these two newly-added items for discussion purposes only. Nada’s motion also includes statement that we will approve May minutes at the next meeting. Kat seconds.

Kat amends motion to include discussion for a new special meeting under “new business”. Nada seconds.

All In Favor: Melissa, Dr. Fay, Kat, Carmen, Ursula, Greg, Paula, Nada  
Oppose: none

**Introduction of new Assistant Principal Mr. Dewitt Love**

Ashley Williams joined the meeting at 6:15 PM

Jane Dokko joined the meeting at 6:21 PM

**Principal’s Report:**

Hiring of Mr. Love; Dr. Fay has completed one-on-one meetings with staff members; year-end processes are being put into place (i.e. ordering, scheduling, staffing, tech return plans, etc.); June 2<sup>nd</sup> was first virtual career day; Q4 ends June 22<sup>nd</sup>; we are in the window of the algebra exit exam; school starts one week earlier next fall; clerk position being filled following Ms. Jurasz’s retirement; staffing is on schedule to be finalized by the end of the school year; Dr. Fay is hoping staffing positions will all be set for fall by last day of school; FOL and PTA fundraising events being planned for next year; overall enrollment has stayed the same from last month; Ms. Wallerstedt is working on teacher schedules for DL next year to meet IEP minutes; the overall schedule is not yet finalized but it will include common preps for K-5; working on MTSS scheduling with Ms. Fine; SEL time will be included in the schedule for next year; junior FOL event is in the works; 8<sup>th</sup> graders submitted a petition to Dr. Fay for in-person graduation and CPS guidance was subsequently altered to allow an in-person graduation; graduation plans are being finalized; Mr. Love and Dr. Fay are working on disaggregating data for our African American students; Summer Bridge program from July 6-30 and our students are asked to enroll at Manierre school; enrollment in Summer Bridge Program is by invitation only and we had 50 students qualify; in addition to the Clerk position, Dr. Fay would like to fill two SECAs, and possibly a Sped teacher.

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**Public Participation:**

Question to Dr. Fay requesting background on accelerated placement program: The process started with the Office of Access and Enrollment; first stage was to look at eligibility under NWEA MAP test. Screening of students was performed by identifying students that had to score at the 95<sup>th</sup> percentile or higher and had an “A” grade in the previous year. Students/families also must have reached out and applied by a certain date in order to have received an eligibility notification. Second part was a teacher evaluation by committee. A scoring rubric was provided by the Office of Access and Enrollment to evaluate student readiness for acceleration. The third step was a standardized test. If student scored high enough, then student was eligible for acceleration. The final step is a confirmation meeting with the family. Then student would be accelerated for the subject, or perhaps for the entire grade. The bulk of the process ended two weeks ago. The meeting with Dr. Fay is the only remaining portion and it will be optional. Kat raised issue with families not being notified of potential eligibility if they did not understand the deadlines, and Dr. Fay said that they were working on improvements to this process.

**Reports from the LSC Committee Chairs**

Budget (Melissa): budget is in place for next year; school fees (discussed below) will affect the budget

Building Traffic and Safety (Nada): Report on various installation projects; special summer work scheduled includes gym ceiling repair, boiler work, completion of interior LED lighting and normal summer cleaning. Kemper neighbors raised issue with Melissa that the lights on the top of the building shined into neighboring homes. Ursula raised issue of considering a “moving sidewalk” or other method for safely getting kids from cars to door and alleviating congestion.

Litcy joined meeting at 6:59 PM

At 7:02 PM Litcy begins presiding over meeting.

DEI (Kat): book donation program opportunity described by Carmen re Asian American heritage organization, One Book One World. They accepted our request and we received books as a donation to our library. Alderman’s five-party equity workshop series attended by Ursula and CIWP committee member, Erica Bauer. Efforts are being made to organize a parent group and to set up an organizational meeting for a parent-led group.

DL (Melissa): determining scheduling of parent DL meetings for next school year; Melissa has started drafting a letter to push for addressing the temporary nature of the sped teaching position and consequent shortage of a sped teacher; Kat raised issue of whether we would hurt our chances to get sped teacher centrally funded if we decide to use FOL funds to temporarily fund a sped teacher and whether that makes sense given our CIWP priorities and current positive funding position relative to enrollment; Dr. Fay commented that it’s not sustainable to fund another position with FOL; Ursula shared state of noncompliance that we are in currently with respect to DL (as shared by Amy Wallenstedt to Ursula).

**Organization and Outreach:**

- Report from Isabelle David re EFAC
- Report from PTA President Christine Kelly that school photos and yearbooks were passed out to homeroom teachers and room parents are still needed for 1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> grade; PTA is looking to fill positions for secretary, shadow, hospitality, kindness club and picture day. Question raised as to whether we are getting a kickback from the school picture photographer and we are not this year given the rushed nature of scheduling but it has been discussed. The “kickback” means that if people order a package, a \$1-2 fee is added to the sale to support fundraising.

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- Report from Melissa Macek re FOL: Focus is on the final fundraiser for the year as laps for Lincoln and we have raised 70% of our goal of \$35K thus far. Next FOL meeting is next Tuesday wherein they will nominate and vote on officers. FOL is looking to fill a number of leadership positions.
- Communication update from Carmen that website has been updated, and ALESMA is calling for volunteers for membership and leadership positions.

PPLC (Greg): Discussion among PPLC members about separating language arts from social students for upper grades, and decision remains with Dr. Fay as to whether this can be done for the next school year. This discussion was raised when Mark was our principal but Mark preferred to combine the two subjects. Greg mentioned that this will help create flexibility for accelerated learning scheduling.

**Old Business**

Letter to CPS re budget? Question raised as to whether we can use unused funds for substitute teachers for other purposes. It was mentioned that our former principal was able to do this. Lityc shared that there is precedent for the LSC to approve a request from the ALES Principal to move unused funds from the substitute budget line for another agreed purpose, and once the LSC approves, the school requests the budget office to approve the request for effective use of the funds. We have not been able to do this for this school year because of the change in leadership. Dr. Fay confirmed that this line was locked on our budget when he joined so that he was not able to do that. Dr. Fay added that it may be an issue of timing, but he believes it would be considered an exception to the policy to use unused funds for substitute teachers for another purpose. Per Dawn Jurasz, CPS sweeps budget lines on May 30<sup>th</sup> so we cannot re-allocate that money thereafter. Dawn Jurasz further elaborated that this year was a unique year given COVID and the fact that we did not end up spending any of our own money on substitute teachers. Dr. Fay believes that re-allocating substitute teacher funds is a "loophole" that the District will rapidly close.

New website content. Carmen provided an update that by June 11<sup>th</sup> the website committee wanted to hear thoughts from the LSC on what the LSC needs for the website. Carmen shared at the website meeting that one of the biggest things the LSC is storage for videos and recordings. Paula raised a question from prospective parents as to whether we plan to post a virtual tour of the school, and Dr. Fay responded that it is part of the plans for the new website but that he thinks we should also put it on the current website given the demand.

School fee. Per Dr. Fay, right now the school fee is \$100 and we will need to consider whether to increase or keep it the same. Melissa thinks that we should increase because costs are going up and we have not increased it. Discussion regarding the appropriate.

Setting dates for special meeting and organizational meeting. Discussion. Special LSC meeting set for 5PM on Thursday June 17<sup>th</sup> to approve minutes and vote on two items: (1) School Fees & its usage for 2021-22 and (2) Vote on building usage by PTA (Thanksgiving fest, Bookfair, International Festival & Other), FOL (Fundraising events), Girl Scouts, JCC (After-school program)). Organizational meeting set for July 13<sup>th</sup> at 4:30PM.

Public Comment. Assistance offered from Molly Spooner to update website with a literacy piece to help people understand how to navigate the LSC meetings and process. Molly also offered that she thought people be given the option to contribute more to school fees.

Nada made a motion to adjourn meeting, and Paula seconded.

Meeting adjourned at 8:33 PM.