

SOUTH LOOP ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

LOCAL SCHOOL COUNCIL (LSC)

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, September 9, 2015

Location: South Loop Elementary School, Main Building, Cafeteria

1. Call to order at: 6:27PM
Pledge of Allegiance.
2. Roll Call: Shelton, Thompson, LaCoco, Agrawal, Easterly, Johnson, Melhado, Pieper, Stinson-Marti, Fazekas, Sohel.
Quorum (11) present at: 6:28PM
3. Motion to approve agenda (SS, AF)
No discussion
Motion carries: 11-yes; 0-no; 0-abstain
4. Motion to table minutes from previous LSC meetings until October 14, 2015
Regular LSC meeting, (SS, JM)
No discussion
Motion carries: 11-yes; 0-no; 0-abstain.
5. Motion to review and approve internal accounting balances ending June 30, 2015; July 31, 2015; and August 30, 2015 (KL, RA)
Discussion:
 - As of June 30, 2015 = \$27,106.48
 - As of July 31, 2015 = \$25,561.87
 - As of August 30, 2015 = \$25,561.87Motion carries: 11-yes; 0-no; 0-abstain
6. Reports
 - a. Principal (Ms. Shelton)

School Leadership

- Great start of the school year. Main priority is developing teacher teams. The goal is to ensure professional growth, as well as a calm climate and culture. Classroom

focus for the first week of school is developing communities in the classroom—in particular through *Leader in Me*.

- Math and Literacy team are focused on addressing achievement gaps: the Math team is focused on closing the achievement gap for African American and Diverse Learners students. Professional Development is being provided to improve teacher practice; the Literacy Team is focused on providing support for writing instruction and ensuring content integration with the Social Studies and Science content area.

- Multi Tiered System of Supports team is tasked with developing interventions for students who have been identified as performing below grade-level. The team is tasked with identifying students, supporting teachers to provide targeted, research-based supports for those students, and monitoring progress. The team held an all day meeting on October 8, 2015.

- The Instructional Leadership Team (ILT) is tasked with reviewing and analyzing school-wide data, and developing targeted goals for improvement. The ILT provides strategic professional growth and support opportunities that will have the greatest impact on students.

- SLES has been designated one of 28 schools selected from throughout CPS as part of Mayor Emmanuel's *Independent Schools* initiative. This designation is based on academic progress and principal performance. With this status Principal Shelton has more discretion in her leadership for the school.

- Principal Shelton wants report cards to be standards-based so parents can see if students are meeting standards each quarter. This will also be a tool for teachers to use instructionally.

- Another focus is on being more innovative with scheduling to ensure students have access to STEM coursework.

i. Instructional Leadership

- There are many exciting new partnerships this school year focused on closing the - achievement gap

- Erikson Institute is partnering with K-3 teachers to create 5-week Thematic Units that will incorporate more Social Studies and Science curriculum in the Literacy Block.
- 5th-8th grade ELA and Social Studies teachers are partnering with *Facing History* to create 5 week interdisciplinary units using *Facing History* resources about issues of identity and membership to foster teacher development and encourage conversations about the diversity and assets that exist among student and faculty populations at SLES. The focus is on diversity, a key issue for adolescents.
- All 3-8 will have science instruction daily now.
- Mastery Connect will facilitate teachers in tracking students' mastery on Common Core State Standards through interim assessments to monitor student progress. Aligned to CCSS, Mastery Connect creates personalized assessments and work plans for individual students. This is a great tool for teachers to review student mastery of the content at any given time. The work is teacher driven – benchmarks are developed at the grade level i.e. to develop exit tickets or 6 week benchmarks to review progress towards mastery. Helps teachers plan accordingly and be reflective about their practice based on students in their classes. This will also allow teachers to better communicate with students and parents about progress and areas for additional support.
- Study Island is an online learning tool that aligns to CCSS. Teachers will utilize the tool for: providing extra support for students struggling in reading and/or math and providing enrichment for students who are performing above grade level. This program is web-based and will allow for individual learning plans for specific students.

ii. *Student-Centered Learning Climate*

- Kiss and go and parent volunteerism during drop off is strong.
- Focus for the first week of school is interacting appropriately with peers and establishing norms for how students are expected to interact.
- K-4 leader will follow the Responsive Classroom model (Morning meetings) focused on developing community in the classroom.

- 5-8 have advisory every morning from 8:30 – 8:45AM, time will be used each day for the following: Monday: Leader in Me and creating weekly goals; Tuesday: Gradebook check in (students self-monitor grades); Wednesday: Talking Circles (students discuss topics that impact their classroom); Thursday: CNN news (students discuss current events); and Friday: Reflection (students reflect on the week through journaling)

- Current enrollment is 861 students K-8.

- Many families relocated over the summer.

iii. *Professional Development and Human Resource Management*

- Teachers did a lot of PD over the summer.

- ILT will determine the school-wide PD during the first meeting next week. After school PD will begin tomorrow

- K-3 teams will focus on the Erikson work (see above) and continue unit planning. The teams are using Lucy Caulkins kits to plan and share non-negotiable skills for a balanced literacy block.

- 5-8 ELA and Social Studies teams will meet to work on *Facing History* unit plans; discuss Q1 non-negotiable skills for literacy block. Focus is on vocabulary instruction as well as the novels that will be read during Q1.

- 5-8 Math Team will meet to work on identifying targeted math skills for each week and use a backwards design planning method.

- 5-8 Science Team will work on vertical alignment planning and compile a list of science resources. Teachers will be required to teach science daily this school year and will need a bank of science resources.

iv. *Parent Involvement & Community Partnerships*

- Principal Shelton gathered the leaders of various committees to discuss ways to work together more effectively. Many new ideas were generated, including Back to School Night – which was a great success. Many people signed up for volunteerism (already have more than 60 people on the list.) Still have to commit to growing volunteerism. Hope the LSC members will support this work by volunteering. This

committee will meet again to continue working on the major fundraisers for this school year. One focus is getting more involvement from the Dad's group. Overall goal is centralize the volunteer effort so that if any one group is struggling to participate, there is an overall group effort to step in. Sign up is now completely digital for new volunteers.

- This Saturday is Back to School picnic

v. *School Management & Daily Operations*

- Principal Shelton is working on reinstating the parking signs on 13th street for SLES staff. The parking issue is ongoing over the last two years. Principal Shelton worked with the previous Alderman's office to designate staff parking on 13th street, following several traffic audits from IDOT and the transportation department. However, neighbors have made calls to the new Alderman's office and the signs have currently been switched back to no parking. Principal Shelton is working to reinstate parking.

- Parents have raised concern about having to drop their students at 13th street and have them walk to the gates. It is too congested at the gate for all parents to drop off. Kiss-n-go is now from the end of the parking lot to 13th street. Principal Shelton is committed to instating consistent procedures for drop-off

- Neighbors paid \$10,000 to re-sod the park, and requested that planters be located between the grass area and the playground equipment. Principal Shelton is concerned that the planters are a risk for students and would like them to be moved to the opening of the park – she has contacted the park district.

- Principal Shelton has also reached out to the park district to request removal of the fence surrounding the re-sodded area to allow for more playing space for students, the neighbors are requesting that the fence remain for an additional three months.

- Space-planning committee is awaiting Alderman Dowell's office to confirm another meeting date to discuss space planning. There will be an update at the October meeting.

- 4th graders will move through the building like middle school students this year.

(Originally teachers were moving, but now students are moving.)

- All 4th grade teachers will teach their own literacy; 2 of the teachers (Reynolds and Knox) will teach math; 2 teachers (Streeter and Munoz) will teach science; social studies will be included with the literacy block. Principal Shelton is going to meet with teachers tomorrow and will discuss these changes during open house.

vi. Interpersonal Effectiveness

- Continuous email blasts are going out to communicate updates and address issues immediately

Parent-student-administrator meetings are ongoing to address pressing issues or concerns.

b. Professional Personnel Learning Committee (PPLC) (Thompson)

Nothing to report.

c. LSC Committees

i. By –Laws (LaCoco)

Nothing to report.

ii. Communications (Easterly)

Now have Facebook, Instagram and Twitter accounts up and running, and they are being updated regularly.

Compartmentalization of school emails is still an area of focus. There is a form in the intro packet for students and families to give permission for students' images to be shared on social media. Committee is planning to send out an email blast prompting parents to opt-out of participation in social media if they so wish.

iii. Family Involvement Group (FIG) (Agrawal)

Merging FIG and VC to centralize parent participation effort, including by allowing the two groups to pull from the same set of volunteers to make systems run more efficiently.

iv. Finance (Johnson)

Nothing to report.

v. Least Restrictive Environment (LRE)(LaCoco)

Multi Tiered System of Supports methodology is now being implemented (see above Principal's report).

vi. Principal Evaluation (Easterly)

Nothing to report.

vii. Space Planning (ad hoc) (Shelton)

Next report should be ready for October LSC meeting. Next meeting with Alderman Dowell will be Tuesday 9/15 at 5PM.

7. Old Business

- a. Discussion: At the July 22 meeting it was determined that the LSC would schedule a monthly meeting, and then determine at each meeting whether a meeting would be held the following month. A vote would be required to not meet.
- b. Continuous Improvement Working Plan – LSC has an obligation to review the CIWP. At the July 22 meeting the LSC reviewed the goals of this year's CIWP. Discussion took place about whether there has been adequate time to review the CIWP. Principal Shelton will go over the CIWP at the state of the school meeting in October.

8. New Business

Enrichment will be based off of NWEA scores at the beginning of the school year and will be addressed in Study Island.

9. Public forum

Nothing to report.

10. Motion to adjourn (TS/KL)

No discussion

Motion carries: 11-yes; 0-no;0-abstain

Adjourned at: 7:41PM