

LSC Meeting Minutes

Thursday, November 9, 2023 6:00PM

Members Present (in person): Nader Elmasri, Jose Espejo, Amanda Bull, Lindsay Semph, Araceli Fernandez, Carolyn Storandt, Carlos Rios, Erica Abangan, Jackie Alvarez, Rick Cruz, Leah Songer

Not Present: Wanda Ramirez

Staff Present: none

Council member Leo Smith joined at 6:14pm

Meeting Called to Order: 6:07pm

1. Approval of the [Agenda](#)* / Aprobación de la Agenda

Principal Elmasri made a request to add approval for book fair to agenda.

Council member Bull made a request to add construction update to the principal report.

Motion made by council member Bull, seconded by council member Rios to approve the agenda. Approved: 11-0

2. Approval of the [Minutes](#)* / Aprobación de los Minutos

Motion made by council member Semph, seconded by council member Cruz to approve the minutes for October regular meeting. Approved: 11-0

3. [Principal's Report](#) / Reporte de la Directora

The Principal's Report was shared with the LSC. Updates include:

- 100% of 8th graders successfully applied for high school!
- Dual Language program has formed a Department of Dual Language officially, and Goethe now is part of a learning community with Von Linne and Inter-American Elementary Schools
- Goethe moved from "Targeted" to "Commendable" with the highest scores within all of the neighborhood schools within a mile radius on this year's ISBE Report Card!
- PAC and Urban Initiatives are collaborating to offer two workshops to parents and kids focused on social-emotional learning
- 5th–8th grade students completed 5 Essentials survey
- Celebrated Hispanic Heritage Month; thanks to Miss Karina for leading the outdoor beautification; celebrated Halloween
- Middle school did grasshopper dissections
- Held a question and answer about the field—the proposed (but unfunded) field and playhouse plans will be posted on the FOGS and LSC bulletin boards

- Enrollment is still 731—received a 20 day adjustment. We were able to afford both the middle school bilingual position and an office person! These transfer requests were made in the last meeting. Below are the completed transfers.
 - o From: 115-57940-119035-000575
 - o To: 115-51300-290001-000575
 - o From: 115-57940-119035-000575
 - o To: 115-51330-290001-000575
- Construction updates: still some things that need to be finished off; elevator inspection was completed today; November 13 they plan to install glass in doors

Motion made by council member Fernandez, seconded by council member Rios to approve a book fair with Literati the week of December 11–15. Approved: 12-0

4. Transfer of funds request * / Solicitud de transferencia de fondos

Motion made by council member Storandt, seconded by council member Songer to approve the transfer of \$31,301.56 from a miscellaneous chart line to a supply line for purchase of miscellaneous supplies and items for students/schools. Approved: 12-0

- From: 115-57940-119035-000575
- To: 115-53405-111008-000575

5. Committee Report / Reporte de Los Comités

a. [FOGS](#) (Friends of Goethe School) Report / Reporte de FOGS

Updates include: Met this past Monday; currently \$107,000 in the bank account, but approved their new budget for the year Latin Beats (21+) save the date for Friday, February 23, 2024!; Drop and Shop at the store Play November 16, 8am–10am to drop in and shop—20% of proceeds will go to FOGS, but don't forget to mention "FOGS"; Dine & Donates have been approved for the year with a Lou Malnati's the first week of December.

Giving Tree fundraiser will go out the week before Thanksgiving.

Motion made by council member Bull, seconded by council member Smith to approve the Giving Tree fundraiser. Approved: 12–0

Latin Beats approval request. Correct forms have been submitted. Hoping to raise \$40,000.

Motion made by council member Semph, seconded by council member Cruz to approve the Friends of Goethe School Latin Beats on the Square (LBOTS) fundraiser. Approved: 12–0

b. [BAC](#) (Bilingual Action Committee) / Comité de Acción Bilingüe

Updates include: Next event will be a workshop on how to build your own traditional corn husk doll.

c. [PAC](#) (Parent Action Committee) / Comité de Acción de Padres

Updates include: First public meeting held! First event held was about decoding testing scores right before parent-teacher conferences so people could go into their conferences with understanding. Second event in-person and virtual was held with Kelly Kitley to help students and parents know how to use their technology responsibly! Very likely to be a follow-up from this event with the presenter, possibly in classrooms around digital/social media safety—there's a [recording available](#) for anyone interested in viewing this resource. Will also be starting a Spanish-English conversation club with BAC. Will also be starting play dates with Urban Initiatives in January/February and March/April. Wellness Committee is combined with PAC at this point, so moving forward, Wellness will be added to the PAC report-outs at future LSC meetings.

e. [8th Grade Committee](#) / Comité de octavo grado Araceli Hernandez

Updates include:

- October fundraiser update / Actualización de la recaudación de fondos de octubre
 - 8th grade Fill the Pumpkin challenge went really well! \$4,205.55 raised in change! 4th grade had the heaviest bucket, 3rd grade raised the most money!
- November fundraiser update / Actualización de la recaudación de fondos de noviembre
 - T-shirt screen printing: Goal of \$500—just shy of the goal collected—\$365, but didn't take into account other things happening. Overall, cool experience, the owner is open to making changes next year with fewer limitations
- December raffle fundraiser* / Sorteo de recaudación de fondos de diciembre
 - Individual raffle ticket sales is an opportunity for students to help cover their own trip expense. \$10/ticket. Begins 11/15 with the prize drawing on 12/15. First payment of \$250 is due for the trip on 11/15, so the ticket sales will go toward student's second and third payments. Information already went out to families.
 - Motion made by council member Semph, seconded by council member Storandt to approve the December 9th grade raffle fundraiser at the Holiday Market for a chance to win a Nintendo Switch, gift wrapping, and snacks table. Approved: 12–0
- Total funds collected so far: \$7,488.55! After deducted expenses for raffle prizes, \$3,061.45 will be needed to meet collective \$10,000 goal.
 - Will have a Holiday Market raffle, plus an early new year event yet

6. Old Business / Viejo Negocio

a. LSC fundraiser update / Actualización de recaudación de fondos de LSC

Updates include: Happening Saturday, December 9. Currently have 30 vendors signed up with another push later this week for more vendors, then will shift toward advertising for people to come shop! We do not charge a vendor fee. Location within the school is TBD.

b. Cell phone policy / Política de telefonía celular

- Held discussion with teachers around cell phones and smart watches. Strong opinions that smart watches are phones and should be banned just like cell phone usage.
- Principal Elmasri consulted with another school on how they have written their smart watch policy.
- Should the school send a survey out to parents from teachers about the possibility of no smart watches during the school day, or just make the decision?
 - o Council member Storandt suggests not opening up the option to ward off pushback if the decision is not to use smart watches
 - o Council member Cruz suggests having special cases for certain exceptions—Principal Elmasri said there will be a case-by-case exemption for things like students with 504s or medical issues
 - o Council member Alvarez made reference to the uniform debate—at least it gives people a place to voice their perspectives before making a decision; Council member Cruz agreed and suggested adding this topic to the December LSC meeting
 - Council member Bull called out there have been some emerging needs that require us to move sooner on this
 - o Council member Semph asked if CPS was developing a district-wide smart watch policy—not yet, but schools are starting to adopt them themselves
- The point would be to have a feedback session between now and the next LSC meeting with the proposed policy to ask for feedback and if anything's missing, with the policy being voted on in the December LSC meeting.
 - o We will NOT be discussing cell phones because that policy is already in place

7. New Business / Nuevo Negocio

a. New Principal Evaluation criteria / Nuevos criterios de evaluación de directores

Brand new evaluation process. See your email from council member Bull. It's much more streamlined and less confusing. Big difference is that Principal Elmasri will not receive his current school year results until the ISBE report card results in November—but this will only be temporary until the new SQRP is implemented. Subject line says "Principal Evaluation," the council needs to review this to familiarize themselves prior to when we begin evaluating in the spring.

b. Student Council Winter fundraiser / Recaudación de fondos de invierno del Consejo Estudiantil

Mr. Gus wants to do another photo fundraiser with winter themes. Won't be a substantial amount of money raised that would require paperwork. Date TBD and will coordinate with Mr. Gus on that. No vote needed.

8. Additional Comments from the Audience / Comentarios Adicionales del Publico

9. Additional Council Member Comments / Comentarios Adicionales del Concilio

Council member Bull reminded the council to find the LSC election nomination forms on the CPS LSC page.

Principal Elmasri is looking for an LSC Election Coordinator—if you know anyone, please refer them to the office! Council member Storandt is wrapping her last year so volunteered to take this on if absolutely necessary.

Council member Alvarez shared that her daughter mentioned that 4th and 5th grade stations were told they'd have a week of recess trading spaces but now it's been a month. Principal Elmasri will bring this back up to the recess squad.

Council member Smith shared that 6th graders eat at 10:30am which feels very early because they get hungry later in the day—is there a way we can rotate lunches? Principal Elmasri shared that they've thought about these things but scheduling is always very difficult, so this seemed to be the best option for now, but something to consider for next year. Also would like to have a snack cart for each floor once the elevator is functioning, which would help.

Council member Bull shared regarding recess that sometime kids get modified recess and wanted to understand what Goethe's policy around taking recess away as a consequence. Principal Elmasri said they're still getting physical movement and recess but seeing a connection to their actions—if a student whips a ball at a student one day, they aren't allowed to go play the next day, but rather play a structured game with coaches or something so there's still a direct understanding of consequences. There are lunches at the principal's office sometimes for discipline.

Council member Alvarez shared that there have been some instances where her students and her team have felt left out of things (example: Hispanic Heritage celebration ran out of things before their classroom had the opportunity because they're the last period). Please account for students in later periods for future events.

10. Adjournment / Clausura: 7:54pm

Next steps:

- Some sort of celebration of the Illinois Report Card achievement!
- Admin to draft a smart watch policy and hold a feedback session so that this can be voted on in the December LSC meeting

Parking lot:

- Staff bathroom issue—teachers have lost a bathroom on the 3rd floor, we will add this to December's agenda