

***Citizens Advisory Council Minutes***  
***September 16, 2014***

Attendees: Wilma Bates, Rod Bray, Jeff Hill, Barb Jacobsen, Laura Lancaster, Annette Martinez, Rob McDade, Amelia Noel-Elkins, Monica Noraian, Kacy Rader, Charlie Schlenker, Laurel Schumacher

Absent: Edward Gold, Mark Pickering, Kathy Pierce

***DISCUSSION POINTS***

**Metcalfe Move-in**

Laurel Schumacher: Everything I heard from parents was positive and went well. There were minor glitches that we will work out for next year. Move-in was held Thursday before school started. Meet with the teacher and special area teachers and also bring school supplies. Open 3-5 and not over at 5. The first day of school on Monday morning went a lot more smoothly. Parents appreciated that. Everyone loved it.

Amelia Noel-Elkins: Possibly extend the time as some had trouble making it from work.

Monica Noraian: Possibly starting later to accommodate work schedules. What would be a good time? Some parents didn't know about looking at specials.

Kacy Rader: Could we possibly do another curriculum night? Not all faculty provided this information for parents.

**U-High Open House**

Charlie Schlenker: Went smoothly as usual. Kids were their usual pleasant self and were helpful to lost-looking freshman parents.

Rod Bray: Would like an orientation program for Skyward and other online programs as part of the evening.

Monica Noraian: Enjoyed seeing students and parents and seeing who is in the class and the teachers did a good job presenting. Parent roundtable with teachers was sparse.

Annette Martinez: Made for a long day, possibly the forum should be at different times to encourage more participation.

**Metcalfe Chromebook Rollout**

4th grade and up received the new Chromebooks.

Laurel Schumacher: Easier to use than netbooks, more efficient. Tech hours are limited and the internet speed is slow, but the netbooks are very slow. Using for reading or math curriculum.

Amelia Noel-Elkins: We are trying campus wide to get better wireless connections. This could be what Metcalfe is experiencing.

Barb Jacobsen: 8th grade perspective, my daughter doesn't tell her passwords and this can be a problem. Cases were flimsy and I recommend that we buy additional cases. Andy Goveia passed on case site, but they are breaking. Isaac is doing a great job as new technology coordinator.

Wilma Bates: Does like Chromebook. Had to get an additional case.

Kacy Rader: Check-in at the end of the year and check back out at the beginning in 5th grade. Showing responsibility.

Monica Noraian: Helping work beyond the classroom.

Jeff Hill: We spent money on wireless hotspots, but it is possible more are needed. We will investigate.

Barb Jacobsen: Would hard wire speed things up?

Charlie Schlenker: Google docs, I had heard about some people not pulling their weight during group work, but now on Google docs, they are.

Monica Noraian: Much handier to work together at remote places.

### **U-High Teacher Ease Gradebook**

Charlie Schlenker: If I can do it, anyone can do it.

Jeff Hill: Seems simple, pretty easy to navigate and the info is needed is available.

Annette Martinez: Like that all assignments, tests and everything is there.

### **U-High Open Forum Topics**

Quarterly meetings - once a quarter have open forum topics for U-High parents. What would you like to hear about?

Monica Noraian: Hear about home/life balance and extracurricular and academics and how to encourage.

Rod Bray: Prep for college, how to help them get prepared, scholarships and how to navigate.

Annette Martinez: You need to be doing this for all 4 years of high school.

Laurel Schumacher: Timeline for high school as far as college preparation.

Amelia Noel-Elkins: Scholarships at ISU, we did a road show for juniors as far as scholarships and it had great generic information. Take advantage of ISU open houses, even if you are not looking into ISU. Open houses on 9/27, 10/13, and 11/10 that will help get basic information.

Jeff Hill: We have a financial aid night. It is targeted at juniors and ISU and IWU present. Anyone who wants to come and listen certainly can.

Barb Jacobsen: The U-High website maybe could have an online College Backpack.

Charlie Schlenker: Topics of life. What to expect throughout child's life. How to help children help themselves. Developmental information on teenagers.

Rod Bray: Anything to help them make good decisions.

Barb Jacobsen: Would like to know the topics beforehand.

Monica Noraian: Need to give them the tools to handle the bumpy road.

Wilma Bates: Social media and sports beyond high school 2016 NCAA rules.

### **Metcalf Online Registration**

On line registration was easy, smooth, 20-30 minutes per child.

Monica Noraian: Why isn't U-High doing it?

Jeff Hill: We implemented one school at a time so we can work out any glitches. We will be working on U-High for next year.

## ***UPDATES***

### **Metcalf Pool**

The pool has been drained until the University Facilities department can find a solution to fix it. ISU and the Lab Schools will be looking to repair or replace depending on budget. University has proposed solutions for our students to swim at the ISU rec center. Access will be limited throughout the year as the intent of the facility is to serve ISU students.

### **U-High 50th Anniversary**

January 2015 will be the kickoff of the 50th anniversary for the current U-High building. As part of the 50th celebration we will investigate the time capsule under the main doors.

Jeff Hill: Lab schools have slowly been closed throughout the country, with only about 80 left in the United States. The ISU Lab Schools have had a strong and vibrant history and 50 years in the past location is a lot to celebrate.

### **Lab School Communication Audit**

At the encouragement of CAC we are looking into a communication audit. All aspects of communication will be reviewed and recommendations will be made to help the Lab Schools communicate more effectively and efficiently.

### **Security Cameras**

Security cameras have not been installed yet. We received an allocation for security cameras in a grant from the State of Illinois. Security cameras will assist the Lab Schools in monitoring parking lots and entryways.

## ***MEETING DATES FY15***

September 16, November 11, January 13, and March 17