

***Citizens Advisory Council Minutes
November 11, 2014***

Attendees: Rod Bray, Amy Fritson-Coffman, Edward Gold, Jeff Hill, Barb Jacobsen, Laura Lancaster, Andrea Markert, Rob McDade, Amelia Noel-Elkins, Monica Noraian, Mark Pickering, Kathy Pierce, Charlie Schlenker, Laurel Schumacher, Stephanie Stork

Absent: Wilma Bates, Annette Martinez, Kacy Rader

DISCUSSION POINTS

Superintendents Update

1. Lab School Facilities

Metcalf pool is still not functional. The pool has a major leak and ISU was spending approximately \$4000/per week to keep it filled. While there is limited information on its repair, ISU has hired a consultant to provide recommendations as to whether it should be repaired or replaced and the cost and timeline. Lab School administrators have communicated the importance of the pool for both the community and the school. ISU has been receptive but is still concerned about cost of repairs as early estimates are as low as \$250,000 or as high as \$5 million.

VOIP phone update. Administration is working with ISU at both schools to upgrade the original PA system (Ducane) to VOIP phones. While we still use the use old PA system for classroom communication, VOIP phones offer more flexible internal communication and better security. Most likely, U-High will be upgrades first as Metcalf would have some asbestos work to be completed alongside the upgrade. There is no specified timeline, but the U-High upgrade could begin this summer.

2. Lab School Communication audit

We have begun an audit of the Lab Schools communication plan and we are working with School of Communication faculty and graduate students. They are evaluating what we do and how we communicate to help formulate a clearer, concise communication plan for the Lab Schools.

3. Lab School Finances

The Lab School budget is projected to be approximately \$250,000 short for FY15 and state finances are still questionable. We are taking a conservative approach with our finances such as combining foreign language programs and reducing the number of courses offered at U-High. Despite our conservative approach, we were able to provide faculty and staff with salary increases and we have managed to maintain small class sizes.

With the election of a new governor, the state of school funding is unclear. Governor Rauner may eliminate the income tax hike however; a number of Illinois school districts are deficit spending.

To give some perspective to the Lab Schools situation, we provide our budgets to the provost in April with 7/8 of our budget coming from general state aid. Then we need to wait for the lawmakers to approve the state budget which usually happens in the fall. Our school district does not have to cover the cost of building maintenance, utilities, and employee benefits as those are covered by ISU. If we pursue a building renovation, those costs are paid for by the Lab Schools.

4. Dr. Hill is involved with a state committee, Vision 20/20 which about to officially roll out. There is a press conference next week and a public meeting at Sugar Creek Elementary on December 9, 2014. The committee has been working on what education should look like in Illinois. Topics include funding, governance, 21st century learning, and educator accountability.

Vision 20/20 was created to initiate proactive conversations about education instead of reacting to lawmakers' vision of education. Dr. Hill serves on the 21st Century Learning subcommittee. This committee consists of 20 people and their focus is to put the emphasis of education on the whole child, including arts, sports, music and not relying on cores subject areas alone.

Reports

1. Thomas Metcalf – Dr. Amy Fritson – Coffman
Amy presented a PowerPoint about Metcalf's start of the school year and upcoming events. Topics included Chromebooks, the Mandarin language program, the French exchange students, and renovating the playground with two new slides and shredded tire mulch.
2. University High School – Mrs. Andrea Markert
Andrea discussed U-High's start of the school year and upcoming events. Topics included the homeroom pilot, ISU's TCH 233 class, faculty working on a teacher-driven program, and TeacherEase.
3. Lab School Development – Mrs. Wilma Bates
Wilma was absent so Jeff discussed the Lab Schools Day of Giving scheduled for early December. Donations would be collected for one day, similar to the Illinois Wesleyan program which was a huge success. Social media will be used and emails sent to U-High alumni. Donors will be able to designate where to apply their donations. A Skyward email will be sent prior to the event so people are prepared and there will be a link shared on the U-High Facebook page.

Meeting Dates FY15 – January 13, and March 17