

*Citizens Advisory Council Minutes
January 14, 2014*

Attendees: Wilma Bates, Edward Gold, Barb Jacobsen, Laura Lancaster, Annette Martinez, Lucy Morkin, Amelia Noel-Elkins, Charlie Schlenker, Amanda Stalets

Absent: Rob McDade, Jim Mullins, Stephanie Stork, Andy Wittman, Gretchen Zaitzeff

NEW BUSINESS

Financial Update:

Projections would indicate general state aid appropriation being flat for FY15. Currently, we are receiving 89% of general state aid and a good scenario would be to stay at this level. It is difficult to tell if being in an election year will have a positive or negative effect on general state aid appropriations. We will continue to budget conservatively using some reserve fund money for projects (locker room, wireless access points). Charlie Schlenker mentioned one factor that might prevent this boost is that the temporary income tax increase will start to come off the books next year.

Faculty Associate Salary Equity Study:

This has been done every 3-4 years with information collected from faculty and then compared with Unit 5. An identified pool of dollars from Lab School reserves is then distributed to the base salary of faculty based on who has the largest gap. Currently we are in the process of verifying years of experience and degree status for each faculty associate and recommendations will be made in late January/early February.

Our faculty is highly valued by our parents and students and our reserve allows us to allocate a conservative amount to salary equity to further invest in our faculty and illustrate the value our faculty has to our system. It is our strong desire to compensate faculty competitively, yet we also know that is not the only reason why faculty choose the Lab Schools. The environment, including professional autonomy, working with involved parents and motivated students, and shaping future teachers, makes the Lab Schools a great place to work!

Late Start Feedback:

Some high school students are happy to avoid the 7am start with many students using the time to go to breakfast! One group that still starts at the normal time is Orchesis as they are taught by ISU personnel and include students from other area high schools. The U-High office sends out late start reminders.

The before school program has been very beneficial for some parents. The program fee is \$10 per child. We have had some parents forget when it's a late start and currently Metcalf doesn't send out late start reminders but will begin sending notifications out to Metcalf parents. Metcalf also has early dismissals and this could be better coordinated with late starts in terms of schedules. Metcalf uses the early dismissal time for procedural items. Mrs. Stalets loves to collaborate with others and thinks this time is "amazing".

Chromebook Purchase:

The netbooks from U-High have been heavily utilized in this year's Google school pilot. After analyzing a variety of Chromebooks, Metcalf is now ready to purchase about 150-200 Chromebooks for grades 4-8. The budget for this purchase has been allocated and the Metcalf Tech team is working through the details to make a purchase recommendation for this spring. Mrs. Stalets believes that a very sturdy Lenova model that costs less than \$300 will be chosen. Mrs. Stalets mentioned that the improvement in internet access at Metcalf is making a big difference. Metcalf Tech coordinator Wes Mateka has received additional support to administer the project, which will continue for FY15.

U-High and Metcalf are coordinating on computer repair as well. One parent expressed concern about the number of platforms that parents have to juggle and a parent asked if Chromebook was the most efficient. Mrs. Stalets indicated this was easiest for the students to operate and access content and that the tools provided by Google were user friendly for students.

A Living Laboratory Newsletter:

This is a newsletter that gets sent out to campus (deans, directors, and department chairs) and superintendents. The newsletter highlights faculty presentations and work done with other schools. *A Living Laboratory* is geared towards the campus community and after final revisions; should go out next week.

OLD BUSINESS**Parent Communication Subcommittee Report:**

Amelia Noel-Elkins reported on the progress of the Parent Communication Subcommittee. In late November this committee met and had a conversation about major concerns and how to get information out to the parents. The first step is to identify the common concerns expressed to teachers from parents. Mrs. Noel-Elkins will put together a simple survey for faculty. Potential topics could include: common core, standards based grades, subject matter, discipline, social media, report cards, essential qualities, and support issues. One thing to be determined is the delivery method that would best engage parents. Format ideas include: video, website info, online tutorials, small group sessions, e-mail, open house, and face-to-face.

Legislative Tours:

Dr. Hill has invited area legislators to the Lab Schools for a tour and discussion sometime in the spring. Mr. Schlenker suggested that key staff also be invited, particularly those that are highly involved with all parts of the mission. Each legislator is very interested; however, no dates have been set at this point. Mr. Schlenker suggested, and Dr. Hill agreed, these visits need to be focused and concise.

Meeting Dates FY14:

Tuesday, March 18