**PETERSON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

**LOCAL SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING**

**Wednesday, February 8, 6:00PM, STEM Room**

**Local School Council Members Present:** Brian Bochenek**,** Leslie Combs, Martha Hindaileh, Karla Holcomb, Lloy Johnston, Kate Kane, Aaron Olson, Tom Ruby, Kimberly Schiller, Fady Sharshar

**Local School Council Members Absent**: Naseem Azizuddin

**Public Present:** Jessica Espinosa, Karem Gomez, Catherine Korda, Kristi White

**Called to Order:** 6:05 pm **Adjourned:** 8:10 pm **Next Meeting:** March 8, 2017

1. Explanation of Local School Council Meetings
2. Public Comment
   1. None
3. Call to Order by Karla at 6:05pm
4. Vote to Approve Meeting Agenda
   1. Karla moved to approve the agenda with one change - moving Friends of Peterson up on the agenda, Kate seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously
5. Vote to Approve Previous Meeting Minutes
   1. Karla moved to approve the 1/18/17 meeting minutes, Brian seconded the motion, and the minutes were approved unanimously.
6. Reports
   1. Friends of Peterson
      1. Catherine Korda discussed their fundraiser at the upcoming Unity through the Arts & Sciences event at the school, they will be selling buttons and bumper stickers and selling items on the giving tree. She said the giving tree donations usually provide partial funding for items requested by teachers, and that Friends of Peterson often provides additional funding for those items.
      2. Karla moved to authorize this fundraiser for Friends of Peterson at Unity through the Arts, Lloy seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously
   2. PAC Report
      1. Catherine reported a successful Literacy Night in January, more than 250 people came to learn about literacy, there was also a book talk and author discussion. The event has gotten a lot of positive feedback.
      2. There was a discussion about bullying on February 7.
   3. Principal’s Report
      1. See attached Report of the Principal for the LSC and additional supporting documents.
      2. Because Governor Rauner vetoed a bill that would have provided $215 million to CPS, the CPS administration has enacted cuts. There are 4 furlough days, one of which does not impact Peterson, which will save $35 million and effect teacher training.
      3. CPS just enacted mid-year budget cuts, which will mean a loss of $79,540.30 to Peterson. CPS took half of available funds from all schools. However, they based that cut on the amount of funds that were available approximately 3 weeks ago, and since then Peterson has spent some of that money. So in effect, the amount of this cut is well over half of what Peterson has available. CPS is calling this a freeze but this money has been cut from Peterson’s budget. Kate has been in discussions with CPS and will look into any appeal process available to Principals.
      4. Schools with more low income students have been penalized more by this cut.
      5. Kate had to decrease the amount of funding available for instructional materials, see attached for details of where the cuts will be in the school’s budget.
      6. Attendance is at 95.4%, the goal is 96.3%. A lot of kids have been sick. They are working to get the numbers up through incentives and other means.
      7. A teacher has been assigned temporarily to a class where a teacher is on maternity leave.
      8. Kate is still working on getting a crossing guard at Bryn Mawr and Christiana.
      9. They had hoped to get additional staff because of the breakfast meals they are now serving, but so far that hasn’t happened.
      10. There are big cracks in the floor in kindergarten classrooms in the new addition, engineers have come out to look at it and we are waiting for the report.
      11. They have written a grant for an Arabic teacher for next year through the State Department’s Teachers of Critical Languages Program. This program fully funds a teacher for the first 2 years, but next year is Peterson’s 3rd year for the program and the school needs to cover $30,000. They are looking for grants for that funding.
   4. Professional Personnel Leadership Committee (PPLC) Report
      1. The committee did not meet
   5. Bilingual Advisory Committee (BAC) Report:
      1. The BAC and PAC are working in collaboration
7. Field Status
   1. Discussion postponed until after the meeting with Alderman Laurino.
8. Other Old Business
   1. Lloy wanted to communicate to Peterson teachers that parents are opposed to the furlough days they are being forced to take, Tom said the teachers feel support from the Peterson community.
9. Discussion and Vote on Transfer of Funds
   1. Karla made a motion to transfer the funds as outlined in the attached document “Peterson Elementary School Recommendation to the Local School Council, Mid-Year Budget Cuts February 2017.” Marti seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.
10. Discussion of Special Education
    1. More discussion at the next meeting.
    2. There was a discussion about the benefits of an event to coach parents on IEP’s – what they are and how to advocate for your child.
11. Identification of Program Resources for Students
    1. Lloy led a discussion about the need to make sure all students and parents know how to navigate programs such as the high school application process. She wants to make sure everyone knows there’s a seat at the table for them. Kate suggested that there be a process to find out what the barriers and solutions are.
12. Discussion of Principal Evaluation Process: Section 2&3
13. Discussion and Vote to Finalize 2015-2016 Principal Evaluation
    1. Karla moved that the LSC go into closed session to finalize the Principal Evaluation from next year, Kate seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.
    2. The LSC moved into closed session.
14. Other New Business
    1. Tom asked if the font on electronic sign on the side of the school facing Bryn Mawr could be bigger, it’s too hard to read. Kate said she would look into that.
15. Public Comment
    1. None
16. Adjournment
    1. Karla moved to adjourn, Kate seconded the motion, and the vote to adjourn was unanimous. The meeting adjourned at 8:10pm.