



Peirce School of International Studies

An International Baccalaureate World School



PEIRCE LOCAL SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING

Thursday, June 11, 2020

*****6:00 pm*****

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83395004280?pwd=NFBZSkcwbHpHQ2hFejBLUElzZGJ0Zz09>

Meeting ID: 833 9500 4280

Password: 3n37PY

AGENDA

- 1) Chair Calls Meeting to Order at 6:08pm
- 2) Roll Call (In person, phone, video) Present were Bill Kennedy (BK), Carl Coates (CC), Gina Eshu (GE), Geri Baumgarten (GB), Evan Trad (ET), Lori Zaimi (LZ), Tremaine Maebry (TM), John Azpeitia (JA), Joe Dunne (JD), Aisha Noble (AN), Ariadna Ginez (AG). Absent was Shelton Jackson (SJ).
- 3) Approval of the Order of the Agenda
 - a) JD motion to move Principal Evaluation to the end, after announcements, and JA seconds. All in favor and motion passes unanimously.
- 4) Items Needing Council Approval
 - a) Minutes from February 20, 2020 meeting
 - i) This was the daytime meeting, we will send these out and approve at next meeting.
 - b) Minutes from May 14, 2020 meeting
 - i) GE moves to approve minutes, BK seconds, motion passes unanimously and minutes are approved.
- 5) July 2020 Organizational Meeting Date
 - a) July 9th at 6pm was suggested and agreed upon.
- 6) Principal's Report
 - a) LZ highlights our school's response to national events in response to police brutality and racism, CPS response, and how it impacts our CIWP.
 - i) AG – Can you speak more to School Resource Officers (SROs) in the school and the actions LSC can take?
 - ii) LZ – Elementary schools do not have SROs but all schools are required to have at least 1 security guard. At Peirce, we have no SRO's but we have two off-duty police officers that are security in the building.
 - iii) TM – What is the difference between SRO and Security?
 - iv) LZ – SRO is on-duty via CPS contract, Security are not.
 - v) TM/GE – Are security officers a part of the discipline process?
 - vi) LZ – They are not, but may be involved at different points. We use officers as last resort because of our restorative justice project. School officer may get involved if there is a serious situation because we're concerned with safety of children, but really is last resort. Roles shift depend on time of day and needs of school.
 - vii) TM – How many security staff do we have and what is the racial background?
 - viii) LZ – We have three, two are Hispanic and one is unknown.

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- ix) BK – How are they evaluated and who do they report to?
- x) LZ – Report to LZ, the district has criteria.
- xi) BK – Have there been issues?
- xii) LZ – It's a personnel matter, encourages anyone that has concerns about issues directly.
- xiii) GB – Wants to underscore that these officers – security guards – have strong ties to the community.
- xiv) TM – Agrees, they have made a difference in the lives of his children.
- xv) AG – want to call out that the concerns here are the structural issues of having officers in schools – regardless of who they are as people – but what is the structure of security/officers in schools, what is their job description, what power do they have?
- xvi) GE – Encourages parents to speak up and share any issues they have.
- xvii) JA – Wonders if some of the trainings that SROs go through re: anti-racism, that our security guards could, too.
- xviii) AN – As part of this training, are security guards going through any anti-racism/anti-bias training?
- xix) LZ – As part of school training, have been invited and will continue to invite them to trainings
- xx) AN – Are they armed and are they able to arrest anyone?
- xxi) LZ – No
- xxii) JD – Would it be possible to get a comparison between SRO/security guard?
- xxiii) LZ – Yes.
- xxiv) AG – Are security guards required to be CPD officers, even if while at the school they are off-duty?
- xxv) LZ – To be qualified as a security staff member, the requirement is they are an off-duty police officer. There is a difference between CPD security guards and non-CPD security guards.
- xxvi) JD – Could this be reallocated?
- xxvii) LZ – We'd have to check about this
- xxviii) Parent question: Could there be a rule where the LSC is alerted if one of the security officers has 1 or 2 or 3 (or a set number) of complaints? So it is transparent beyond Ms. Zaimi?
- xxix) LZ – Cannot discuss personnel matters with LSC or in public
- xxx) TM – Could concerns that are matters of safety be discussed?
- xxxi) JD – What could we as an LSC do when personnel issues arise? It is within our purview to evaluate LZ but not the staff.
- xxxii) AG – This is an example of white supremacy in action and a system that protects law-enforcement if there are officers with documented complaints in our schools. Encourage us as a council and as a community to work towards challenging and addressing these systems.
- xxxiii) LZ – How are the acts of wrong-doing being communicated in a more public way? Right now there isn't a way other than when something goes through the Office of Title 9.
- xxxiv) BK – Agrees with AG analysis, one option we're seeing is to transform those systems, and also, what are the things we can do within this system we have? 1. This is reliant on trust and LZ's leadership 2. Virtual environment has increased public participation. LZ, could you, because of the moment we're, in relay info re: security guards, their job description, and preparing the guards for a new environment with increased scrutiny when we're back in person?
- xxxv) LZ – Yes, this communication is a great idea.
- xxxvi) GE – Transparency and over-communication is key.
- xxxvii) LZ – Shift to restorative justice model has been a huge shift in culture of the school, the work is ongoing.
- b) Pre-K – Still moving forward.
- c) Enrollment of SY21 is being done virtually.
- d) Planning for SY21.
- e) 8th Grade Graduation – Next week, will still be very much caring for our 8th graders.
- f) AN – Can you talk to us about looping (teachers moving on with their students for the next year)?

- i) LZ – We’re having discussions, have surveyed the teachers, gathering info – there is no perfect answer but waiting to get more guidance on what the Fall will look like before making a final decision.
 - g) GE – Can you speak to board of ed and if school is starting early?
 - i) LZ – Have not heard that.
 - h) TM – Is there any discussion about parents pulling out/not coming back to school because of potential COVID-19 resurgence?
 - i) LZ – CPS has not shared official guidance, will be ensuring that we have proper cleanliness practices when we are back.
 - i) AN – Can you speak to emotional supports for students when they come back?
 - i) LZ – Don’t have \$ to hire new positions, we will have to make some choices based on the size of our Pre-K/kindergarten classes.
 - j) LZ – Do we have teachers leaving this year?
 - i) Yes, a few moving and others to other CPS schools
 - k) JA – Are there plans for Hispanic Heritage Month celebrations to celebrate the Latinx community when we return?
 - i) LZ – Something we can look into.
 - l) Least Restrictive Environment
- 7) Public Participation
- a) Rohini Chojnacki – Circling back to question re: security officers. Can we track if there are situations where we escalate instances in the school?
 - i) LZ – Yes, this is something we can track.
 - b) Greg Chojancki – Follow up on discussion of bringing a staff member to address mental health issues of students. Can you give clarity on ½ time position in off-site Pre-K?
 - i) LZ – This is not a role that can be re-allocated and yes, it is staffed.
 - c) Tasha Neumeister - This is going back to the topic of security v. SROs. Is there a plan to message their role in our school even if students and parents aren’t asking. I think it would behoove us to at least message about how they interact with students.
 - i) LZ – Agrees and this aligns with what Bill brought up earlier re: communicating with the community and we should also communicate this with students
 - d) JA – Are we ok with officers being in the building for different events like First Responders’ Day (Officer Friendly)?
 - i) AN – No, especially as the mother of two Black boys, we should listen to the parents of Black and Brown children.
 - ii) Melissa Alvarez Mangual – Agrees with Aisha.
 - iii) TM – We have to do things differently now.
 - iv) JA – We all have access to agenda and elevating any issues we see fit.
 - v) LZ – Committed to the work we’re engaging in as it relates to anti-racism.
 - vi) BK – As a white parent, there is no need for the Officer Friendly day.
 - vii) GB – As a white teacher, communication is key, overcommunication is key about what is going on and choices that are being made.
- 8) Committee Reports, if applicable and available
- a) Bilingual Advisory Council (BAC) (Bill) – No report.
 - b) Parent Advisory Council (PAC) (Gina) – LZ, our PAC did not have an issue.
 - c) Professional Personnel Leadership Committee (PPLC) (Geri and Evan) – No update since CIWP/last meeting.
 - d) Principal Evaluation (Joe) – Have been meeting in executive session and we’re continuing at the end of this meeting to complete this and vote on LZ’s evaluation.
 - e) Safety & Security (Shelton) – No report.
 - i) JA - Will there be any activities at the school this summer?
 - (1) LZ – No, but waiting to hear about food distribution.

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- 9) Community Group Reports, if applicable and available
 - a) Friends of Peirce (FOP) (Joe) – Available to fund whatever is needed to be funded but most programming is not happening. LZ did forward a proposal for handwashing stations but has not fulfilled it until we have clarity on when we're back. Looking to fill some open positions on board.
 - b) Peirce Service Organization (PSO) (John) – Plan to have elections, will follow up and forward an update.
 - c) Race and Equity Parent Group (Aisha) – Has not met since March.
 - d) Race and Equity Team (Tremaine) – AG & Melissa shared update, met last week to process grief together, discuss meeting cadence, and how to support teachers in having conversations with students, both in the immediate and into next year.
- 10) Public Participation
 - a) Kevin McGroarty– There are two openings in FOP, will share e-mail in chat, folks can also talk to Chad Curry
 - b) Tasha Neumeister – Wants to highlight the importance of tending to students social and emotional needs.
- 11) Announcements
 - a) AG shared she will be stepping down from LSC at the end-of-the month – is not running for re-election and under traditional circumstances, this would be the natural end of the term but because of COVID-19 and the LSC term being extended, plans to step down because she will be moving out of school boundaries at the end of June. Expressed deep gratitude for the Peirce community and the opportunity to serve.
- 12) Principal Evaluation, 2019-20
 - a) JD moves to go into executive session, TM seconds. All in favor and motion passes unanimously. Executive session is entered at 7:54pm for the purpose of discussing principal evaluation.
 - b) JD moves to exit executive session, GE seconds. All in favor and motion passes unanimously. Executive session is exited at 8:42pm.
 - c) GB moves to approve the LSC evaluation of the principal as presented to LZ. TM seconds. Roll call vote is taken:
 - i) Bill Kennedy (BK) - aye
 - ii) Carl Coates (CC) - aye
 - iii) Gina Eshu (GE) - aye
 - iv) Geri Baumgarten (GB) - aye
 - v) Evan Trad (ET) - aye
 - vi) Tremaine Maebry (TM) - aye
 - vii) John Azpeitia (JA) - aye
 - viii) Joe Dunne (JD) - aye
 - ix) Aisha Noble (AN) - aye
 - x) Ariadna Ginez (AG) - aye
 - xi) Shelton Jackson (SJ) – absent

(1) Motion passes and principal evaluation is approved.
- 13) Motion to Adjourn
 - a) ET moves to adjourn meeting, JA seconds. Meeting is adjourned at 8:49pm.