



LANE TECH college prep high school

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Meeting Minutes: LOCAL SCHOOL COUNCIL - REGULAR MEETING

Meeting Details: 6:30 PM on Thursday, January 21, 2021, via Zoom

Following are the meeting minutes. Original posted Meeting Agenda items are listed with the meeting minutes noted directly below.

1. Call Meeting to Order

Chair Emily Haite called the meeting to order at 6:45 PM.

2. Roll Call / Establish Quorum

Present: Catherine Ashlaw-Doherty, Eric Garcia, Maureen George, Emily Haite, Daniel Law, Anne Lokken, Patricia O'Keefe, Ana Scales, Laura Symons, Brian Tennison, Dannixa Velez, Katharine Whittaker Gomez and Benjamin Wong

Absent: None

QUORUM ESTABLISHED

3. Approve Agenda

Motion: Approve meeting agenda for the January 21, 2021 Regular Meeting with the amendment that the "CPS back to school" agenda item be moved to New Business

By: Anne Lokken

Second: Patricia O'Keefe

Vote: Unanimous, all in favor

Result: Motion Passes

4. Approve Prior Meeting Minutes

Motion: Approve meeting minutes from the December 17, 2020 Regular Meeting

By: Emily Haite

Second: Laura Symons

Vote: All in favor

Result: Motion passes

5. Public Participation – 2 minutes each. A total of 22 public participants spoke about the possible return to in-person instruction. Approximately 17 of the speakers were Lane teachers who all spoke against returning to in-person instruction. Three parents spoke, two of which were in favor of a safe return to in-person instruction with mitigation, and one cluster program parent who has chosen not to send her son back to the building. Two students spoke up in support of teachers.

6. Reports

- a. Principal Report – Principal Tennison started by thanking Lane teachers, special education classroom assistants, administrators, clerks, security, custodial staff, tech coordinators and engineers, some of whom have been working in the building. He thanked those who spoke during public comment.

Principal Tennison reported that there is currently no plan by CPS for high school students to return to school in-person. Lane does not get to make the decision regarding remote versus in-person learning, and must follow the District's directives. Principal Tennison said that students are not currently in pods, so a return to in-person instruction may require re-programming students. He recognized that some students are struggling to stay motivated.

Principal Tennison reported that IHSA has approved some winter sports to open, but that CPS has not given Chicago schools the green light. He noted that fall sports worked out okay.

Principal Tennison reported that there have been some COVID cases at Lane, but that contact tracers do not share details with him. He said that air purifiers have been received for classrooms.

Finally, Principal Tennison reported that a big, in-person graduation ceremony was unlikely for the Class of 2021, but that the school was working on other options.

- b. PPLC – Katharine Gomez reported that the PPLC continues its work in the area of equitable grading. At the last PPLC meeting, the group talked about the power of a zero and positive alternatives.
- c. Renaming Committee – Emily Haite reported that a survey and information sheet regarding a new Lane symbol would be sent out in early February.
- d. Friends of Lane – The Friends of Lane (FOL) report was given by Lisa Borelli. She started by expressing FOL's support for the teachers. Lisa

said the goals of FOL this year are to support the community and help with technology needs. The annual appeal has raised \$183,000 so far (slightly less than past years), but there has been a significant increase in community attendance at remote FOL meetings. FOL recently hosted a virtual comedy night and virtual holiday appreciation for staff (which raised 3x the usual donations allowing FOL to give everyone \$50 gift cards). Currently FOL is working with the music department to provide technology for enhanced remote learning. FOL is also working on “Green and Gold Gala” alternatives.

e. Alumni Association – No report.

7. New Business

a. Check Approvals –

- Jostens \$73,678.50 yearbooks purchased at quick start
- HUDL/Agile Technologies \$3,449 (year 1) and \$11,150.00 (year 2) subscription database for all high school sports and academic programs for play review, stats breakdown, and ability to send clips to colleges

Principal Tennison and Athletic Director Nick LoGalbo shared information regarding the features and benefits of the HUDL platform.

Motion: Approve the above listed checks / payments

By: Emily Haite

Second: Laura Symons

Vote: All in favor

Result: Motion passes

b. Fundraiser Approvals – None

c. Approve raising check approval amount

Motion: To increase the amount for expenditures requiring LSC approval to \$10,000 or above.

By: Emily Haite

Second: Benjamin Wong

Vote: All in favor

Result: Motion passes

NOTE: This year’s senior fee was reduced from \$95 to \$30, and 8th grade fee was reduced from \$85 to \$30, due to anticipated COVID restrictions/limitations on graduation ceremonies.

- d. CPS back to school – During public comment, approximately twelve teachers sought an LSC resolution against a return to in-person instruction. Emily Haite noted that there is currently no plan for general education students to return in-person, but the cluster program began last week. Approximately 5-8 cluster program students have been attending in-person, with four teachers and 12 paraprofessionals. Emily spoke with several staff involved in the cluster program. There was a delay in receiving PPE so parents/teachers purchased their own PPE (supplies have since been provided by CPS). In addition, CPS initially provided insufficient air filters, but Lane administrators corrected the problem. Cluster program staff noted the students in this program have more hands-on needs, including some needing toileting assistance, and some students cannot wear masks. There have been 1-2 COVID cases in less than two weeks, and staff members are stressed/concerned.

Daniel Law, LSC Teacher Rep, shared results from a recent informal teacher survey. The survey had 133 responses. 70.8% of responding teachers said they did not think it was safe for students to return to the building, and 76.9% of responding teachers said they did not think it was safe for staff to return. Teachers raised the following main points: (1) some teachers feared for high risk family members; (2) teachers were concerned about COVID spread among students on public transportation; (3) social distancing at Lane / among teenagers is not realistic; (4) simultaneous teaching during hybrid was problematic; (5) teachers do not trust CPS to execute a safe return plan; (6) teacher vaccination should occur first; and (7) the risks associated with in-person instruction are unnecessary. Dan Law shared his own opinion against in-person return, and also shared a personal story regarding a student and COVID.

LSC member Patricia O’Keefe raised concerns regarding the lack of notice and input from parents on the issue of in-person instruction. There is currently no plan for in-person high school, and the COVID landscape is changing quickly. Patricia also noted there are conflicting opinions regarding in-person instruction and student equity, safety, social-emotional needs, and academic progress. LSC member Katharine Gomez expressed the need for immediate action. LSC member Anne Lokken expressed a desire to gather parent input before reaching a conclusion regarding in-person instruction for general education high school students, especially since there is currently no plan or timeline for their return. However, she was comfortable drafting a letter to CPS regarding specific cluster program concerns raised. LSC members Laura Symons and Benjamin Wong concurred.

Motion: To draft a letter from the Lane LSC to CPS, the Board of Education and local Alderman raising concerns related to the return to in-person instruction of the Lane cluster program.

By: Laura Symons
Second: Anne Lokken
Vote: All in favor, except Brian Tennison abstained
Result: Motion passes

Motion: To send a survey to parents and students regarding the possible return to in-person instruction in order to gather parent and student opinions and input on the issue.

By: Emily Haite
Second: Benjamin Wong
Vote: All in favor
Result: Motion passes

LSC member Anne Lokken will take lead on the cluster program letter, and LSC members Emily Haite, Patricia O’Keefe and Laura Symons will take lead on the survey. A special meeting will be held on February 9, 2021 at 6:30 PM to continue the discussion.

8. Old Business

a. Stadium Name Change

The LSC has received a proposal package outlining:

- The history and accomplishments of Frederick “Fritz” Pollard from the Class of 1912, including his trailblazing racial equity work through professional sports and business
- The proposed naming of the field within Lane Stadium to honor Pollard
- The assurance that the Lane Tech Alumni Association (LTAA) will assume responsibility for administrative functions including design, funding, fabrication, installation and dedication with the appropriate School and Network departments and groups

While a field naming does not require the level of policy compliance that a building or a school would command, the LTAA respectfully asks that the Lane Tech LSC move to formally support the Fritz Pollard Field Naming Project, and provide the appropriate affirming documentation for the final proposal to CPS.

Motion: To approve a LSC letter to CPS in support of naming the field within Lane Stadium in honor of Frederick Douglas “Fritz” Pollard.

By: Emily Haite
Second: Anne Lokken
Vote: All in favor
Result: Motion passes

9. Announcements – The next regular meeting will be held via Zoom at 6:30 PM on February 18, 2021. A special meeting regarding the issue of returning to in-person instruction will be held on Tuesday, February 9, 2021 at 6:30 PM via Zoom.

10. Adjournment

Motion: Adjourn meeting at 9:30 PM

By: Emily Haite

Second: Benjamin Wong

Vote: Unanimous, all in favor

Result: Motion Passes