



LANE TECH COLLEGE PREP HIGH SCHOOL

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Meeting Minutes: Local School Council Special Meeting

Meeting Details: 6:30 PM on February 9, 2021, Via Zoom (Recorded) Meeting

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

1. Call Meeting to Order

Emily Haite (Chair) motioned to call the February 9, Special Meeting regarding school opening, to order, at 6:36 PM.

2. Roll Call / Establish Quorum (7 minimum)

Present: Catherine Ashlaw-Doherty, Eric Gacia, Maureen George, Katharine Gomez, Emily Haite, Daniel Law, Anne Lokken, Patricia O’Keefe, Ana Scales, Laura Symons, Brian Tennison (Principal), Dannixa Velez and Benjamin Wong.

Absent:

QUORUM ESTABLISHED

3. Approve Agenda

Motion: Emily Haite motioned to approve the Agenda for the February 9, 2021 Special Lane LSC Meeting.

By: Emily Haite

Second: Maureen George

Vote: Unanimous, all in favor

Result: Motion Passes

4. Public Participation (2 minutes each)

[If you want to submit a question or statement before meeting (HIGHLY SUGGESTED) please email emilylanelsc@gmail.com Subject line Lane February Special LSC. Chat will be off, but we will have the “raise your hand” option.]

Emily Haite clarified the purpose of this meeting. At the January regular meeting, teachers had asked the LSC to write a letter regarding school re-opening. The LSC wanted to get parental input. LSC voted to have this special meeting because the LSC would like opinions (surveys) from the Lane Tech community to determine how the school would move forward.

Controversial topics being negotiated between states and unions regarding whether political or politicized are beyond the LSC's powers and duties (Policy.CPS.EDU/Ethics Code Provisions: Political Activities Section XVIII).

The LSC does not know if or when high schools would open. CPS has a committee discussing this potential, but Principal Tennison is not part of this committee.

The LSC will listen to statements made by public participation; please no disparaging remarks. If there are questions, the LSC will address this under Business. Emailed statements will be first.

Laura Symons will call on speakers (2 minutes and will hold up the '30' second remaining sign, when the time comes) and Maureen George will mute.

Parents, students and teachers shared mixed views on the pros and cons of school re-opening (147+ participants). Overall: safety, mental health, remote learning, in-school instructions, and multi-generational ethnic households were key points. Students have the choice to remain in remote learning or to attend school. But those who choose remote learning for safety, will not be part of social interaction. A majority of teachers and staff must return to in-person learning. Conversely, proper safety protocols adhered to by individuals and essential workers yield positive mitigating results. Statistics are limited and evolving mutations of the Corona virus pose a risk.

5. Old Business

a. Cluster Program letter (approve letter) See Attached

Emily Haite summarized that last month the LSC discussed the Cluster Program. Anne Lokken volunteered to write the letter and intention was to vote at this meeting. A suggested version was submitted, by Patricia O'Keefe. The LSC has to decide on how to move forward. The Cluster Program has been taken care of by CPS. (See link below)

Patricia O'Keefe expressed details to be added to the letter, such as timely PPE and personnel mandates. Principal Tennison reported that there are enough PPE for the

Cluster Program and room filters (but timely refills are in question). Mr. Tennison clarified that the job description code requires a certified personnel who must be the physical party in the classroom. The aide (2nd person) provides support. Contact tracing suggested by Ana Scales. Mr. Tennison indicated that contact tracing for CPS is a health and privacy code mandate. Katie Gomez added vaccinations priority for cluster teachers and staff. Danixa Valez explained that at Lane she had received calls that indicate Covid was identified at the school. Anne Lokken and Patricia O’Keeffe will collaborate to edit and finalize the letter. The draft version with the said edits to be reviewed by the next meeting.

b. Back to School Survey Result (Lane Parent LSC Reopening Survey)

[Back to school survey result LT](#)

Laura Symons presented the survey result. (See above link)

Sent out the survey (English and Spanish) to the LT parent community. Received 1,075 responses.

Emily Haite broke the percentage by race.

Race	No	Usure	Yes	% Actual	%Respondents
African American	12	5	12	7.5	2.6
Asian	21	3	18	10	4
Hispanic	84	22	58	39	15.4
Multi Racial	22	2	36	3	5.5
Native American	1	0	2	0.4	0.3
No Answer	27	6	207	0	22.5
Pacific Islander	1	0	2	0.7	0.5
White	143	51	331	39	49

There were 45 different zip codes for the population of Lane from the survey.

Katie Gomez identified, based on the percentage of racial response, that the black and brown communities were underrepresented.

6. New Business

- a. Resolution to CPS regarding the opening of High School to in-person learning (Discuss / Potential Vote)

The LSC discussed a myriad of considerations with regard to CPS High School in-person learning. A majority of the Lane Tech population via survey believes that the LSC should not write this letter. Matters of politics or politicized debate is not the role of the LSC. The LSC should focus specifically on Lane Tech and can incorporate things on wanting to keep the teachers safe and that they are vaccinated, but mindful of our student population especially our underrepresented black and brown students. There are other considerations: specifically student traffic, logistics and curricular programs.

Anne Lokken expressed that these discussions are hypotheticals. She continued, we don't know if we have a plan or timeline to re-open... it will be one grade or two etc., or if it will be phased in or pods, or vaccinations situations. There are no concrete plans, even though currently, CTU and CPS are considering the re-opening of high schools. Katie Gomez believes there is a sense of urgency and outlining a simple statement regarding inequitable learning of hybrid or in-person learning and actionable subjects, such as CTA and teacher/staff vaccination. Benjamin Wong read that the CDC stated schools can safely re-open without vaccination. Eric Garcia pointed out that nothing is an even playing field.

Laura Symons clarified that the resolution was a request to send a letter to CPS and the Mayor to state that LT was opposed to the return to in-person. There is mixed opposition to the letter. But the LSC can say something specific for Lane Tech.

Maureen George, who worked in healthcare and was able to mitigate safely. Dan Law responded regarding inequity of certain communities, vaccination and furthermore the mindset of teenagers and safety....we have not figured this out enough yet as we are learning to live with this virus.

Anne Lokken brought up the idea, perhaps LT would ask to have a seat at the table with the CPS. The school is unique, large, dense, and an older building with students from across the city.

A continuation of this discussion will occur at next week's regular LSC meeting. Members are asked to submit ideas of 5 things that are unique to Lane. Emily Haite will draft the resolution with suggested ideas. A seat at the CPS (committee) table may offer specifics moving forward. Anne Lokken, Emily Haite and Laura Symons are co-authors. No motion needed, the topic will be placed on the Agenda.

7. Announcements

Emily Haite announced the next LSC Regular meeting is Thursday, February 18, 2021, 6:30 PM. Emily Haite and the LSC extend their gratitude to all who participated in the survey and to this meeting.

8. Adjournment

Motion: Emily Haite motioned to adjourn the meeting (9:26 PM).

By: Emily Haite

Second: Anne Lokken

Vote: Unanimous, all in favor

Result: Motion Passes

Respectfully Submitted,
Ana Scales
LSC Secretary

Attachments and Links:

CPS and CTU Leadership Reach Tentative Agreement; In-Person Learning to Resume for Pre-k and Cluster Programs on February 11

<https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0/#inbox/FMfcqxlSVFfKQbbggLsZxhMHHKfMP?projector=1&messagePartId=0.1>

[Draft by Anne Lokken]



Lane Tech College Prep High School Local School Council

February 1, 2021

Dear Mayor Lightfoot, Dr. Jackson, and Chief McDade,

The Local School Council of Lane Tech College Prep High School urges Chicago Public Schools leadership and the Board of Education to prioritize student safety with respect to the return of the Lane Tech Cluster Program to in-person instruction. It is essential that Chicago Public Schools work with parents and teachers to create and execute a plan that is safe, equitable and instills trust for all parties.

The Lane Tech Cluster Program consists of approximately 65 students. Although approximately 16 Cluster Program families indicated their intent to return to the building, only 5 or 6 students have been in attendance. Many of the Cluster Program students have unique medical needs making them more vulnerable to health risks. In addition, many cannot wear masks due to their special needs and/or require significant hands-on (not socially distanced) assistance including toileting in some cases.

Since the return of the Cluster Program at Lane Tech, at least one confirmed COVID-19 case has been identified at the school. In addition, several concerns have been brought to the attention of the Lane Tech Local School Council with respect to PPE, staffing, cleaning, air filters and teacher/staff accommodation requests. It is imperative that the safety and mitigation measures promised by the District are provided.

Accordingly, the Local School Council seeks the following assurances:

- That all teachers and staff will receive adequate PPE in a timely manner and at District expense;
- That the District will continue to provide additional personnel needed to ensure the staffing needs of the program are met, including in-person coverage for teachers who are remote and/or during teacher prep periods;
- That classrooms and others spaces in the building used by students, teachers and staff will be more thoroughly cleaned;
- That air filters provided by the District will be the correct size for the rooms in which they are installed;

- That teachers/staff work-from-home accommodation requests will be considered and decided quickly; and
- That all teachers and school personnel will receive the COVID-19 vaccine Exeditiously.

Thankfully, Lane Tech administrators, as well as parents, teachers and staff, have stepped up to rectify any immediate shortcomings. However, if a return to in-person instruction is to be safe and successful, then teachers and families must be confident in the provision and execution of all mitigation measures.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Lane Tech College Prep High School Local School Council

Cc: 47th Ward Alderman Matt Martin
Chicago Board of Education

[Paricia O'Keefe]
DRAFT Changes to Lane LSC Cluster Letter (1-30-2021)

The Local School Council of Lane Tech College Prep High School would like to provide Chicago Public Schools leadership and the Board of Education insight into our 15 days of Cluster Program in-person instruction. Our intent is to ensure adequate supplies, coverage and overall safety to create the best learning environment for the cluster students, their parents, teachers, and administration in these unprecedented rapidly changing times. **It is essential that our common collective goal must be that Chicago Public Schools (CPS) work with parents and teachers to create and execute a plan that is safe, equitable and instills trust among all parties.**

Lane Tech has approximately 65 cluster students. A total of 16 selected a return to in person learning however, only 5-6 have actually attended daily. Upon review of the facts and details specific to Lane Tech, we have identified several problems that undermine trust in the cluster in-person plan and cause concern for any future endeavors to provide in-person instruction to a wider population of Lane Tech students.

1) Delivery timing of PPE supplies was not adequately communicated causing parents to purchase supplies for students and teachers/staff.

While the “Readiness to Open Metrics for Lane Tech” indicate the itemized list as “all items fulfilled,” the timing caused panic and confusion. When Lane did not receive PPE by (insert DATE), parents in the Cluster Program felt they needed to take matters into their own hands and purchased PPE. Going forward, District provided PPE needs to be replenished in a timely manner and delivery schedules clearly communicated.

2) Coverage during teacher prep and lunch periods as well as in-room supervision requirements for teach-from-home accommodation is not sustainable or scalable.

The requirement that a certified teacher (not an Aide) must be physically present, in the room, while a teacher is teaching remotely, either for accommodation or the inevitable quarantine scenarios, is not sustainable, nor scalable. Lane administration initially filled this gap, then CPS provided temporary staff. The District needs to continue to provide additional personnel to ensure the staffing needs of the program are met, including in-person coverage for teachers who are remote and/or during teacher prep periods.

3) Air quality assessment was not sufficient when implemented in real life.

The air quality study for (fill in # of rooms impacted here) was not accurate. Lane administration did escalate the issue and it was resolved quickly. However, the assessment should have been accurate. Instead, it added an unnecessary burden at a time when everyone at Lane was busy working together for a successful opening for the Cluster Program.

4) Vaccinations for Teachers, Aides and Administration is critical to success.

Cluster students provide an added challenge when it comes to maintaining social distance as well as mask compliance. Some cannot wear masks for medical reasons. It is common sense that the teachers, aides and staff that interact with these students be vaccinated for the safety of all involved. Please prioritize those working in the Cluster Program.

5) Sanitation is imperative to curtail the spread of germs.

It is troubling that this needs to be listed, but there are mixed reviews of cleaning and differences in areas used vs unused spaces within the Lane building. Lane is allocated 18 custodians in the "Readiness to Open Plan for Lane" and it is inexcusable that a teacher reported seeing mouse droppings and dust covering surfaces in (list either where this is or if it a currently used or not used area). In addition, CPS needs to do a thorough assessment of bathroom facilities to the degree it did for air filtration. The bathrooms need proper fitting faucets, toilet paper & paper towel dispensers, soap, etc.

In closing, as of 1/25/2021 the Cluster Program at Lane Tech was shifted back to all remote learning. This is out of the control of the Lane LSC and if a return to in-person instruction is to be safe and successful, then teachers and families must be confident in the provision and execution of all mitigation measures.

Thank you for your consideration.