

**Stone Scholastic Academy**  
**Minutes of the Local School Council Meeting**  
**Held on Monday, December 7, 2015**  
**At Stone Scholastic Academy, Auditorium**

**Present:** Meredith Glick, Alija Kreho, Barb Onofrio, Asja Dizdarevic, Bernadette Moncher, Sana Ashfaq, Vito Greco, Jennifer Wynne, Jennifer Trautvetter, Amela Sabanovic, Susan Martin

**Public:** Jay Brandon

**Absent:** Tom McClurg

**Packet Contents:** Agenda, Principal's Report, Budget status report, Internal Accounting Balance Sheets (November and October), Stone Academy Newsletter

Chairperson, Vito Greco called the meeting to order at 6:38pm.

**Time Quorum established: 6:38pm**

1. Call to order/roll call
2. Approval of Agenda, Vito Greco motioned to approve the agenda, Meredith Glick seconded the motion. The motion passed: 10 votes affirming, 0 against, 0 abstaining
3. Approval of minutes from 10/19/15. Vito Greco motioned to approve the minutes, Bernadette Moncher seconded the motion. The motion passes: 9 votes affirming, 0 against, 1 abstent
4. Principal's Report:
  - **Request and Vote:** Check for the Rosemont Hockey partners \$1,070.50. Need to write a check and have Vito Greco sign (paid for by students). The motion passed: 10 votes affirming, 0 against, 0 abstaining
  - **Request and Vote:** Authorize Barb Onofrio to be able to sign checks up to \$2000.00 (currently only at \$1,000). The motion passed: 10 votes affirming, 0 against, 0 abstaining
  - Revenue generated from the FOSA sponsored Pockets fundraiser was \$429, ticket sales from the Write Club was \$1500. School Picture proceeds were \$970.88. Revenue from fee based programs: Chess- \$221, Kolor Me Kid-\$168, Judo-\$188, Music House \$1000. Proceeds from the PTA/FOSA movie night on Oct. 22 were \$322.73, and the PTA Scholastic Book Fair was \$1651.36.

- Clarification on T-Mobile contract: Term of contract is 5 years. The terms automatically renew for an additional 5 years (up to 25 years total), and fee goes up by 20% every 5 years. School allocation per board terms: Original term: \$8,000= per year, 1<sup>st</sup> renewal=\$9,600, 2<sup>nd</sup> renewal=11,520, 3<sup>rd</sup> renewal=\$13,824, 4<sup>th</sup> renewal=\$16,589. Stone may not terminate the agreement for a minimum of four years from the date of commencement. The construction will not begin until 2016 and is dependent on the City permitting process. Installation could be as early as March, but CPS feels it more likely will be slated for the summer.
- **Request and Vote:** School based fundraiser: Holiday Performance DVD sales (\$10 each) to support Technology Department, ticket sales for Winter play on Dec. 16<sup>th</sup> (\$4 adult/\$2 child) to support Fine Arts department. FOSA fundraiser: sale from Lynch Creek Farm (wreaths, etc.) and 50% sale of food items: Pockets Restaurant on January 22, 2016, proceeds to support arts, athletics and curriculum. Barb Onofrio motioned to approve the school based fundraisers, Vito Greco seconded the motion. The motion passed: 10 votes affirming, 0 against, 0 abstaining
- **Request and Vote:** From FOSA funds: \$2,360 to pay for 7<sup>th</sup> grade dance residency (African themed) to Urban Gateways, Dancing With Class (from FOSA) 3<sup>rd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade dance residency totaling \$6700, and from FOSA for kindergarten dance residency to Chicago Dance Crash-\$1,500. Total transfer from IA from FOSA is: \$10,560. Barb Onofrio motioned to approve the school based fundraisers, Vito Greco seconded the motion. The motion passed: 10 votes affirming, 0 against, 0 abstaining
- Stone faculty participated in professional development on Nov. 13<sup>th</sup>. Staff met and discussed: how to best utilize paraprofessionals in the classroom, the new Go-Math curriculum and pacing, and an examination of our current literacy program.
- Teachers continue to meet and collaboratively plan lessons (both Gen. Ed, Special Ed, and ELL teachers). This is a continuation of our McCarthy Dressman grant. A meeting is scheduled on 12/8/15.
- Ms. Karic and Agaton attended outside professional development related to math in November, and Ms. Goldberg and Loveless in December.
- Stone received the 2015 School Quality Rating Report in November. I am very pleased to report student progress is outstanding. We continue to

earn the highest possible rating for a Chicago Public School of 1+. Mr. Brandon will present on this topic after my report.

- We have added a new after school program which helps support our bilingual and English Language Learner students. The Office of Language and Culture made available, by application, funding for schools to run this program. Approximately 30 of our students in grades 2-8 have enrolled and instruction is being provided by Ms. Wynne and Ms. Moon, both of whom recently obtained their ESL endorsement. This program is at no cost to Stone and will run for 20 weeks. It began on November 16<sup>th</sup>. We continue to offer supplemental extended day services to our refugee students. This is in addition to the Refugee One program.
- Our upper grade students participated in the school wide Science Fair on Friday, December 4<sup>th</sup>, with Ms. Pfest as the teacher coordinator.
- Special Education appeal: I am pleased to announce we have been successful in our appeal. Not only are we able to keep the 2 proposed teacher cuts, we have been granted one additional position. Ms. Mary Williams will fill this special education position upon her return from a maternity leave. Ms. Ann Wengren has been staffed as a permanent faculty member and will remain in the 5<sup>th</sup> grade position she currently is filling during Ms. Williams' leave. This is effective on December 1st. The 2 proposed para-educator reductions are being left in tact.
- Our cleaning issues have drastically improved since our last meeting. Stone has been assigned a permanent day person, Mr. Fredrick Williams, previously from Howe. In addition to the full night time person who has been on board for some time now, our .5 person is new to us, Ms. Carmen Velez, and she is working out very well.
- On Friday, November 20<sup>th</sup>, we held our first Bilingual parent committee meeting. A presentation from the Frida Kahlo community Organization was provided, the content related to enriching children's writing skills. 15 parents were in attendance.
- Teachers will be taking a strike vote on December 9<sup>th</sup>. Stay tuned to the news for updates.
- On Thursday, November 5<sup>th</sup>, representatives from the Chicago Blackhawks organization, including former player Jamaal Meyers visited Stone Academy and taught a hockey clinic to 2 6<sup>th</sup> grade classes. Students

truly enjoyed learning the art of the game and the school was able to keep the following equipment: 2 goal nets, goalie pads and equipment for 2 players and 30 hockey sticks. A day of fun indeed!

- Thanks to the FOSA grants committee who submitted a proposal for funding for the MEMA residency project. A representative from the Field Museum visited Stone on Thursday, December 3 and met with the committee, administration and had an interview with current 8<sup>th</sup> grade students. We will hear if we are the recipient of this award on or about January 26<sup>th</sup>. Even if there is a strike and we do receive the grant, we will use the money for the programming. Our students were amazing and made a big impact!
- An announcement for the upcoming Spring LSC election was sent out to parents in early November. An election will be conducted on April 13, 2016 for a new LSC who will begin serving on July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2018. Applications for all interested can be obtained now in the school office. Mrs. Angela Moreno-Greer is the LSC election coordinator for Stone.
- Members met for the first Stone Community Engagement meeting on Monday, November 16<sup>th</sup>.
- The deadline to apply for admission into Stone and other Options for Knowledge schools is fast approaching (December 11<sup>th</sup>).
- Stone parents joined the communication to the state legislature and the governor by submitting a request to better support Chicago Public Schools and solve the fiscal challenges that we face. In all 341 letters were sent to Governor Rauner, expressing parental concern. FOSA helped to encourage parents to write to their local reps as well.
- The result of a parent survey inquiring about the student dress code is as follows: 67.2% of parents are in favor keeping the current dress code.
- 93.11% of parents attended Stone on Wednesday, November 18, 2015 for parent conferencing on report card pick up day.
- I hope you will all be able to join us on Friday, December 11<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 in the morning for our student Holiday Performance. This is sure to be a festive event, and it would be wonderful if you could join us.

- Incidence of neighborhood crime has increased. Barb Onofrio called police and asked for extra patrols. There was a domestic violence murder within a few blocks of the school, but this does not appear to be gang related.

5. Old Business:

- PPLC Update- Jennifer Wynne attended on November 4<sup>th</sup>. Reviewed results of SQRP and how to best spend school Improvement Days.
- PEC Update-
- Engagement Committee Update- The first meeting in November with Jennifer Wynne, Sana and Jennifer T. Brainstormed options for parents coming into the school and would like to be involved (i.e. childcare) and what the parents need (i.e. adult learning, internet use with parent portal and homework help). Talking about reaching out to different parents with different backgrounds (i.e. Sana being a point person for Pakistani families who may not speak English). A partnership with the LSC and FOSA to engage families.
- Communication Committee is meeting this Friday (12/11/15)
- Susan Martin is back to Stone three days a week.

6. New Business:

- SQRP (School Quality Rating Report): indicators of performance and growth in 5 categories: Reading (MAP/NWEA test), Math (MAP/NWEA test), Attendance, English Learner Progress, My Voice, My School Report
  - (a) These categories are weighted from 5-25%
  - (b) There is a large focus on growth. Attainment is considered 50% and above on MAP/NWEA tests. This compares Stone to other schools nationally.
  - (c) Stone received full points in almost all categories. Areas that scored slightly lower were some of our Diverse Learners in Math, the My Voice, My School Survey and Growth on ACCESS exam
  - (d) Stone is in the same category as the following schools: Edison, Decatur, and Blaine!
  - (e) We had a great year for growth in the area of Diverse Learners and for our English as a second language learners (these were areas that Stone specifically targeted)
- Budget Issues: We have dodged some funding cuts, but we have a potential of cuts coming in December or January. The worst case scenario: we could lose our Magnet school position. Our Magnet designation gives us 4 teaching positions. We want the right teachers for

the appropriate groups of kids that have the right endorsement/requirements. We may have to consider positions that are not stipulated as necessary by State of Illinois law. There are no clear cut or simple answers. It could take as much as \$75k to continue all teaching positions for one semester. We have about \$100k in reserve.

7. Public Participation: FOSA representative, Arjumund Orellana, spoke about concerns that Stone families don't have the deepest pockets, but we do have a great deal of diversity. It might be advantageous to communicate with PTA, FOSA and LSC to brainstorm new ideas for parent involvement. She also implemented the letters that went to Governor Rauner and stressed the importance for the LSC involvement.
8. Build next meeting agenda: Continuation of budget talks
9. Adjourn: Vito Greco motioned to adjourn, Bernadette Moncher seconded the motion, the motion passed: 10 affirming, 0 abstentions, 0 against. Meeting adjourned at 8:15pm.