



FOC Board Meeting, Thursday, March 11, 2021, 8:30pm

Present: Rob Staszczak, Lindsay Nelson, Karin Gutierrez, Julie Weber, Bailey Catonese, Joe Rappold, Jennifer Wilson, Danny Scott, April Matheny, Ana Kitic.

Called to order: Danny calls meeting to order at 8:35pm

Approval of Feb. minutes: April motions to approve minutes, Ana seconds motion. Minutes are approved.

Approval of agenda: Joe motions to approve agenda, April seconds motion.

Danny LSC update- Long, informative meeting. Luis Garcia presented CPS's preferred method of Friends of operation. FOC will continue to operate as is.

Admin update: Rob S.-Staff is currently overstretched to cover recess and breaks. Pre-k, K and 1 have had outdoor recess all week. Teachers are doing their best to manage the situation with in-person and remote. Working on rolling out afterschool programs.

Fresh food box pick-up today (Thursday) from Advocate Aurora. All boxes were collected.

Admin is trying to gauge how many students will be back in person for the fourth quarter to prepare. Rob asked if we've received an email survey or a text with a survey or a reminder. Most of us have gotten emails and some texts. Everyone should be on the lookout for a LINK card with food for all CPS students.

Joe asked if teachers have been able to get vaccines. Rob said that many teachers are now vaccinated and plan to return to in person instruction.

Treasurer's report: Have combined our two accounts into one Chase account. Also closed PayPal account and deposited into Chase bank account. Grand total expected for month of March: \$67,004.59.

Communication updates: Bailey-working with Erin on organizing upcoming events and corresponding communication plans. Cohesive message to send out in newsletter and on social media.

Jennifer: Can we continue to push teachers to use Dojo, and if not teachers, then parents at least. Maybe there is a workaround for parents to be able to join. Rob will look into a way of getting parents on Dojo.

Fundraising: Joe-dine-outs ongoing. Blue Foods only had 9 families go, but we're going to keep trying with them. McDonald's coming out, Mima's, Tano's and Easy Street in the pipeline. Street pole banners are a goal for 2022. Sell ad space on street poles in the neighborhood. Charge \$500 per banner-according to DePaul college prep. Also seek money from alderman's office. Mike wants to plan a dad's night out, potentially a bowling night. Followed by a mom's night.

Potential fundraiser: Savers-donate clothes. Try to push for as many students as possible. Make it a competition between classes or grade levels to see who can bring the most stuff.

Seedlings: Jaime Andrade will help with our event, bring volunteers and PPE.

Grubhub partnership, choose a day and Grubhub gives back a percentage.

Rob: Is there a March Madness fundraiser? Bailey said not this year, logistically there isn't enough time, hopefully for 2022.

Jennifer: Dine-outs are difficult for Hispanic community to attend financially and they are looking for other ways to participate and fundraise.

Danny: Market Days-Needs someone to be the point person.

Lindsay: Spirit wear! Do a tri-annual event. Once in Spring-early April, some uniform approved items, July as a back to school event and holidays-November. Sales open for one week on-line. Two week fulfillment period. \$4.95 fee for assembly that parents would need to pay. Also liquidate inventory we have currently (Danny's storage room). Looking at what was offered last year and what was actually ordered. Stick with Done Deal, previous vendor, for now, then possibly explore other vendors later. Looking to find out which items are uniform approved. Can be worn on spirit days.

Jennifer: Maybe extend period to two weeks to cover pay day and budgeting, etc.

Julie: Virtual Celebrate-May 14<sup>th</sup> or 15<sup>th</sup>, 8:30-10:30pm. Free event, sell add on and additional packages. Dry run on April 16<sup>th</sup>. Beer basket, wine basket, food basket. Ideas are bingo, stand-up comedy, awards, giveaways. Main objective is fun night for parents.

Joe: Mike's idea is to have a Cub or Bears player appear for a cameo at the end of the event, to keep people online. Keep it a surprise and say there's a surprise guest.

Danny-Reminder to nominate people for the Committed to Cleveland awards. Asked Rob to send Aisha's contact information as a nominee.

Family Engagement. March 23<sup>rd</sup> Seedling event. Meredith and Danny will lead meeting, Karin will interpret. Zoom starts at 7:30pm. 200 seedling kits will be handed out including flowers and vegetables. May 8<sup>th</sup> 10am-2pm plant swap and seedling sale fundraiser. Looking for seedling and soil donations.

Rob Nelson-Welcome to the Neighborhood, mailed 75 letters to all new homes in the area. Will do another roll out in August. Also delivered signs to new homes.

Staff Appreciation: Meredith is not present, but Danny and her are discussing plans for when teachers go back to school.

Other announcements: Neoprene chromebook sleeves-were too small! They look great, but they don't fit. Waiting to hear back from vendor.

Danny: Zoom account has been secured. We can purchase a large event package for just one month. All board members will be able to create meetings. Danny will share log in information.

Website: Bailey-meeting with vendors, interested in Campus Suite, they have 12 templates available. Neighboring communities are using this company, Oak Brook, etc. We choose a template, provide the content, the design team will put it all together. Very user friendly for us to have an admin who can

update the website at any time. Price for first year is \$5300, price for subsequent years is \$2800. Price is more competitive than other vendors. 6-8 week time line.

Julie: Does the school have a budget for the website? Rob: no. And we may need to seek approval from Deb and LSC. Bailey says comparable neighborhood schools all seem to be doing their own thing. Rob will consult with Deb and legal.

Jennifer: What is the difference between what we have (WordPress) and what the new vendor would provide? Bailey-The edits seem to be easier and are easier to build new pages and add links, etc. Jennifer's experience is that it's fairly easy and straightforward to edit the website.

Danny: Someone needs to be the website captain. Constantly editing and making changes. Frustration lies in the fact that we can't get content from teachers and we can't take over the calendar management.

Lauren: Let's focus on small things we can update. Spread the knowledge so multiple people can edit. If we have the ability to update it, let's do it. Overhaul Pre-K website so it doesn't just link to Chicago Early Learning website. Make it easy, convenient and helpful.

Bailey: We'll reconvene to discuss the website further to improve the front page, make it more user friendly, etc.

Rob will ask Bateman who they have managing their website.

Danny: Reconvene to discuss websites further. Ask for best practices from neighbors like Bateman. Should FOC pay for a new website or should the school allocate funds or the LSC? Thanks to Bailey and Lauren for doing the research.

Next Meeting set for April 8<sup>th</sup> at 8:30pm.

Motion to adjourn by April, seconded by Ana.

Meeting adjourned at 10:20pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Karin Gutierrez

Secretary, FOC