

Murray Language Academy  
Local School Council  
5335 S. Kenwood Ave  
Library

LSC Meeting  
January 23rd at 5:30pm in Multi-Purpose Room

## Minutes

- I. Call to Order - Ms. A. Johnson at 5:36pm
- II. Roll Call - Ms. B. Biggs - **Present:** Mr. Baker, Ms. Shannon, Ms. Y. Muhammad, Ms. S. Irby, Ms. M. Williams, Mr. Graves, Ms. A. Johnson, Ms. Biggs, Mr. Anisfeld, Ms. H. Muhammad, Ms. Bridges, Ms. Shenita Johnson (Community rep) **Absent:** Mr. Anisfeld, Mr. C. Alfred (student rep)
- III. Approval of Agenda - Ms. A. Johnson: 1st Mr. Baker, Ms. Y. Muhammad 2nd, all vote yes and motion carries
- IV. Approval of meeting minutes from previous meeting - 1st Ms. Williams, 2nd Graves, all vote yes, and carry
- V. Public Participation - limited to 2 minutes per individual
  - a. H. Muhammad - there is no special ed teacher for K-2, is that true? Mr. Baker confirmed that yes, there is not a teacher currently but the position is being filled by 2 folks sharing the time. Can this become a permanent agenda item? A request is made for a report to be shared every month. PPLC met and is discussing how to address this.
  - b. Parent asking for communication about handwriting requirements and grade on report card.
  - c. Nicolette Stanton - parent of 5th grade student. Concerns about learning environment and teaching style. Mr. Baker will think through this and get back in touch.
  - d. Ms. Wood - Echoing sentiments of Ms. Stanton.
  - e. Ms. Johnson - Can Mr. Baker share how often and when he is observing teachers? What expectations are communicated to teachers about communicating with parents? Communication is a theme this year. Evaluation cycle is on REACH - 1-2 formal observations and 1 informal observation each year. Teachers are not allowed to implement random curriculum, they must follow the curriculum told to them.
  - f. Ms. Wells - Mother to kindergartner, concerned about what meals are offered to the kids and the request for snacks to be brought in by parents. The school provides breakfast, lunch, and afterschool snacks to kids in afterschool programs.

- g. Ms. Stewart - Teachers are supposed to provide the curriculum at the beginning of each quarter and it isn't happening. Regarding 5th grade specifically, Ms. Berry is supporting the grades getting into Aspen.
  - h. Ms. S. Irby - Concerns about decorum in the classroom. Applications for LSC are due February 8th. May 4th Weather Day and White Sox tickets.
  - i. Ms. Ramirez - Adding to the math discussion about Dr. Brown.
- VI. Closed Session - Ms. Bridges 1st for closed and Ms. Y Muhammad 2nd, all vote yes and motion carried. Closed session started at 6:09pm. Open session begins again at 6:37 pm.
- VII. Reports - limited to 3 minutes per individual
- a. Principal - link
  - b. PPLC - Link
  - c. PSRP - Going to Springfield in March
  - d. PAC - n/a
  - e. PTO - African American fair on February 29th.
  - f. CIWP - Has not met
  - g. Student representative - N/A
- VIII. New Business
- a. Budget transfer request - Legends of Learning - Ms. Shannon - Site license is \$1800 for the year for k-8 but will be prorated. Would be moved from the budget line to be used at our discretion Mr. Baker makes motion, Mr. Graves 2nd, all yes, motion carries.
  - b. Ms. Akins would like to host a fundraiser in February for the PTO - Double Good popcorn to raise money for the fair. Will happen within the next week. Mr. Baker makes motion to approve PTO fundraiser, Mr. Graves, 2nds, all yes, motion carries.
- IX. Adjournment - Ms. A. Johnson 6:52pm

Closed Session Notes:

Ms. Irby to discuss parents' concerns with the decorum of Dr. Brown.

Ms. Irby: Speaking up on behalf of the parents who have kids who are afraid to ask questions and who are afraid to speak up.

Ms. Y Muhammad: Dr. Brown is phenomenal. We can't ostracize a teacher because some parents don't like her personality. As many parents who are frustrated there are a lot of parents who like her. Dr. Brown made time to help kiddos study and prepare for testing in math centers. Her methodology brings success.

Ms. A. Johnson: Also a fan of the makeup process. Her style is direct. Not trying to dismiss the concerns. The rigor is there and is important.

Ms. Bridges: Is there a requirement to offer makeups? No, there is not. The hoops that the kids have to jump through might better prepare them to do better on the makeup. The

communication is efficient and timely. She's using the school's curriculum, everything is on the blog at the

Ms. Williams: Sits in Dr. Brown's room a few days a week. If the kids pay attention and follow along with her directions they are set up for success. If they put their hoodie up or mess on their phone they will miss out.

Ms. S Johnson: Motion to end closed session, Irby 2nd, 6:36 ended

Mr. Baker: How many times will I ask a teacher to defend her teaching process in public? His focus is on keeping rigorous teachers in the building. He will report back on what he plans to do in the next LSC meeting.