

Edison Regional Gifted Center Local School Council Organizational Meeting

07 JUL 2016

High Level Summary

The following lists key actions/decisions of the meeting. Details can be found in a subsequent section.

- I. Call to order / Roll call**
 - a. K Valentine called the meeting to order at 7:03PM
 - b. In attendance (quorum present)
 - i. Sheila Quirke
 - ii. Carolyn Gourash
 - iii. Daneal Silvers
 - iv. David Barber
 - v. Ernesto Perez
 - vi. Karen Valentine
 - vii. Brad Katz
 - viii. Jim Magas
 - ix. Michelle Sevig
 - x. Ben Whitford (via Skype – not counted toward quorum)
 - c. Unable to attend
 - i. Jill Martensen
 - d. Also in attendance were 20 stakeholders and Luis Garcia-Juarez from CPS LSC Relations
 - e. The meeting was recorded (audio) by J Magas and a video recording was made by one of the stakeholders
- II. Temporary Positions [7:04PM]**
 - a. While not on agenda it was agreed to vote in a temporary chair and secretary until those positions are formally filled.
 - i. K Valentine served as temporary chair
 - ii. E Perez serves as temporary secretary
- III. Vote to Allow Electronic Participation [7:05PM]**
 - a. It was unanimously approved to allow B Whitford to participate in the meeting electronically.
- IV. Approval of agenda [7:05PM]**
 - a. Unanimously approved
- V. Approval of Minutes (Regular meeting June 13, 2016) [7:05PM]**
 - a. Approved by 6 members of the Council.
- VI. Welcome New Principal [7:06PM]**
 - a. The LSC welcomed ERGC's new principal, K Valentine. She provided the LSC with a packet containing various documents as well as gave an update on her activities so far, trends identified and next steps.
- VII. Nominations and Vote for Chair Position [7:07PM]**
 - a. B Whitford was unanimously approved. Due to B Whitford participating electronically, it was agreed that K Valentine would continue to chair the meeting.
- VIII. Nominations and Vote for Vice Chair Position [7:07PM]**
 - a. 2 candidates came forward
 - b. No one received a majority of votes
 - c. Item tabled for next meeting
- IX. Nominations and Vote for Secretary Position [7:12PM]**
 - a. E Perez was unanimously approved.
- X. Nominations and Vote for FOIA/OMA officer [7:13PM]**
 - a. It was noted that the previous FOIA/OMA officer is no longer on the Council so the LSC would need to vote a new member to this position.
 - b. J Magas was unanimously approved.
- XI. Discussion re. committees and CIWP teams, AY 2016-2017 [7:15PM]**
 - a. All were reminded that the current CIWP (Continuous Improvement Work Plan) contains recommendation for 5 teams to help with meeting the goals of the school.
 - b. K Valentine agreed to send out an email soliciting input then planning accordingly; they will not be part of the LSC.

- c. Sheila Quirke asked that we have a communications committee for the LSC. Since the school is looking to revamp its communications, it was suggested this topic be deferred but that everyone should come to the next meeting with ideas. A survey was suggested to solicit input from the community; Sheila Quirke agreed to develop one. A question was raised on whether we had to vote on the survey before it is sent – yes. As a result, the survey will not be sent until the LSC can review and vote.
- XII. Discussion re. dates and times for regular LSC meetings, AY 2016-2017 [7:39PM]**
- a. After discussion, the following dates were agreed upon: 3rd Tuesday of every month (except June) at 7PM
 - b. Exact dates are:
 - i. August 16
 - ii. September 20
 - iii. October 18
 - iv. November 15
 - v. December 20
 - vi. January 17
 - vii. February 21
 - viii. March 21
 - ix. April 18
 - x. May 16
 - xi. June 13
 - c. The Organizational Meeting for the 2017-2018 school year was set for July 18
 - d. K Valentine will confirm which room would be used in future meetings
- XIII. Old Business [7:52PM]**
- a. One item remaining from the previous LSC was reviewed. The PTO pays for the school copier and would like to switch to a lease. There was an outstanding question on whether CPS will allow the PTO to hold the lease. K Valentine found out there are a few ways to handle this situation with the appropriate paperwork. K Valentine and the PTO will work out the details; item closed.
- XIV. Open Forum [7:53PM]**
- a. Various stakeholders questioned aspects of J Martensen's decision to stay on the LSC. The topic was deferred until she could be present.
 - b. The principal was asked about open positions; she cannot begin to fill now until we see our budget. Karen indicated a hiring committee would be put in place as part of the process.
 - c. Someone asked if the PPLC be reinstated since it did not meet last year. K Valentine indicated it would be.
 - d. There was a question about the status of Mrs. Oberhardt's appeal. L Garcia indicated the LSC was not at liberty to discuss. There is an open question about whether this only pertains to the previous LSC. It was confirmed no school funds have/will be used for the appeal.
 - e. S McNabb asked about a community outreach committee as she had all of the old documentation. It was given to K Valentine.
 - f. K Valentine stated that after discussions with Ms. Jeffers, she has provided Ms. Jeffers a Displacement Letter. Given the uncertainty with the budget, it is not clear the school will be able to retain the position so this allows Ms. Jeffers to start applying now for open positions. If Edison has the budget for the Assistant Principal position, Ms. Jeffers could apply for the position and would return if she is considered the best candidate.
- XV. Discussion re. Agenda for Next Regular Meeting (8:23PM)**
- a. The following items were agreed to be included in the next meeting.
 - i. Expectations for Principal Evaluation
 - ii. Vote for Vice Chair
 - iii. Committee discussion
 - iv. Community Representative / J Martensen discussion
 - v. Spending Limit
- XVI. Adjournment [8:37PM]**
- a. B Katz made a motion to adjourn the meeting, S Quirke seconded the motion.
 - b. Unanimously approved.
- XVII. Additional information**

- a. C Gourash asked if filming could occur without a vote. L Garcia said it could as it was an open meeting.

XVIII. Action items

Date Raised	Action	Assigned	Due Date	Status
7 JUL 16	Develop LSC communication survey	S Quirke	16 AUG 16	
21 JUL 16	Confirm room location for future LSC meetings	K Valentine	16 AUG 16	

XIX. Items closed since previous meeting

Date Raised	Action	Assigned	Due Date	Status
11 APR 16	Determine if CPS will allow PTO to hold the lease for the copier			Closed; can be done

Meeting Detail

The following provides more comprehensive detail of the meeting however it is not a transcript. Please listen to the audio of the meeting for exact proceedings.

In Attendance

Cat Murray, Sarah Colella, Nick Colella, Audrey Jonas, Amy Spizzo, Heidi Steiner, Jane McKay, Deni Drinkwater, Rebecca Clarke, Francis Allende, William Scanlan, Sandy McNabb, Howard Chang, Woo Raphael, Andrew Bernotas, Marcy Kolath, EJ Sieracki, Katie Sieracki, Susan Ziegler, Luis Garcia, +1 more parent

- I. Call to Order and Roll Call (7:03PM)**
 - A. K Valentine called the meeting
 - B. In attendance: Sheila Quirke, Carolyn Gourash, Daneal Silvers, David Barber, Ernesto Perez, Karen Valentine, Brad Katz, Jim Magas, Michelle Sevig, Ben Whitford (via Skype)
 - C. Absent: J Martensen (illness)
 - D. Quorum present
- II. Selection of Temporary Chair (7:04PM)**
 - A. Move to have K Valentine serve as Temporary Chair
 - B. Approved unanimously
- III. Selection of Temporary Secretary (7:04PM)**
 - A. Move to have E Perez serve as Temporary Secretary.
 - B. Approved unanimously
- IV. Vote to Allow Electronic Participation/Vote (7:05PM)**
 - A. Move to allow B Whitford to participate/vote electronically
 - B. Approved unanimously
- V. Approval of Agenda (7:05PM)**
 - A. Move to approve agenda
 - B. Approved unanimously
- VI. Approval of Minutes from Regular Meeting on June 13th (7:06PM)**
 - A. Move to approve minutes
 - B. Approved (voted on by those who received the minutes)
- VII. Welcome Principal (7:06PM)**
 - A. K Valentine introduced herself, then passed around a packet for each member of the LSC
 - i. Contained:
 - a. Agenda for Organizational Meeting
 - b. After The Fact Candidate Statement (Jill Martensen)
 - c. Funds Summary
 - d. CIWP 2016-2018 Plan Summary
 - e. Entry Update
- VIII. Nominations and Vote for Chair position (7:07PM)**
 - A. E Perez nominated B Whitford, S Quirke seconded
 - B. Approved unanimously
 - C. K Valentine asked B Whitford if he would like her to continue chairing the meeting. B Whitford agreed.
- IX. Nominations and Vote for Vice Chair Position (7:07PM)**
 - A. B Katz nominated himself
 - B. S Quirke nominated herself
 - i. Luis was asked for guidance
 - a. Names would be randomly drawn to decide order of vote
 - C. B Katz received
 - i. 3 yes votes (M Sevig, B Katz, C Gourash)
 - ii. 6 abstentions (J Magas, K Valentine, E Perez, D Barber, D Silvers, S Quirke, B Whitford)
 - iii. 0 opposed
 - iv. C Gourash asked if there needed to be permission to record the meeting. (W Raphael had set up a camera to record the meeting)
 - a. L Garcia said there was no need for permission as it was a public meeting
 - D. S Quirke received
 - i. 4 yes votes (J Magas, E Perez, S Quirke, B Whitford)
 - ii. 3 abstentions (K Valentine, D Barber, D Silvers)

- iii. 2 opposed (C Gourash, M Sevig)
- iv. After discussion of possible next steps there was a motion (E Perez, S Quirke) to table to vote for another meeting. Motion was passed unanimously

X. Nominations and Vote for Secretary Position (7:12PM)

- A. J Magas nominated E Perez, D Silvers seconded
- B. Approved unanimously

XI. Nominations and Vote for FOIA/OMA officer (7:13)

- A. L Garcia asked if the previous officer was on the current Council. Troy Hower who served as FOIA/OMA officer is not a member of this LSC.
- B. M Sevig asked what the position entailed.
 - i. Luis gave some information regarding duties, responsibilities and training.
- C. B Whitford nominated B Katz. B Katz declined
- D. B Whitford nominated J Magas, J Magas seconded.
- E. Approved unanimously

XII. Discussion re. committees and CIWP teams, AY 2016-2017 (7:15PM)

- A. D Silvers discussed the CIWP
 - i. Attendance Team
 - ii. Community Partnership Team
 - iii. STEM team (Tech and Library)
 - iv. Fine Arts team
 - v. Green Space team
- B. S Quirke brought up the idea of a Communications Committee
 - i. web site development
 - ii. social media
 - iii. include parents since there is a “wealth of specific skills that they could bring to the school”
- C. D Silvers explained that each committee would have a person that would come to the LSC meetings to give a report. There was further discussion regarding possible liaison role between LSC and committees.
- D. B Katz asked L Garcia to talk about compliance as it related to the committees. L Garcia said that if the LSC chose to create these committees that they would be an extension of LSC, subject to OMA (posting agendas 48 hrs before meetings, records must be taken, quorum requirements, attendance)
- E. D Silvers asked if it was possible to not have the committees be “official”. L Garcia answered that it would make organizational sense to have the teams driven by the Principal.
- F. S Quirke asked K Valentine if she would be okay with “getting her feet wet” by taking this on. K Valentine suggested sending out email asking parents for input/interest level and then proceed accordingly.
- G. M Sevig asked if this committee would be dealing with how the LSC communicates in general as there have been issues with communication in the past. It was suggested that this be a separate committee to address those problems specific to the way the LSC communicates with the rest of the community.
- H. S Quirke asked if it would be okay to have 2-3 LSC members brainstorm ideas then present them to the Council as a whole. L Garcia stated that while that did not violate OMA it would be better to create a committee to do that in the spirit of engaging other stakeholders (parents, faculty, etc.) or at least give them visibility on the work.
- I. B Katz asked if the discussion could be tabled once it is identified what the school wants to do in terms of the web site, etc.
- J. S Quirke reiterated her motivation for the site and how to get ideas for it. E Perez mentioned the various channels that currently deliver LSC information (LSC site, LSC Facebook page, Facebook Friends of page, Awesome Parents page, email) S Quirke asked about how the current LSC Facebook page was handled. B Katz gave a summary of how the page came to be and the motivation behind it.
- K. K Valentine suggested creating a “one stop shop” Facebook page that would contain information on the school and LSC that could be used to send out notifications, meeting minutes. E Perez suggested revamping the current LSC site.
- L. D Silvers asked if some of these ideas could be brought to the next meeting. She suggested creating an online survey to collect feedback from parents. K Valentine asked if

S Quirke could create the survey. S Quirke said she could. If anyone has any ideas or suggestions they should contact S Quirke. K Valentine said she could send out an email.

- M. B Katz asked if it was possible for LSC members to individually respond to S Quirke's email regarding suggestion. L Garcia answered by reminding the Council that the Communication Committee issue was not on the agenda. We should vote to create committee or table discussion to special meeting
- N. B Whitford suggested tabling discussion to next meeting.

XIII. Discussion re. dates and times for regular LSC meetings, AY 2016-2017 (7:39PM)

- A. There was discussion about what time to have meetings. It was brought up that 7 may be too late for faculty/staff. It was also brought up that 6 may be too early for those trying to make it to the school from different parts of the city. K Valentine stated that she would have class (doctorate) on Mondays and Wednesday but that if need be she could work around that. M Sevig and E Perez suggested that the meeting time be consistent to allow for better planning.
- B. D Silvers suggested 2nd Tuesday if each month at 7PM
- C. D Drinkwater asked if there would be childcare during those meetings as had been the case in the preceding months. W Scanlan said he had talked to Child Guidance who had provided the services and while he thought they would provide the service, having the meeting at 7 would create a "gap" of time. W Scanlan suggested looking into an alternative. D Drinkwater suggested the 8th grade students could use it as a way to accumulate Community Service hours.
- D. S Quirke made a motion to have the Regular meetings held the second Tuesday of each month at 7PM.
- E. B Whitford asked if some of the meetings could be held at a different time due to scheduling conflicts.
- F. L Garcia suggested that every meeting date be designated for the sake of clarity.
- G. E Perez suggested having the meetings on the third Tuesday to allow for any documentation needed for each meeting (budget, Chase account, etc.)
- H. August 16, September 20, October 18, November 15, December 20, January 17, February 21, March 21, April 18, May 16, June 20.
- I. B Whitford asked if the first Tuesday of February could be used.
- J. M Sevig noted that June 20 is the last day of school. June 13 was proposed.
- K. L Garcia asked that the LSC select their Organizational meeting in July 2017. B Katz pointed out that the 3rd Tuesday would fall outside of the 2-week period the Organizational meeting is designated to take place. L Garcia said it was "close enough."
- L. K Valentine made a motion to approve the following dates: August 16, September 20, October 18, November 15, December 20, January 17, February 21, March 21, April 18, May 16, June 13 and Organizational meeting on July 18.
- M. Brad seconded the motion.
- N. Approved unanimously
- O. K Valentine asked if the room currently being used would be the same room moving forward. D Drinkwater suggested confirming with APMA as it is not an ERGC room.

XIV. Old Business (7:52PM)

- A. C Gourash had requested to have one item carried over from last year to make sure it was covered. The PTO currently pays for the copier. They want to change to a lease. We needed to find out if CPS will allow the PTO to hold the lease. We found out there are a few ways to do this with the appropriate paperwork. Karen and the PTO will work out the details; item closed.

XV. Open Forum (7:53PM)

- A. S Colella stated that she had wanted to speak to Jill Martensen about her decision to stay on the LSC but J Martensen was not in attendance due to illness. After reading the statement J Martensen had provided she had another question regarding the statement that the majority of the LSC supported her decision to stay on. S Colella asked how this was communicated. E Perez stated that he had communicated with her individually via phone. M Sevig said she had not talked to her personally and that there had been no "group communication". S Colella stated that she was disappointed in the turn of events and suggested J Martensen resign then reapply for the position.
- B. S Colella asked K Valentine about vacant staffing positions. K Valentine answered that due to the lack of a budget it made the situation "tricky". If she made offers now she might

have to rescind later on. She was told that budget would be made available early next week. As soon as there is an update she would share the information. C Gourash asked if there would be a "hiring committee" that would include parents. K Valentine said there would be as this practice was used by the previous administration.

- C. A Jonas introduced herself and summarized the election results that had J Martensen and C Gourash elected as Community Representatives. She then asked when J Martensen's decision to stay on was communicated to the LSC. S Quirke and E Perez noted that it was in an email that was sent on June 28. E Perez stated that J Martensen had asked him to read the email at the meeting. After some discussion regarding where the contents of the email would be made available, the text was read.
 - i. Edison LSC Board members,

Due to personal reasons, I tried in every way possible to remove my candidacy from this past LSC election. I was late in getting the formal paperwork in and missed the deadline but I did put on the Edison FB page, Mrs. Oberhardt announced it at an LSC meeting and it was on the candidate website. I asked people not to vote for me, yet I was still elected.

With this in mind, and some change in circumstances, I have thought long and hard about what this means. **I have decided to take my elected position and work for the Edison community. I will NOT be resigning at this time.** The voters have spoken and while recent chatter shows, this will undoubtedly not be met with 100% support from all my fellow board members, I know the LSC rules and have called upon my contacts in CPS legal for guidance. The election process was clearly spelled out for voters and not challenged, and the time to challenge my results in the election has passed as well. Although I expressed resistance and my intent not serve in writing on FB, it was not the formal resignation as necessary to give up my spot as community rep. I expressed uncertainty at that time as to my final decision as well. So, the results stand as is. I am writing this to stop all speculation regarding this issue, and I hope we can come together as a board to lead the community in putting a stop to the negativity that surrounds us at present time.

I think you will find my vast LSC experience will benefit the school and it's community. I have led the charge on many important issues not only at the school level but within CPS at large, including being on the committee to get the Academic Center at Lane Tech High School. I have been a guest speaker for the (former) office of academic enhancement, speaking about selective enrollment schools to prospective parents, have been through major construction projects as well as budget crisis. I have made many close contacts at the board level over the years. I plan to use my experience and contacts to help the transition to a new principal, as I did at Decatur Classical School, where I was LSC chair for 6 years.

I have helped acclimate a new principal and garner unity within a school for the good of all. Change isn't easy but if we work together it can be a good thing.

Again, **I WILL take my position on the Edison LSC as of July 1, 2016.** I look forward to working with you all.

Thanks,
Jill Martensen

- D. A Jonas asked why the contents of the letter had not been made public when it was first sent to the members of the LSC. E Perez responded that J Martensen had requested that it not be made public so as to not create negative responses as those found on the Awesome Parents of ERGC Facebook page. B Katz said he had asked J Martensen if she would share the statement with the public and was told "no". S Colella stated that a number of people had told her that they had not cast a vote for a second Community Representative due to the position being uncontested. She further stated that her actions "affect us all" and "fuels the negative feelings about this LSC process." H Steiner seconded S Colella's statement. A Jonas pointed out that she has not personally seen J Martensen at LSC meetings and stated that Open Forum was a place to voice opinions. D Drinkwater stated that J Martensen was not at this meeting due to having Pneumonia. D Drinkwater further stated that questioning someone's integrity while they were not present to defend themselves could also be considered a lack of integrity on the part of those doing so and suggested tabling the discussion until J Martensen could be present. S Colella took exception to this. L Garcia asked the Chairman to move on. K Valentine ended the discussion by suggesting the Open Forum move on. Despite this H Chang asked the LSC members to explain their position as it related to J Martensen's statement that "the majority of the LSC supported her staying on". B Whitford answered that while there being confusion surrounding the vote was unfortunate, there was no intention to create such confusion. Furthermore it would be up to J Martensen to decide to resign or not. H Chang asked again for clarification from the Council and B Whitford responded that it was up to J Martensen. K Valentine said it seemed the topic would be tabled until J Martensen could be present.

- E. R Clarke talked about her disapproval of J Martensen's decision but also related information from CPS Legal. CPS Legal asked R Clarke to convey that J Martensen did not "break any rules". R Clarke then reiterated that while it was not illegal it was "a little bit problematic".
- F. F Allende stated that she also had similar questions and concerns as had been previously stated at the meeting and that she had talked to J Martensen directly and had her questions and concerns addressed. She then asked the faculty members of the LSC if the PPLC would be reinstated since it did not meet during the previous LSC's tenure. She also asked if the CIWP would include input from faculty as well. Lastly she asked if there was any information pertaining to Mrs. Oberhardt's appeal to which L Garcia responded that the LSC was "not at liberty to discuss a matter that is not available to be discussed." B Katz asked if the appeal was not a matter pertaining to this current LSC and L Garcia answered that it was an interesting question as it was an open matter. F Allende clarified that she only wanted to know if the LSC was discussing the matter, not details. K Valentine said she had no information regarding the appeal. L Garcia said that the current process only involves the former LSC and this council is "not touched at this point" and only until the matter is resolved and the District has made its decision. E Perez asked if the litigation was specifically between the previous LSC and Mrs Oberhardt or if it was between the ERGC LSC in general. L Garcia said that "broadly speaking" it was between the LSC that made the decision to not renew and the principal involved. F Allende asked if any related costs of the appeal affected the school's budget. L Garcia responded "That is not something for this LSC or community to worry about." After being asked for clarification, L Garcia stated that the money did not come out of the school's budget. S McNabb confirmed that the money did not come out of the previous school budget.
- G. K Valentine stated that because she preferred to follow the rules she would be making sure the PPLC will be a functional body.
- H. W Scanlan was the next speaker but he gave up his time.
- I. S McNabb asked if there would be a committee focused on reaching out to the community. She copied all the notes from the Outreach and Advocacy committee and wanted to pass them along to whoever was going to chair the new committee. The notes were passed in a folder that had puppies and kittens on it.
- J. H Chang again brought up the topic of new members of the LSC asking J Martensen "to stay on". D Silvers suggested waiting to ask J Martensen personally. H Chang reiterated the statement regarding the support by new members of the LSC and asked who that was. J Magas answered that he was one of the people to do so and when asked why that would be a benefit to the school he stated her past experiences as member of an LSC, Chair of an LSC and her accomplishments at other schools such as Decatur. H Chang stated he did not question her qualifications but rather wanted to know if there was concern about the "perceived legitimacy of that direction." E Perez answered that he also supported J Martensen due to her qualifications and stated that she followed the rules and as such there should not be any question of legitimacy.
- K. K Valentine stated once again that J Martensen would need to address the issue. She assured those in attendance that their concerns were being heard but for the sake of not making any of the members of the LSC uncomfortable she asked if it was okay to wait for J Martensen to address the issue herself. H Chang stated he wanted to get clarification from the LSC members in terms of who asked her to stay. M Sevig stated that only J Martensen could clarify her statement. R Clarke said she appreciated H Chang's "process" as only two members of the LSC had responded.
- L. K Valentine stated that she had met with Ms Jeffers and that she would be given an Assistant Principal Displacement letter and if the budget allowed for an AP position, Ms Jeffers could apply for the position. If she is considered the best candidate then she can return as the AP. The process to hire an AP would involve parents and faculty. She can also seek employment elsewhere.

XVI. Discussion re. Agenda for Next Regular Meeting (8:23PM)

- A. C Gourash asked that the expectations for Principal Evaluation be discussed at the next meeting.
- B. B Katz said that in the former LSC there was a "boilerplate" agenda created that certain things that were expected to happen were already on it and special items could be added.

- C. C Gourash pointed out that there were three tabled discussions that would need to be addressed at the next meeting.
 - i. Vice Chair
 - ii. Committees
 - iii. J Martensen
- D. S Quirke stated that at the LSC training that she attended with J Magas the Compliance Officer that ran the training had suggested adding a vote to go into Closed Session on every agenda and if it isn't needed you can just table it. L Garcia stated that was a "most unhelpful idea". When asked if he disagreed with the other CO L Garcia answered that he did not disagree but that it was not a "helpful idea." He then explained best practices for listing items on the agenda as well as when to go into Closed Session. S Quirke listed other items that were recommended by the other CO to add to the boiler plate agenda but it was agreed that this was not needed.
- E. C Gourash brought up the topic of voting on the fundraising by the 8th grade students. L Garcia clarified that it only needs to be added to the agenda if the Council is going to be the one raising the money. If the topic is fundraising by students then that would be handled by the Principal.
- F. K Valentine brought up the topic of the \$2K spending limit. C Gourash clarified that the LSC would need to vote on increasing the limit as it is currently at \$1K.
- G. B Katz brought up the topic of school fees. K Valentine suggested this topic be discussed once the budget was delivered by CPS.
- H. S Ziegler brought up the idea of removing the fundraising aspect of the child care so as to accommodate parents who may not be able to afford it.

XVII. Discussion re. Budget and Date for Next Special Meeting (8:34PM)

- A. There was discussion about when CPS would be delivering the budget to the Principals. It seemed that it would be early next week. L Garcia explained that a Special Meeting was considered tentatively and that it only need be posted 48hrs in advance. B Katz asked if an online survey could be used to gauge availability and L Garcia answered it could if it was only one-way (communication).

XVIII. Adjourn

- A. Motion to adjourn (B Katz, S Quirke) (8:37PM)

XIX. Action Items

- A. S Quirke would put together a survey requesting information on how the LSC should communicate with the rest of the community.

XX. Addendum

- A. After the Fact Candidate Statement from J Martensen

July 7, 2016

My name is Jill Martensen, and I have 3 children, two that went to Edison Regional Gifted Center. While I realize my start with the Edison LSC is unconventional at best, I thought I would take the time to tell you a bit about why I've decided to stay on as a Community Rep. even after asking you not to vote for me and stating I didn't feel I had the time to give. I'm putting it in letter form instead of a typical resume because I think the narrative is worth hearing.

Since my election to the LSC in April some things have occurred to me, and not entirely of my own device (I do not claim to be this clever). It was pointed out to me, that while I was saying that I didn't have enough time, my measurement of commitment is very skewed than that of a normal CPS parent. I was LSC Chairperson of Decatur Classical School for 6 years and on the LSC for 8, and during that time, I worked tirelessly meeting with CPS officials to get us a 7th & 8th grade. I met with 3 CEOs, because of their turnover and had to start anew with every one, worked with Capital Improvements to get what they needed (land surveys, building inspections etc etc), worked with an architect to get building plans drawn, met with Aldermen, begged anyone who would listen to give these kids a building they could soar in. In the meantime for our current building, I cochaired four Spring Fundraisers (Decatur's version of Legacy) raising money to build a state of the art science lab and equip it, keep computers up to date, added smartboards and kept up the supplemental income for the programs that are so instrumental in schools. I also established a community partnership with our neighborhood Jewish Community Center to rent their gym for our students gym classes, because Decatur only has a multipurpose room and you're not allowed to bounce balls in it because it has a tiled ceiling. When parents complained about having only Latin as a foreign language we brought in after school partnerships with Language Stars to offer 4

additional language options. While on the LSC, I also served as a Girls On The Run Coach, a Science Olympiad Coach and established and ran the PTA Membership Drive called the "Roundup", which is the first all school social event of the year with a western theme, cuz I'm from Texas and couldn't help myself. The Roundup helped bring membership to all time highs in both numbers and involvement. Simultaneously, I had a child at Edison and couldn't leave them unsupported. So I worked with Edison's LSC on their Budget Committee, helped the LSC Chair establish Edison's very first parent Principal Survey, helped run Fun Fair, Barnes & Noble Book Fair and in classrooms where I was needed. I was here for the fight against and eventual move to Albany Park, So you see, I kind of have a warped sense of what it takes to be involved. As my kids grew older and I looked to the next phase of their academic careers, I turned the reins as LSC Chair over to the "next generation", while I was still there to give them advice and support, and let them lead the charge for the expansion of the school while I went on to help all the students of CPS by sitting on the committee to get the Lane Tech Academic Center. Something I will forever be proud of and grateful to have been a part of.

After a few years of not having an Edison student, our family made a decision based on a medical need to send our daughter to Edison instead of an academic center. I knew the environment, staff and community would be a better fit for her. So in 2014/15 we came back. I brought Science Olympiad to Edison with me. Along with my partner in all things that may be deemed adventurous, the Multitalented Deni Drinkwater who is not even a science teacher but is tirelessly dedicated to the students of Edison; we took our team to State their very first year and we repeated this accomplishment last year. I cannot tell you the sense of accomplishment I get when I hear a child say "NOW, I feel smart" and yes, even "gifted" kids don't always feel smart.

As you can see, I care about the students of CPS, the school communities they grow in and the well being of those communities. I have been asked to stay on by the majority of the new LSC members and I am now fully appreciative of the time I have to offer Edison. I am thinking of it as a thank you for the years of great education and friendships it has given me. Do not fear, while I may be older, slower and a tad bit less enthusiastic, I am certain that I can meet the challenges ahead and help Edison with this new phase.

In fact, I look forward to it and have ideas!