

Bret Harte Elementary School
1556 East 56th Street Chicago, Illinois 60637
Charles Bright, Principal Meghan Fido, Assistant Principal

Local School Council Virtual Meeting Via Zoom
Wednesday May 19, 2021 5:30pm

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

1. Call Meeting to Order by Chairperson, Erica Walker at 5:35pm
2. Roll Call/Establish Quorum by Erica Walker
 - a. Present: Erica Walker, Aiko Hibino, Lorraine Richardson, Kristina Lawson, Kendrea Williams, Charles Bright, Kara Hill, Audrey Anderson, Tyjuan Edwards
 - b. Absent: Accesshia White, Sam Nolan, Darryl Williams
3. Approval of Agenda
 - a. Motion to approve agenda by Lorraine; second by Aiko; approved by all
4. Announcements of Guests
 - a. Guests: N. Turley, B. Herring, M. Fido, M. Bates, C. Hamilton
5. Public Comment:
 - a. Kristina announced that the 8th graders raised 13K for their popcorn fundraisers, the students will receive 6,500 from this. The top 4 sellers also each received a bonus for their great work.
6. Specific Item to be Discussed
 - a. Presentation of School Year 2021-2022 Budget
 - i. Budget is \$71,474
 - ii. Mr. Bright said that our budget is based on K-8th grade enrollment and doesn't not include our 3 pre-k classes, in order to boost our attendance for this school year Bret Harte will be recruiting families to enroll in our school
 1. Erica asked why % of free lunch students dropped from 78% to 70%. Mr Bright didn't know the answer. He guessed it could be because more Hyde Park residents would enroll. Ms. Fido pointed out the reduction of receiving free lunch forms back this year.
 - iii. Budget includes the hiring of 2 new teachers, one for 4&5th grade reading and an additional kindergarten teacher
 1. Lorraine asked which positions are being paid with discretionary funds vs CPS funds. She wanted to know if Bret Hartewas getting a "return on investment" for discretionary funds/positions? \$70,000, 80,000, 90,000 is a lot of money to spend on salaries. Mr. Bright interjected that all positions from last year were being funded again except for the ELA position.
 2. Lorraine mentioned that she has some questions regarding our literacy programming that she will address with Mr. Bright offline
 - iv. Art will be back again this year
 - v. Ms. Williams will be teaching diverse learners and her salary will be paid by CPS and not the schools budget

- vi. CPS has also given Bret Harte 57,000 for discretionary funds that will be added to our budget in July
 - vii. Ms. Croisant's position was eliminated due to our school not meeting the threshold requirements for ELA. CPS will not be funding this position but will be our school will receive a 7,500 grant instead
 - 1. Aiko asked what CPS' rationale was not to reinstate an ELA position even if we have more than 20 ELA students enrolled. Mr. Bright responded that the network didn't give him a rationale, despite he explained that we received an ELA position around this time of the last year when we were still short of students. He said he would keep fighting, and Aiko then expressed support (LSC letter, organizing parents, etc as necessary). Beth Herring also agreed (in a chat box.)
 - viii. Erica mentioned that our budget appears to be relatively stable and that it doesn't seem like Mr. Bright has any major concerns. Mr. Bright said that it is business and usual, and that he feels confident going into the next school year because we will be fully staffed and ready to go
 - ix. Mr. Bright said that next year he will be break down the budget allocations in a more user friendly contact
 - x. Motion to approve budget as is by Kristina; second by Lorraine; approved by all
7. Adjournment at 6:30 pm
- a. Motion to Adjourn by Aiko; second by Kristina; approved by all

Meeting Minutes by Lorraine Richardson & Kara Hill