

Bret Harte Elementary School
1556 East 56th Street Chicago, Illinois 60637
Charles Bright, Principal
Shequitis Shelton-Turner, Assistant Principal

Local School Council Meeting in Person
Tuesday, September 12, 2023 at 5:15pm

Approved Meeting Agenda items are listed with meeting minutes noted below.

1. Call Meeting to Order by Chairperson, Joe Kurstin at 5:24pm
2. Roll Call by Chairperson, Joe Kurstin
 - Present: Charles Bright, Dawn Evans, Ashley Lanfair, Kara Hill, Joe Kurstin, Stacy McDavis, Kristin Woods, Sam Nolan
 - Absent: Keeshawn Romero, Aiko Hibino, Latavius Davis
3. Approval of Agenda
 - Motion to approve by A. Lanfair; second by S. Nolan; approved by all
4. Vote to Approve Previous Meeting Minutes
 - Motion to approve August meeting minutes by A. Lanfair; second by S. McDavis; approved by all
5. Nominations and Appointment of the Vacant Seats
 - Mr. Bright has a couple of names for possible parent reps
 - *it was noted that Mr. Davis has not official resigned from his position as parent rep but it was noted that he has been absent from the majority of meetings last school year
6. Announcement of Guests –
 - Sylvia Wilson, Latisha Fluery
7. Public Comment –
 - How many migrants families have come to Bret Harte?
 - Harte has received 20 families which is low in comparison to Ray which received 60 families but higher than Shoesmith who have received 30 families despite the shelter being technically in their attendance zone.
 - It was asked how we do that students are being placed in the correct classrooms and Mr. Bright informed us that as of now they are going off of age and doing their best to keep students with their peers until additional resources can be provided by CPS
8. CIWP Approval
 - The full CIWP report can be read in full detail at <https://brethartelsc.weebly.com/meeting-minutes.html>
 - 3 Focus Areas:
 1. Curriculum and Instruction
 2. Inclusive & Supportive Learning Environment
 3. Connectedness & Wellbeing
 - Focus on protecting teachers' prep time and having more walkthroughs with AP and curriculum leads. Walkthroughs will not be critique but instead used to see what additional professional development, 1:1 coaching, or mentoring is needed for teachers and support staff.
 - Focus on getting 8th graders to attend more CPS open houses, and getting students to think more about their long term goals
 - Additional time will be spent on making sure that both students and the school are in compliance with IEPs and that students are moving in and out of their current tiered levels as needed.
 - Motion to approve by S. McDavis; second by S. Nolan; approved by all

9. Reports - Principals Report - **Current School Enrollment is 341 Students**

- **Domain 1 – Organizational Leadership**
 - **Became the second school in Chicago to partner with Young Eisner Scholars. Three sixth-graders (Ryan Thorton, Valery Davila, and Okikiola Abiola-Fagba) -selected to receive mentorship from 6th grade through college**
 - Held a Kick Off to Kindergarten program in July (4 week CPS sponsored program)
 - Held Summer OST programs for students including gardening, cooking, art, computer, cheerleading, science, basketball, algebra, math and reading tutoring.
 - Hosted CPS Summer Bridge Program for Harte, Kozminski, Reavis, and Woodlawn
 - Updated Staff and Parent Handbooks
 - Attended the 2-day Network 9 Leadership Meeting
 - Attended CPS Legal Conference (virtual)
 - Lead opening week of professional development for staff. Included sessions on best practices for working with students with 504s and IEPs, MTSS best practices, and classroom management techniques. Teachers were also given an additional day to prepare their rooms for the 1st day of school.
- **Domain 2 – Instructional Core**
 - **Began BOY I-Ready/Star 360 testing for grades k-8**
 - **Conducted Network 9 Landscape Walk to observe teacher standards and student work on 9/7**
 - **PreK, 1st and 2nd graders will receive Spanish classes (preK will receive Spanish classes twice per week)**
 - New Master Schedule includes common planning time for teachers.
 - The New Master Schedule for the first time also gives middle school students and opportunity to choose a class for enrichment/intervention (reading, writing, social studies, math, or science)
 - Will begin Spanish classes (Lango) for PreK and 2nd grade students next week (once per week)
 - Teacher teams will participate in weekly common planning meeting times (beginning next Tuesday)
 - Created Google Classroom for staff to access all school related materials.
- **Domain 3 – Culture and Climate**
 - **Held Open House for parents on 8/30**
 - **Website photoshoot (including aerial pictures) for new website taken on 9/1**
 - **Welcomed over a dozen migrant Venezuelan families from the Lake Shore Hotel**
 - Held Back to School Bask last Friday from 1-3pm
 1. Free swag for families, Harte t-shirts, Harte water bottles and Harte bags
 2. Free ice cream and animal balloon making for students
 - Contracted with Educational Networks to build a new website from the ground up. The photographer will be here to take an arial shot of the outside of the building plus they will take pictures of the inside of the school.
 - Outreach to families about PreK program (38-40 spots have been filled)
 - Continuously updating contact information

- **Domain 4 – Talent**
 - **Received 2 new Special Ed classroom teaching positions. Currently searching for candidates**
 - **Appealing for a .5 English Language Learner position**
 - **Appealing for additional teacher support for rooms 105 and 204 which are over the CTU class-size limit**
 - Hired new Lead Coach: Dawn Evans
 - Hired full-time security officer: Sherwin Jarvis
 - Hired 3 classroom teachers:
 1. Jon Ehlinger (middle school math)
 2. Denara Watson (PreK special education teacher)
 3. Donte Stephenson (PE)
 - Hired new Multi-Tiered Supports & Services (MTSS) Leader: Megan Johnson
 - Hired one new special education classroom assistant (SECA): Janice Harrison
 - Requested and received funding for 1 new special education classroom assistant (SECA) for grades k-2. Will begin the recruiting process next week.
 - Two staff members: Dorah Floyd (SECA) and Maria Heard (support staff) are completing their onboarding.
 - Assistant Principal Turner moved her office to the 2nd floor to provide admin support to that floor.
- **Comments:**
 - The 4th grade classroom currently has 37 students which is above the max. A full-time substitute teacher has been added to this classroom to provide additional support
 - Harte currently does not have a ESL person but a request has been made for additional support given our changing student demographics this school year
 - Harte currently has 2 openings for additional SECA support and priorities will be given to any candidate that is multilingual.
 - Joe suggested that we give CPS a deadline to meet our requests for additional school staff. It was suggested that if our requests go unanswered then maybe we will partner with other southside LSCs and bring this to the attention of media and our local alderpeople.
 - We will keep this on our agendas as an ongoing discussion this school year
- **Reports – FOBHE**
 - 1st fundraiser of the year with Stan's Donut is on track. The school and community has been very supportive today.
 - A new google form for donation requests has been shared with teachers and will be discussed at the next November meeting.

10. Old Business

- Traffic Control / Security Guard Updates
 - No new updates or new incidents to report on for September.

11. New Business

- Vote to Approve Budget Transfers
 - Motion to approve \$2,2041.48 in transfers by A. Lanfair; second by D. Evans approved by all
- Community Engagement Efforts
 - Joe will be passing out donuts outside of school to get parents and guardians to sign up for volunteer opportunities.

12. Set Agenda / Date for Next Meeting – all meeting will begin at 5:15pm

- Tuesday, October 17, at 5:15pm
- Nominations and Appointment of the Vacant Seats
 - Parent Rep

- Staff Rep
- Principal's Report / CIWP Report
- FOBHE Report
- Traffic Control / Security Guard updates
- New Student Updates
- Fundraiser/Budget Transfers
- Community Engagement Efforts

13. Adjournment

- Motion to adjourn at 6:58pm by A. Lanfair; second by D. Evans; approved by all