

**Citizens Advisory Committee  
January 10, 2012, 7:00 – 8:30 p.m.  
University High School Library  
Meeting minutes**

**Call to Order:** Ken Fansler called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

**Present:** Ken Fansler, Eric Ruud, Judi Doubet, Jan Murphy, Gretchen Zaitzeff, Barbara Jacobsen, Mark Adams, Sarah Ray, Lynn Shook, Bob Piker, Val Wilder and Bob Dean

**Absent:** Marijane Galvan, Clark Brooks

**Guests:** Dr. Amy Coffman and Dr. Jeff Hill

**Additions to the agenda -** None

**Introductions and acknowledgement of visitors:** Dr. Coffman and Dr. Hill were in attendance to present school updates for Thomas Metcalf School and University High School.

**Minutes:** Prior meeting minutes can be accessed at <http://www.uhigh.ilstu.edu/cac/index.htm>

**School Updates:** Dr. Coffman, Principal of Thomas Metcalf School, provided the committee with an update of various initiatives occurring at Metcalf. This year's theme is "Breaking Outside of the Box" which focuses on 21<sup>st</sup> century skills involving collaboration, critical thinking, communication and creativity. The school is also proud to have two new National Board Certified Teachers as well as excellent overall ISAT scores.

The building has undergone substantial renovations and is looking the best it has in years. Minority enrollment is currently at 30%. PTO grants equaling \$50,000 are most appreciated and new grant sources are being actively explored. iPads are being piloted in pre-school thanks to funding provided by the McKnight Parent Involvement Grant. All faculty are also experimenting with them. Dr Coffman also stated that 20,885 clinical hours have been provided for teacher education students and ongoing research has been conducted by faculty in the ISU math and psychology departments.

Dr. Coffman revealed that many new initiatives are underway which include grading and assessment, wellness policy revisions, sustainability efforts, teacher driven school improvement planning, structured intervention for struggling students, curricula mapping and the creation of an instruction and technology "bridge" between Thomas Metcalf School and U-High.

Dr Dean commented on the complex role of today's teacher. The demand for new learning, especially related to technology, is very high. The movement to common

standards across Illinois and the nation has a host of implications related to curriculum, instruction, and assessment. There's little question that teachers need to demonstrate great flexibility and adaptability as change is coming from all directions.

Dr Coffman agreed, stating there is sufficient freedom in the lab schools to respond to this changing landscape. Mr. Fansler commented that his experience indicates that assessment is a very challenging area for teacher education. For example, videotaping of student teachers in the classroom is fairly standard now.

Dr. Hill, Principal of University High School, provided the committee with an update of various initiatives underway at U-High. He handed out a document outlining recent accomplishments. U-High is recognized as one of the 1,500 top high schools according to Newsweek magazine; 25% of U-High's teachers are National Board Certified, and the five-year ACT average test score is 25.26.

Long range goals included: implementing teacher-led technology based workshops, providing additional support for struggling students, fostering external relationships by hosting other high schools for onsite technology demonstrations, creating hybrid courses, increasing diversity in both student and faculty populations, and increasing school endowments and alternative resources. Dr. Hill also reported that the number of failing students has declined over the previous year.

Mr. Fansler brought up the subject of "cyber bullying". He asked whether the lab schools had a proactive policy to deal with this problem. Dr. Coffman indicated that Metcalf teachers send a clear message early to students in the third through fifth grade levels that bullying is not appropriate. Dr. Hill stated that internet and texting abuses are addressed on a case-by-case basis and that 99% of the issues are resolved. He also expressed concern over the school's ability to police "off premises" issues. Mr. Adams stated that in his experience, a lot of bullying issues are self-regulated by U-High students. Dr. Dean indicated that the culture of the lab schools and its "open campus" structure will be protected by the students themselves, suggesting that inappropriate behavior will not be tolerated. After extensive discussion by the committee, Mr. Fansler suggested that the lab schools consider a pro-active approach to "cyber bullying" and work with local legislators to clarify the schools' role in this process.

### **Review of Committees:**

On behalf of the Legislative Committee, Eric Ruud stated there are no plans to organize a legislative forum with State Senator Bill Brady and State Representative Dan Brady this spring since one was held last year. He strongly recommended that legislative forums be continued after his tenure on the committee ends. He further suggested that in light of the discussion of "cyber bullying", the committee might wish to consider inviting the McLean County State's Attorney to a meeting to discuss enforcement and prosecution policy with respect to these and other difficult legal issues.

Ken Fansler reviewed the recent efforts of the Technology Committee. He said there has been an increase in collaboration between Metcalf and U-High teachers with respect to technology issues. Lab School faculty are providing a number of teaching sessions for teacher education students.

### **Report of Administrative Representative:**

Dr. Dean presented the following report:

**State Money:** Dr. Dean reported that Governor Patrick Quinn has announced that he expects state support for education to be flat over the next three years. Dr. Dean was indicated that the lab schools will have a 30% reserve in place when he retires this summer. This will offset the flat funding projected by Governor Quinn and prevent program reductions.

**Audit Results:** General State Aid, the NCLB Teacher Quality Grant and American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) stimulus dollars were recently audited. Dr. Dean is awaiting the final report, but no significant problems were cited.

**Fitness Room:** The new fitness room at U-High should be completed by the end of January, 2012.

**Locker Rooms:** U-High locker rooms will be renovated beginning in the spring of 2013.

**Superintendent Search Status:** The position vacancy has been posted. Telephone interviews should begin in February with an offer being extended in late March or early April, 2012.

**Open Houses:** Open house dates have been set. U-High's open house is on February 1<sup>st</sup>. Metcalf's open house is on February 9<sup>th</sup>.

**Equipment Donation:** The Superintendent's office is exploring an exercise equipment donation offered by an alumnus of University High School.

### **Items for Next Agenda & Adjournment**

Dr. Dean reminded the committee that consideration of new members should be placed on the next meeting agenda.

**Next Meeting Date:** March 20, 2012

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.