

Citizens Advisory Committee
September 20, 2011, 7:00 – 8:45 p.m.
University High School Library
Meeting minutes

Call to Order: Ken Fansler called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

Present: Ken Fansler, Judi Doubet, Jan Murphy, Marijane Galvan, Clark Brooks, Gretchen Zaitzeff, Barbara Jacobsen, Mark Adams, Lynn Shook, Valerie Wilder, Bob Dean

Absent: Sarah Ray, Eric Ruud, Bob Piker

Guest: Dr. Jeff Hill

Additions to the agenda

- New assessment program pilot

Introductions and acknowledgement of visitors: Dr. Hill was present to provide an update on the new assessment pilot being implemented at University High School.

Minutes: Prior meeting minutes are approved and can be accessed at:
<http://www.uhigh.ilstu.edu/cac/march2011minutes.pdf>

CAC Overview and By-Laws: An overview of CAC and the By-Laws were reviewed. Members were reminded that the CAC is not a policy making body, but rather an advisory committee. Members were reminded to advise Dr. Dean or his assistant, Stephanie Stork, if they will be unable to attend a meeting.

Election of Officers:

- Ken Fansler was nominated and confirmed as Chairperson
- Clark Brooks was nominated and confirmed as Vice Chairperson
- Eric Ruud was nominated and confirmed as Secretary

Review of Committees: Support was expressed for continuing the technology and legislative forum committees.

Assessment Update: Dr. Hill provided an overview of the changes in assessment practices being piloted at U-High. Twenty teachers are piloting a new assessment process designed to more accurately evaluate what students know. The new assessment program is based on the work of nationally recognized educator Rick Wormeli. The primary emphasis is on assessing mastery of content and providing students with multiple opportunities to demonstrate such mastery. While homework and effort are important to student success – and therefore will continue to be cultivated – a variety of formative and summative assessments are key to determining actual mastery of content. Feedback from staff, test results, and grade reports will be used to evaluate this shift to a standards based

grading approach. Dr. Hill indicated that U-High will maintain its current “A,B,C” approach to grade reporting. While feedback on the new approach to assessment has been positive, the CAC felt that additional information would be helpful to students and parents.

Report from Administrative Representative:

1. Budget Review: The FY2012 budget was reviewed. Because of a downward adjustment in General State Aid, the lab schools experienced a \$300,000 reduction in revenue for the current fiscal year. The schools are still showing a small positive variance between revenue and expenses for FY12.
2. U-High Logo: The new logo has been implemented and positively received.
3. Facility Upgrades:
 - a. Locker rooms – Thanks to a grant secured by State Representative Dan Brady, the locker rooms at U-High will completely renovated beginning in the spring of 2013.
 - b. Fitness Center – The new fitness center at U-High is expected to be completed by the first of the year.
 - c. Decorative Fence – A new fence will be installed around Metcalf beginning this fall.
 - d. Booster Gift – A \$10,000 gift from Boosters will be applied to the purchase of exercise equipment for the new fitness center.
 - e. Metcalf Technology – Technology continues to play a significant role in the learning process at Metcalf. Significant investments in technology and integration into the learning environment are being experienced.
4. Dr. Dean reviewed the FY11 ISAT and PSAT test results; he noted that students continue to achieve at high levels, which has been a consistent pattern over the last 10 years.
5. Dr. Dean reported that he received an inquiry from a campus colleague about adding Chinese to the U-High curriculum. CAC members expressed interest in learning more about this possibility.

Meeting Dates – FY12: The meeting dates for this year were reviewed: September 20, November 8, January 10 and March 20.

Items for Next Agenda and Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 pm.