

Citizen's Advisory Committee

U-HIGH ISU Metcalf

Meeting Minutes

November 13, 2007

University High Library

7:00 – 8:45

ATTENDANCE: Dr. Robert Dean, Alison Geyer, Rebecca Houtsma, Lois Morrow, Michelle Hardman, Eric Ruud, Jeff Feid, Ken Fansler, and Cathy Heisler.

The Meeting was called to order by Jeff Feid at 7:00 p.m.

INTRODUCTIONS & ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF VISITORS:

There were no visitors present at this meeting.

READING OF & CALL FOR APPROVAL OR AMENDMENT OF MINUTES OF PRIOR REGULAR MTG:

The September Meeting minutes were reviewed and approved.

REVIEW OF COMMITTEES:

Those Who Excel: Lois Morrow and Mike Troll (2006-2007 Lab School representatives) along with Bob Dean attended the Recognition Banquet. Both Lois and Mike received an Award of Recognition. The banquet was held at the Decatur Conference Center and was well attended and very well done. Parent letters were recently sent to solicit nominations for 2007-2008.

REPORT FROM ADMINISTRATIVE REPRESENTATIVE – DR. ROBERT DEAN

Metcalf Off Campus

8th Grade Lunch:

Eighth grade students at Metcalf School will no longer be able to leave campus for any of their special lunch outings. An alternative plan has been developed with assistance from middle school teachers and students.

Every 6 weeks, advisory groups may eat lunch at the Bone Student Center or order a special lunch for delivery to Metcalf at the student's own expense. Only one advisory group may go to student center on any given date in order to avoid unnecessary congestion during this busy time.

The students are asked to approach Bone Student Center from the quad entrance in order to avoid traffic at the corner of College and University.

The students acted very responsibly in suggesting alternatives to Dr. Dean. Thank you for recognizing the school's need to maintain a safe environment. We trust the 8th graders will handle this responsibility with dignity and class.

ISAT/PSAE

Metcalf Scores were well above the state averages. U-High students continue to test well on the Prairie State Achievement Exam.

There was discussion surrounding the high school testing program. Students take the Plan, Explore, PSAE and ACT tests during their time at U-High. The administration will review a suggestion to provide an ACT parent awareness meeting for incoming freshman parents to give them a better understanding of the testing sequence and its relationship to course selection. It's also important for parents to understand how important some of these test results are as they influence post high school options.

Metcalf Technology: Metcalf is offering additional technology to students and teachers. The school has purchased combination Mac/PC laptops loaded with user friendly software. Camera/video cameras have also been purchased to use with these computers.

Music Investigations class was eliminated this year, which created an opening for a new technology class at the middle school level. It's anticipated that the new laptop technology will assist Metcalf students as they transition to the laptop classroom environment at University High School.

Metcalf is also examining options for replacing the current middle school industrial arts/shop program. One of the important criteria for selecting a new program is the match with U-High's pre-engineering emphasis.

Emergency Notification Systems:

Dr. Dean asked CAC members if they thought it would be helpful to purchase an emergency notification system similar to those being used by other schools in the area. These systems possess the capacity to call all parents within minutes of an emergency. CAC members thought it would be a good idea to have such a system.

Security Improvements:

Bids are due the week of November 18th for the planned security improvements. Interior walls will be added to Metcalf along with electronic door locks.

BIMP:

The Budget Implementation Bill (BIMP) is sitting on the governor's desk. His signature is required in order for the new state budget to be implemented. This budget contains additional funding for schools, including the Laboratory Schools at Illinois State. The governor has until January 4th to review and make a decision on the budget.

Faculty Associate Salary Study:

Dr. Dean is conducting a salary study to compare lab school teacher salaries with Unit 5 salaries.

Student Survey Laptops:

In an effort to learn more about computer laptop use at U-High, a second student laptop survey will be conducted after the holiday break.

Metcalf PTO News:

The Metcalf PTO will hold its bi-annual fundraiser – the Montage – on December 15, 2007. We are also selling raffle tickets as part of the Montage event. (www.tmsmontage.com)

Adjournment:

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for January 15, 2008.