

**Kate Starr Kellogg Elementary School
LSC special meeting Sept 6, 2016
Gym at Kellogg school**

Call to order at 6:05 by Kecia Parsons

Temporary chair

With the chairperson absent, a temporary chair must be elected. Kecia Parsons was nominated by Emily Lambert, seconded by Linda Barnes-Hobbs. There were no objections.

Roll call

In attendance: Linda Barnes-Hobbs, Michael Collins, Jennifer Houtsma, Emily Lambert, Suzanne McLaughlin, Katie Niksic, Sarah O'Brien, Kecia Parson, Dorcas Payne

Absent: Bryan Spreyne

Quorum is established.

Adopt agenda

Emily Lambert moved to adopt the proposed meeting agenda. Linda Barnes-Hobbs seconded. The vote was unanimous in favor.

Discussion items

Introduction of interim principal

Kecia Parsons introduced the interim principal, Cory Overstreet. Mr. Overstreet says we had a fabulous first day of school. The teachers were ready, children were enthusiastic. He looks forward to meeting each and every family.

Discussion of status of Options for Knowledge, and proposal to merge with Sutherland

Emily Lambert described an email from and subsequent meeting with Alderman Matt O'Shea and his associate, Marty Joyce, about their proposal to merge Kellogg with Sutherland. They say:

- Kellogg and Sutherland have experienced continued declining enrollment.
- Kellogg's out-of-boundary enrollment is very high.
- There aren't enough children in the neighborhood to support these two neighborhood schools.
- CPS has closed the Options for Knowledge program at Kellogg to make a merger feasible.

Her concerns: CPS supports school choice but is restricting choice. The introduction of this as a proposal is undermined by the closed Options program, which indicates the proposal is already being implemented. Are Keller's non-neighborhood kids different than Kellogg's? Who at CPS closed the Options program?

Audience participation

Alderman O'Shea and Senator Cunningham presented more details of the proposal and took questions. Senator Cunningham left after 30 minutes, the alderman stayed until the end of the meeting. Around 150 people in attendance, as well as at least three reporters. Highlights:

- Enrollment figures presented for all schools involved in the plan.

- Alderman expressed concern about address fraud. Suburban kids were found in Kellogg's kindergarten and 1st grade classes.

- Audience members questioned why an audit was conducted on Kellogg and Sutherland but not Mt. Greenwood, which has an overcrowding problem. O'Shea says he will ask CPS to audit all 19th ward schools.

- Options for Knowledge not closed, just suspended during an audit that O'Shea requested in July, via a letter to Forrest Claypool. Families demanded that Options for Knowledge be reopened immediately. O'Shea said he would call CPS the next day and ask the status of the audit.

- Testimonials given about Kellogg, its community, and the impact of the Options program by alumni, former teachers, and current families. One alumnus drove in from St. Charles. Testimonials about the community at Kellogg.

Meeting adjourned at 7:49pm

Respectfully submitted,

These minutes were approved on