

Cory CSC
January 10, 2013
Meeting Minutes

CSC Members Present: Susan Robertson, Ksenia Popke, Jennifer Harris, Whitney Colley, Debbie Sticker, Martha Biery, Lucy Pfeffer

Update:

The meeting started late due to a last-minute all-staff meeting at Cory. As such, the agenda was modified, with the following items being tabled until a future meeting:

- Draft bullying policy
- School engagement follow-up discussion
- UIP update

Community Input: There were no community members present.

Enrollment and Demographics:

James Looney of the DPS Department of Planning and Analysis presented on enrollment projections for Cory using the Enrollment Snapshot and a projection worksheet. Some key points follow:

- In 2010 there were 473 students at Cory. After the opening of Knight, enrollment dropped to 364. Currently we have 367, which is 108% of capacity.
- Although some teachers feel that current class numbers are okay, Lucy Pfeffer noted that it is physically difficult to fit that many desks into her classroom.
- A realistic goal is to have 3 classrooms / 75 students per grade. The way to achieve this is by controlling choice. A reasonable expectation is that 45-50 students per grade are boundary kids with the rest being choice / HGT magnet.
- DPS has an overflow plan that can be used if classes are critically large.
- C3 was opened up to alleviate the pressure of population growth. With C3, it is possible for Cory to take boundary kids and maintain a percentage of HGT students.

At this time of year, Cory needs to think about projections for next year. Cory's projections (provided by Jim's office) were correct for the last year within 0.03% (1 student).

Discussion related to the projection worksheet:

- Projections are based partly on October count and survival data from 2007 to present
- Birth rate data (5 years previous) is used to forecast kindergarten enrollment, but is not typically reliable given that the average family moves every 4.5 years. C3 was increased to 50 students because of the increase in birth rate.

- Preliminary projection enrollment for next year is 388. This is higher than the long term goal of 375 students but would be necessary to move us through the two large grades.

Seat Offer Process:

Jennifer presented on the seat offer process and scenarios created by the School Leadership Team. The concern is that in order to get through the population bubble, we will need one more teacher, and in order to afford an additional teacher we will need to increase enrollment. Different scenarios were discussed.

In order to afford another teacher, we would need to increase enrollment by a minimum of 19 through the early choice process. Choice acceptance is a balance because if boundary kids come in after the choice process, we need to accept those kids, thus increasing class sizes.

Jennifer sent Intent to Return forms home with students to get data as soon as possible.

Other demographic discussion

Jim talked about the impact of the new DSST that will open in the Byers building, noting that when a new school opens in the district, 85% of the enrollment comes from the existing schools. The opening of the new DSST at Buyers will affect Merrill and Grant's enrollment. The middle schools are already low on enrollment to be sustainable. Cory is also affected because the strength of Merrill affects the strong continuum of schools in the neighborhood. It was noted that it would be nice to see a HGT continuum between Cory and Merrill.

DPS does not have a say in where the charter school is to be located.

Safety Committee

Jennifer spoke about the need to put together a safety committee. Randy Oglesby will be a teacher rep but we need parent reps as well. It was agreed to solicit nominations via the Cory Connection. Part of the role of the safety committee will be to create a parent volunteer program. Training would be provided, and background checks will be necessary.

Roles of the safety committee will include the following:

- Review / develop Safety procedures and policies
- Recruit the volunteers
- Enhance communication between staff and parents about safety issues

Adjourn:

The meeting adjourned at 5:40 p.m.