

**Local School Council Meeting**  
January 21, 2026 ~ 6pm ~ Multi-Purpose Room  
Minutes

1. Call to Order @ 6:07pm

Chair

2. Roll Call

Secretary

Carolyn Potamitis (CP), Jennifer Rath (JR), Maria Carney (MC), Ronald Yak (RY), Erin Tedesso (ET), Ronald Jacobson (RJ), Jia Le (Jay) Zhang (JZ), Karem Korkmaz (KK), Kristy Clark (KC), Carrie Gilbert (CG), Zacharias Pantazis (ZP)

*Members that are in italics, underline and bold were absent from the meeting*

3. Approval of Agenda

Chair

JR asked for removal of the state of the school for January's agenda

First Motion: ET  
Second Motion: MC  
All in Favor: Yes  
Motion Passes

4. Approval of Minutes from last meeting

Chair

First Motion: JR  
Second Motion: MC  
All in Favor: Yes  
Motion Passes

5. Announcements/Introduction of Guests

Chair

Mr. Ed Bannon, CPS School Board member 1A

6. Reports:

- a. **Chair:** Rec'd a report that the LSC is in good standing to approve the budget, approve CIWP and approve principal contracts. This is a yearly report all LSC receive to let them know the standing of their LSC
- b. **Principal:** Went over report
- c. **PPLC:** Meeting on January 15 with admin. Pointes were brought up and being addressed.
- d. **BAC:** Will have a meeting in February.
- e. **LRE:** Due to new students and new IEP's that were written we requested two additional SECA's. We were denied. Will request one additional SECA.
- f. **Wellness Committee:** No report
- g. **FOC:** Report was emailed and went over.
- h. **PAC:** No report
- i. **Field Committee:** No Report

7. Old Business

Chair

a. Internal Accounts Report (November and December)

First Motion: RY  
Second Motion: KK  
Yes: CP, JZ, KC, RJ, CG, MC, KK, JR, RY, ZP  
No: None  
Abstained: ET  
Motion Passes

b. Fundraising Report/Update (if any)

None

c. LSC Letter to CEO

RY read the next letter with recommendations from the board that the LSC will send. Motion for a new letter. See attachment.

First Motion: KK  
Second Motion: ET  
Yes: CP, JZ, KC, RJ, CG, MC, KK, RY, ET  
No: None  
Abstained: JR, ZP  
Motion Passes

8. New Business

Chair

a. Budget Transfers

JR stated that some Pre-k rooms need shade coverings for their classroom. The shades would be \$6,000. JR stated that she found an alternative that would be a lot cheaper. CPS will not pay for anything. We would need to use money at the school level for this purchase.

First Motion: RY  
Second Motion: KK  
Yes: CP, JZ, KC, RJ, CG, MC, KK, JR, RY, ZP  
No: None  
Abstained: ET  
Motion Passes

b. LSC Election update

The LSC election for 2026-2028 will take place on Wednesday, March 18, 2026.

RY: The LSC needs to set a date for the LSC Candidate forum. A discussion took place.

If all the staff agree, the Staff LSC Candidate forum on Tuesday, February 17, 2026 during the PD day. Staff can still also participate in the other LSC Candidate forum if they would like. The LSC Candidate forum for all candidates will take place on Wednesday, February 23, 2026 at 5:30pm before the LSC meeting that day.

First Motion: ET  
Second Motion: CP  
All in Favor: Yes  
Motion Passes

RY: The LSC will need to certify the results to the LSC election before 5pm on April 2. We have an LSC meeting on Wednesday, April 1. RY suggested that we certify on Wednesday, April 1. A motion was made.

First Motion: JR  
Second Motion: CG  
All in Favor: Yes  
Motion Passes

9. Public Comment

Chair

None

10. Announce the date of the next meeting

Chair

The next LSC meeting to Wednesday, February 25, 2026 @ 6pm in the MPR.

11. Adjournment @ 7:30pm

Chair

First Motion: MC  
Second Motion: JZ  
All in Favor: Yes  
Motion Passes

**Respectfully submitted by:**

Ronald Yak  
Secretary

Minutes approved without corrections  
Date: February 25, 2026

January 2026

Dear Dr. Macquiline King,

On behalf of the Local School Council at Arthur E. Canty School, I would like to express our appreciation for the approval of the three (3) additional Special Education Classroom Assistant (SECA) positions. These roles are vital to meeting our students' mandated IEP/504 minutes and ensuring their academic success.

While we are grateful for this resolution, the fact remains that it took more than a full quarter of the school year—and extensive formal correspondence—to secure the staffing required for federal compliance. This delay placed an undue burden on our students, faculty, and administration.

As we look toward the **2026-2027 budget and staffing cycle**, we urge your office to refine the allocation process for Canty School which in turn can be used for the district as a whole. To avoid a repeat of this year's staffing crisis at Canty School, we request the following:

- **Earlier Allocation Reviews:** A proactive assessment of our projected IEP/504 service minutes prior to the start of the school year, rather than relying on the appeal process.
- **Streamlined Approval:** A more efficient mechanism for schools with documented high-needs populations to secure required staff without lengthy delays.
- **Summer Planning Alignment:** Ensuring that Canty's baseline SECA headcount for the first day of school accurately reflects the mandatory minutes documented in our students' current IEPs and 504s. This also includes the correct minute allocation for SECA staffing with lunch and breaks considered.
- **Direct Administrative Consultations:** In the event of a denial, we request a formal meeting with the individual responsible for the final decision—rather than a general representative (SEC)—to ensure a deeper understanding of the rationale behind the decision.

Our goal is to begin the next school year fully staffed, allowing our educators to focus on instruction from day one rather than administrative advocacy for legally mandated resources.

We value our partnership with the district and look forward to working together to ensure a more seamless staffing process for the upcoming year.

Sincerely,

Ronald Jacobson

Local School Council Chairperson, Arthur E. Canty School

CC:

Sean Harden, Board President

Ed Bannon, District 1A Member

Jennifer Custer, District 1B Member

Joshua Long, Chief of Office of Student with Disabilities

Julie McGlade, Chief of Schools - Network 1

Jennifer Rath, Principal of Canty School

Canty LSC Members

Attached: Canty LSC letter dated September 9, 2025  
Josh Long letter dated September 15, 2025  
Canty LSC letter dated October 23, 2025  
Josh Long letter dated November 10, 2025



November 10, 2025

Dear Members of the Arthur E. Canty Local School Council,

Thank you for your continued partnership and collaboration as we work together to ensure that students at Canty Elementary School receive the services and supports they need. The Office for Students with Disabilities (OSD) has reviewed your school's allocation and appeals submissions, and I would like to provide a summary of the actions taken and the current status.

**Positions granted at budget**

Teachers	SECAs	Case Managers
16	20 in Oracle as of 10.27.25 / 1 will be added per 10.17.25 run	1.5

**Appeals submitted**

Appeal Date	Teachers Requested	Teachers Granted	SECAs Requested	SECAs Granted	OSD Response/Feedback
9/16	0	0	3	3	The appeal for 3 additional SECAs for a total of 23 (21 non-programmatic and 2 programmatic) are needed at this time to meet the needs of students in membership.
7/31	0	0	5	0	Duplicate request
6/28	0	0	7	1	The appeal is partially approved. One SECA is approved to meet the needs of the returning students. Many of the IDs listed are for projected students with dedicated needs for incoming students.

## Ongoing Support and Follow-Up

OSD has remained in active communication with the Canty team to ensure accurate alignment between the school's staffing data and actual student needs:

- Conducted an on-site support visit on September 5, 2025 to review SECA assignments for transfer students and verify service alignment.
- Collaborated with the school team to cross-reference the SECA Dashboard report with SSM to reconcile discrepancies.
- Recommended continued review of SECA deployment as new students enroll or as student needs evolve throughout the year.

At this time, Canty's SECA allocation has been reviewed and adjusted in accordance with OSD's appeals process and district guidelines. OSD has also reviewed the follow-up correspondence from the Canty Local School Council dated October 23, 2025, and approved one additional SECA position as part of the October 17, 2025 staffing run.

These actions reflect OSD's continued commitment to ensuring full compliance with student IEPs and to supporting schools in meeting the individual needs of students with disabilities. Thank you for your collaboration and for maintaining a student-centered focus throughout this process.

Sincerely,

Josh Long - Chief, Office for Students with Disabilities

October 23, 2025

Dear Dr. Macquiline King,

I am writing to follow up on Mr. Joshua Long's letter dated September 15, 2025 regarding the staffing of Special Education Classroom Assistants (SECAs) at Arthur E. Canty School.

We appreciate the commitment stated in his letter to ensuring students with disabilities receive the services outlined in their Individualized Education Programs (IEPs) and the explanation of the district's monthly allocation process.

However, after a thorough review of the current numbers and time constraints, including a detailed analysis by Principal Jennifer Rath, we must reiterate the critical nature of our staffing shortage. We have confirmed the urgent need for three (3) additional SECA positions to meet the guaranteed service minutes mandated by student IEPs.

We are now ten weeks into the school year and, despite the mandated services, we still do not have the guaranteed positions required to adequately support our students. This ongoing deficit directly impedes our ability to deliver the legally and necessary required special education services to our students. We thought over the last month the positions would have been granted.

While Principal Rath is fully engaged in optimizing the current staffing and scheduling, the simple fact remains that the required student-to-staff ratios and minute-based needs cannot be met with the current allocation. This is a matter of compliance with federal mandates and the commitment to our students' educational rights.

We urge your office to approve and expedite the allocation of these three essential SECA positions immediately. We need a swift resolution to this staffing crisis to ensure all Canty students receive the services they are legally entitled to and deserve.

We look forward to your immediate attention and action on this critical matter.

Sincerely,

Ronald Jacobson

Local School Council Chairperson, Arthur E. Canty School

CC:

Sean Harden, Board President

Ed Bannon, District 1A Member

Jennifer Custer, District 1B Member

Joshua Long, Chief of Office of Student with Disabilities

Julie McGlade, Chief of Schools – Network 1

Jennifer Rath, Principal of Canty School

Canty LSC Members

**Attached:** Canty LSC letter dated September 9, 2025 and Josh Long letter dated September 15, 2025



September 15, 2025

Canty Local School Council

**Subject:** Response to Canty LSC Concerns on SECA Staffing

Dear Members of the Arthur E. Canty Local School Council,

Thank you for sharing your concerns and for your advocacy on behalf of Canty's students. We deeply value the partnership of our school communities in ensuring that students with disabilities receive the services outlined in their Individualized Education Programs (IEPs).

Staffing allocations for Special Education Teachers and Special Education Classroom Assistants (SECAs) are determined based on the IEP service minutes of students enrolled at each school. These allocations are updated regularly—on a monthly basis—to reflect changes in enrollment and student needs. This process helps ensure that resources are distributed fairly across all schools in the district and aligned with actual student requirements.

Principal Rath and the Network Chief have been fully briefed on the allocation process and are well positioned to discuss how staffing and scheduling are organized at Canty to meet student needs. They will be the best partners to review the school's current schedule with you and to address questions about how services are being delivered.

We remain committed to working collaboratively with school leaders and communities to support every student's success. Thank you again for your advocacy and for the care you demonstrate on behalf of Canty's students.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Josh Long".

Josh Long, Chief

Office for Students with Disabilities

September 9, 2025

Dear Dr. Macquiline King,

I am writing on behalf of the Arthur E. Canty School Local School Council (LSC) and community. We are urgently requesting your assistance with a critical and time-sensitive issue regarding the need for Special Education Classroom Assistants (SECAs) at our school.

Principal Jennifer Rath has been transparent about the staffing needs for our special education students at our LSC meetings, and we were disheartened to learn in the spring of 2025 that we would be losing nine SECAs. Despite Principal Rath's persistent efforts and appeals, which have been denied multiple times, we are now four weeks into the school year and still lack three of the needed SECAs.

Many parents on our council have students with IEPs, making this issue not only important to us, but to the entire Canty community. We have seen significant academic growth in our students with IEPs, and this progress is supported by data from both the state and the district.

As the LSC, we are concerned that the current system is not transparent. The lack of transparency seems to unnecessarily delay the process of providing dedicated and shared SECAs. This process is impeding our ability to meet the needs of our students as mandated by their Individualized Education Programs (IEPs).

We believe that educating children at their level and with their specific needs is Chicago Public Schools' primary business. We respectfully request that a member of your senior leadership team attend our next LSC meeting on **Thursday, September 18, 2025, at 6pm**, in the multipurpose room or a written response. This will allow us to share our concerns directly and collaboratively discuss why the current system is not effectively meeting the needs of our students.

Thank you for your immediate attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

Ronald Jacobson

Local School Council Chairperson, Arthur E. Canty School

CC:

Joshua Long, Chief of Office of Student with Disabilities

Julie McGlade, Chief of Schools -- Network 1

Jennifer Rath, Principal of Canty School

Canty LSC Members