

LSAT Meeting

December 3rd, 2015 at 7:30am

Draft Meeting Minutes

In Attendance

James Albright (Principal)
Karen Harris (Chair, parent representative)
Karissa Kovner (Secretary, parent representative)
Patricia Milikin (teacher representative)
Terence Ngwa (WTU representative)
Patrick Rottman
Alieze Stallworth
Rosa Singletary (parent representative)
Tilney Wickersham (teacher representative)

Opening of Meeting

The third meeting of the academic year was called to order by Harris, chair of the 2015-2016 LSAT. The final minutes from the November meeting were circulated and approved later in the meeting with a motion from Singletary, seconded by Wickersham.

Principal Report

Principal Albright opened by remarking on the success of the recent professional development days. In addition to the notable content, Albright highlighted that Deal has the highest teacher and staff attendance for middle schools across the city.

Albright then turned the discussion to the recent gun incident at Wilson High School. Albright reported on the details of the incident as he knew them, and noted that he had called Principal Martin at Wilson to offer Deal's support. Open lines of communication between Deal and Wilson are very important, in particular due to the number of kids at Wilson who graduated from Deal and see it as a "safe" place to return to in times of concern and due to the number of Wilson-Deal siblings. In addition, although Wilson was not evacuated in this particular instance, Deal does serve as the identified evacuation location for Wilson. Such evacuations have occurred in the past and Deal has an established process for managing those situations. In addition to the gun incident, there was a fight (believed to be unrelated) after school that same day that contributed to the communication challenges for DCPS. Albright called the DC Police Department after the incident was over to indicate that Deal needs to be notified immediately in these situations (Deal was never officially called) given the number of Deal students that either go near or through Wilson to go home. The LSAT then discussed the disciplinary options available within the system for this kind of situation. Albright also indicated that he would be meeting with the Deal security staff immediately to refocus efforts on Deal's own security measures and to review internal procedures.

Staffing and Budget

Albright reported on the budget meeting that was held by the Chancellor at Deal. The policy for DCPS for this year is zero growth – only cost of living (COLA) increases for staff salaries. The problem for Deal is that the size of the school is more like a high school than a middle school. To make sure that Deal is receiving the appropriate "per student" allocation and the appropriate staffing for its size, Albright will be meeting with folks at DCPS. Albright also reported movement toward a five year projection plan. While such a plan will be good for Deal in the long run, it will not help ensure an appropriate staffing allocation for this budget cycle.

Albright also flagged for the LSAT that DCPS is considering some additional measures for the Chancellor's Empowering Males of Color initiative. Those measures include a separate boys school, mentoring, and two levels of grants at 10K-35K and at 35K-200K. Deal will be applying for a grant at the lower level; there are 350 kids that meet the grant requirements. The grant will be targeted to core instruction, intervention, school culture, and leadership.

PARCC

The Chancellor has indicated that in her view, the PARCC results were "as expected", but perhaps DCPS "under communicated" the expectations to the parents. Overall, Deal scored 68% for ELA and 44% for math. What is notable is that 74% of DCPS middle school kids in the city that are passing math (scoring a 4 or 5 on the PARCC) are at Deal. The results are still being synthesized by the schools and the city. But, one thing to recognize is that for DCPS non-charter schools like Deal, OSSE considers a score of 4 or 5 to be "on track for college" whereas the charter schools used scores of 3, 4 and 5 as their metric for "on track for college." So one needs to be cautious with charter vs. non-charter comparisons of PARCC results. There are a number of questions that are being considered regarding the PARCC, including paper vs. computer test results, what particular areas are low, etc.

The next meeting of the LSAT will be Friday, January 8th.

Respectfully submitted by Karissa Kovner
January 4, 2016