

LSAT Meeting

February 5th, 2016 at 7:30am

Draft Meeting Minutes

In Attendance

James Albright (Principal)
Katherine Giron
Karen Harris (Chair, parent representative)
Adam Kirschenbaum
Karissa Kovner (Secretary, parent representative)
Patricia Milikin (teacher representative)
Diedre Neal
Chris Rhoads
Patrick Rottman
Alieze Stallworth
Tim Stroud
Tilney Wickersham (teacher representative)
Nicole Wilson (parent, ADCA representative)

Opening of Meeting

The February meeting was called to order by Harris. The final minutes from the January meeting were circulated and approved later in the meeting with a motion from Stroud, seconded by Wickersham. In her opening, Harris noted that she had attended the Wilson scheduling meeting for eighth graders where she learned that there will be a new system in place to assist the students with sign up procedures, placement, and electives. Wilson intends to have a closer relationship with Deal during this process than other years; Albright requested Rottman to call Wilson to ensure more coordination.

Budget

Principal Albright opened by stating that the budget was to be released the week of Feb. 8th and he would convene a subcommittee of the LSAT as soon as it was released. To date, all schools had received a "sample" budget in advance to see how it might look. Deal had been given a student enrollment growth projection of 2%, so he anticipates about a \$350,000 increase. Looking at the projections, Albright does not expect any additional staffing or funding for Special Education. Within the context of the budget discussions with DCPS, Albright indicated he has asked for:

- A "director" position to manage school logistics. This position would function much like a building or facility manager to allow the administration to spend more time focused on academics and kids
- 1 additional custodian
- A position to manage teacher coaching and support professional development
- Technology
- Additional resource teachers may be necessary to support the daily schedule

Principal Report

Given the recent issues at Wilson, Albright opened his report by indicating that he will be involved in a number of meetings with the neighborhood and the local police station to review safety and security in the Tenleytown area.

The Empowering Males of Color (EMOC) grants have been awarded and Deal was the only middle school to receive funding for any portion of its proposal. Deal was awarded a grant to run a summer program to focus on 30 rising Deal 7th and 8th grade African-American and Hispanic males. In addition, Albright will

be using school funding to provide professional development for Deal staff. Together, the grant and school dollars will fully fund the original grant proposal (see January LSAT meeting minutes).

Additional short items from the meeting

- The Deal Gala will be held tomorrow night. Everyone looking forward to it. The ask will be donations to support Art.
- A significant number of Deal teachers were in attendance at the Highly Effective Teachers event at the Kennedy Center.
- Frustration was expressed regarding DCPS' ever-changing priorities, in particular the lack of sustainability of the PWP grants awarded last year, which means less resource programming for this year (from 130K to 7K). Auction fundraising will help fill a small part of that void.
- The success of the Deal debate team was noted, now ranked 7th in the country. A recent tournament was held at Deal. Debate is an opportunity, much like the Science Fair and History Day, to push Deal students.
- Snow days mean school will go to noon on Friday instead of release at noon on Thursday.
- Concern was expressed regarding the proposed academic calendar for next year. Albright was encouraged to put the link for parents to express opinions in the newsletter.

Respectfully submitted by Karissa Kovner
March 22, 2016