

**Alice Deal Middle School  
Local School Advisory Team (LSAT)**

**October 3, 2014 Minutes**

**In attendance:** Laurie Aladjem, Jim Albright, Heather Edelman, Karen Harris, Adam Kirschenbaum, Pat Milikin, Diedre Neal, Karin Perkins, Chris Rhoads, Patrick Rottman, Alieze Stallworth, Tim Stroud, Jim Sweeney, Tilney Wickersham

Chair Karin Perkins called the meeting to order at 7:32 a.m.

I. September minutes were approved.

II. The group briefly reviewed the LSAT guidelines.

III. SY2014-15 Comprehensive School Plan

A primary responsibility of the LSAT is to review, approve and monitor implementation of the Comprehensive School Plan (CSP). Mr. Albright met with DCPS administrators over the summer and reviewed school-related data. He has submitted a draft Plan and is awaiting feedback from DCPS. The LSAT will revisit the CSP in January to reflect on mid-year data and think about how the LSAT might take into account progress toward CSP goals in the SY2015-16 budget process.

Mr. Albright reviewed the draft CSP with the LSAT members. Goals include increasing the percentage of African-American students making a year of growth in math, decreasing the percentage of students who are chronically absent, and increasing the percentage of English Language Learners (ELL) scoring higher on the Scholastic Reading Inventory. Strategies include double-block math classes for select students, implementing an awards program for students with improved attendance, and improving the alignment between the curriculum of core content classes and ELL classes.

The group agreed to send any questions, comments or suggested revisions to Karin Perkins by Tuesday, October 7.

IV. Grading System

The school is moving toward using the IB Middle Years grading rubric in all grades. Sixth grade teachers are using it consistently. Some departments are implementing it in 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grades. The challenge is matching the IB rubric that uses an 8-point scale with the traditional DCPS grading system that uses A-F. The benefit of using the IB rubric is that it is changing the conversation about rigor in the classroom. Students become more aware of what they need to do to show mastery of a skill. Mr. Albright will send out a thorough explanation of the school's grading system to all parents.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 a.m.