

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

February 9, 2015 Minutes

In attendance: Jim Albright, Heather Edelman, Karen Harris, Adam Kirschenbaum, Pat Milikin, Karin Perkins, Chris Rhoads, Patrick Rottman, Alieze Stallworth, Tim Stroud, Tilney Wickersham, Ruth Wattenberg.

Start: Chair Karin Perkins called the meeting to order at 7:34 a.m.

Discussion with Ruth Wattenberg, Ward 3, D.C. State Board of Education:
Ruth Wattenberg introduced herself and explained that she wanted to meet with the Deal LSAT to hear members' perspectives on the upcoming PARCC test, which is replacing the DC CAS. She asked whether the school had the technology in place to administer the test, which is taken on a computer rather than on paper. She also was interested in learning whether parents were expressing concern that scores might be low. Patrick Rottman addressed the issue of technology and reported that the school was prepared. Previously the school only had one cart of laptops that could administer the test. The District provided 15 more, so an entire grade can test on one day. The wireless network in the building has been upgraded. Information on the capacity of the server is pending.

Members of the group reported that parents seem to have heard a little about the test and are taking a wait-and-see approach. Jim Albright explained that during the first year teachers and schools will not be held accountable for test results. He explained that a benefit of accountability systems is that they require looking at test scores of kids in subcategories such as race and income level. The group discussed that there is concern at some schools that testing is taking too much time and that students are getting less time to focus on subjects such as science and social studies. Albright reported good news: middle school students who are taking geometry can take the geometry section of the PARCC test, whereas in the past they have been required to take algebra even though they were not studying it at the time.

Karin Perkins reported that a Ward 3 education committee is being created. The next meeting is scheduled for February 25. The group will engage with elected and appointed officials.

Approval of January Minutes:
Chris Rhoads made a motion to approve the minutes of the January meeting. Tilney Wickersham seconded the motion. The minutes were approved.

Principal's Update:

Albright reported that Councilmember Mary Cheh and Deputy Mayor for Education Jennie Niles, as well as many neighbors and current and prospective families, attended the Reno open house in January. Albright reported that he and Karin Perkins attended a meeting about school budgets for the year ahead. High schools are the focus for the coming year. Additional funds for improving student satisfaction will continue. DCPS is anticipating a tight budget because of enrollment and debt. Deal's budget was \$12.5 million this past year, and a 3-5% decrease in funding is expected for Deal next year despite the fact that enrollment growth is projected to be 20 students. Fourth grade classes are big at feeder schools this year, so the following year Deal will likely see a larger bump. Albright explained that 85% of funding is personnel costs, and the budget for one teacher is about \$100,000. If Deal were to offer the same programs next year as it is this year, we would have to cut \$200,000 to \$300,000. The LSAT will have to consider the following questions: What are the most important things we do for student growth? What do we have, what does it cost and what is the value? Certain types of personnel are required. Examples of discretionary areas are the number of reading teachers or language teachers. Non-personnel areas of spending include supplies, overtime, custodial, technology. The school does not need to spend as much on technology next year because laptop carts have been purchased recently by the school and DCPS. The LSAT should consider what we will do if the budget drops, stays flat or grows. A budget subcommittee needs to meet with the data to consider these issues. Budget decisions are Albright's in the end, but the LSAT is an advisory group. As far as issues to consider, the group discussed that although Deal's scores show that kids generally are doing well, there are over a hundred students at the school not doing well in reading and math.

End: The meeting adjourned at 8:25 a.m.

Minutes provided by Heather Edelman