

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

**January 9, 2015 Minutes**

**In attendance:** Jim Albright, Heather Edelman, Michael Gueltig, Adam Kirschenbaum, Pat Milikin, Diedre Neal, Karin Perkins, Chris Rhoads, Jim Sweeney, Tilney Wickersham

Chair Karin Perkins called the meeting to order at 7:35 a.m.

- I. Approval of December minutes – A vote on the minutes was delayed until the next meeting in order to give attendees more time to review the draft minutes.
- II. Open house – An Open House to give neighbors and parents an opportunity to see the Reno School renovation and the addition will be January 29 from 6:30 to 8 p.m. Invitations will go out through neighborhood listservs. Light refreshments will be served and paid for by the PTA. Councilmember Mary Cheh will be invited to speak. Principal Albright will check on whether the historic display boards are ready. Jim Sweeney stated on behalf of the entire LSAT that the LSAT greatly appreciates the teachers and staff for all their hard work and patience during the renovation of the Reno building.
- III. Snow days and delays – Attendees discussed the January 6 morning commute when a two-hour delay would have been helpful. One teacher reported walking through Rock Creek Park to school with a dozen students after the WMATA bus on which they were riding got stuck on the icy road. All teachers attended that day, the best attendance in DCPS. The groups also discussed the path through Fort Reno, which is eroded and hazardous when rain, snow or ice are present. The student council, and Deal and Wilson LSATs could team up on this. Deal sidewalks are clear, thanks to school staff.
- IV. IB assessment – The IB assessment system is being introduced slowly throughout the school over the next couple years. The IB assessment system is a new way of thinking and talking about how kids are learning. Every department has a grade level leader that is working with department teachers on rolling out the new system. The new assessment system for 6<sup>th</sup> grade was introduced in the fall, and over the last few months staff have worked to improve the process and communicate with students, parents and all staff. In December, the group of staff working on the issue schoolwide decided to roll out the program through 7<sup>th</sup> grade next year, but not fully to 8<sup>th</sup> grade yet. Grade level leaders will design and provide professional development for teachers learning this new process. Principal Albright is working on getting core subject team planning time before the end of the school year. With the new assessment system, students are learning the same material, but they are learning to show and understand

their knowledge in a different way. The new assessment system can be confusing and concerning to students, staff and parents. Students may score a 4 out of 8 at the beginning of the year, and that may be totally appropriate because they are still developing their skills in that area, but scores like that may stress out students and parents. Teachers also must learn to translate the IB scores into the DCPS grading system.

- V. Principal Albright and LSAT President Karin Perkins will attend the DCPS budget roundtable on January 22, one step in setting the school's budget for the 2015-2016 academic year.