

# LSAT Meeting

September 4<sup>th</sup>, 2015 at 7:30am

FINAL Meeting Minutes

## In Attendance

James Albright (Principal)  
Karen Harris (Chair, parent representative)  
Adam Kirschenbaum  
Karissa Kovner (Secretary, parent representative)  
Patricia Milikin (teacher representative)  
Terence Ngwa (WTU representative)  
Karin Perkins  
Chris Rhoads (teacher representative)  
Patrick Rottman  
Rosa Singletary (parent representative)  
Alieze Stallworth  
Tim Stroud (teacher representative)  
Jim Sweeney (community representative)  
Tilney Wickersham (teacher representative)  
Nicole Wilson (parent representative and ADCA representative)

## Opening of Meeting

The first meeting of the academic year was called to order by Karin Perkins, chair of the 2014-2015 LSAT. The first order of business was to nominate a new chair. Chris Rhoades nominated Karen Harris; the nomination was seconded by Pat Milikin. The motion carried and Harris assumed the role of Chair. It was also agreed that Karissa Kovner would serve as Secretary. The minutes from the June 2015 meeting were circulated and approved later in the meeting with a motion from Tilney Wickersham, seconded by Timothy Stroud.

## Budget and Enrollment

Principal Albright began the Principal's report with a discussion regarding the relationship between the enrollment numbers and the budget. The 2014-2015 enrollment was 1315. 2015-2016 enrollment was projected by DCPS to be 1332; actual as of Sept. 4 is a little over 1350. Albright has requested additional teaching positions from DCPS to support the higher enrollment. Prior to the start of school, we lost one librarian but the position was re-programmed to physical education. There are two extended absences expected during the year. New hires have been made to fill these positions. Once the staff on leave returns, the new hires will stay on in a new capacity. The Chinese program is enrolled at maximum levels now. Additional growth in the program will require the additional Chinese language staffing.

As Deal enrollment continues to increase, the Deal community needs to consider the impact of DCPS projections on maximum building capacity and Deal's ability to maintain its programs that are not managed by the team structure, such as music, art, PE, language, and lunch periods. Increased enrollment may make these programs unsustainable in their present form. Albright is looking at the feeder schools and their projections to help Deal focus on maintaining our successful approach to middle school education. Perkins suggests sharing LSAT and school news with the Wilson LSAT and PTA since Wilson is experiencing similar impacts in terms of high enrollments and too low projections. Perkins also mentioned the interest of the W3EdNet on the issue of overcrowding.

Rhoads pointed to some of the internal solutions that are being considered to accommodate the increased enrollment: up and down designated staircases, hallway passing time, etc. Albright noted that these are

things Deal is looking at, but the constantly increasing enrollment will need to be addressed as it is unsustainable at its present and predicted levels.

### **Curriculum**

DCPS continues to roll out new initiatives in an effort to equalize available teaching resources and materials across the city to provide some consistency in subject matter for the students. The “Cornerstones” initiative is being implemented at all grade levels this year. Every subject has multiple Cornerstone projects throughout the year that will be incorporated into the curriculum. Some Deal teachers participated in the development of some of the individual projects to ensure that the Cornerstones could be implemented at appropriate levels within the Deal curriculum. Examples were shared for the LSAT – one for ELA related to agriculture and one for science relating to an engineering project based on the brain. Cornerstones vary in length but are required for each subject area. The teaching staff across the city is then expected to discuss to ensure consistency of teaching within the programs.

### **Testing**

Last year’s PARCC results are expected in late October. Next year’s test will include changes including a single testing window and shorter tests. A new social studies assessment (SAGE) is being introduced in the District. There is also exciting news for Deal regarding the world language test. Our students have outscored the 10<sup>th</sup> grade national standards in all languages so going forward, Deal students who score accordingly will be given two high school credits in DCPS high schools when they graduate from Deal instead of one.

### **Future Tasks and Discussion Items for the LSAT**

Principal Albright asked the LSAT to review the guidelines for the use of Deal space for community use. The current pattern of use is first Deal students, then DCPS, followed by non-profits, and then for-profits.

Harris then reminded the LSAT of follow up from the inclusion agenda item from May. This is a tough, but very important, discussion item for the school and the LSAT. There is a new diversity task force among the staff focusing on self-awareness chaired by Terence Ngwa. This is one effort among many to assess the school culture and consider how to use our resources to address the range of diversity concerns. The school is looking to ensure that the school culture reflects Deal’s educational goals for its students. Further open discussion is needed within the community and student body.

### **Additional short items from the meeting**

- Deal had 80-85 kids sign up for debate. 11 students went to Nationals in Texas with tremendous success.
- Elevator in the Reno Building should be working by itself soon, just waiting for inspection.
- A new building manager has been hired.
- Parent Jenny Murray will serve as webmaster for the Deal PTA.
- DC city buses to school are not sufficient and are over-crowded. Crowded is the biggest problem, which is also leading to some poor behavior by students on the bus (some from Wilson and some from Deal). Albright is asking for an evaluation of the number of kids on the bus and the bus environment. Parent engagement may be needed.

Respectfully submitted by Karissa Kovner  
October 4, 2015