

LSAT Meeting

April 8th, 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)
Chris Rhoads
Patrick Rottman
Rosa Singletary (parent representative)
Alieze Stallworth

Opening of Meeting

The April meeting was called to order by Harris. The final minutes from the February meeting were circulated and approved later in the meeting with a motion from Rhoads, seconded by Albright,

Budget

Principal Albright reported that the final budget had been loaded. The priority for 2016-2017 was to place more personnel in student-related services, and Deal was largely successful. There will be a new “Dean of Students” and, along with a focus on school culture, new personnel to provide an administrative focus on discipline, an operations director for the building, and an increased security position. There is a need to ensure that there are enough adults in the building to manage our size effectively – the Reno Building has added additional elongated space that comes with its own challenges. In addition to the personnel changes as a result of LEAP (see Feb. minutes?), there will also be a new curriculum coach added to the staff.

Principal Report

The Deal Gala was a tremendously successful night for Deal. Appreciation and thanks were expressed to the chairs of the events, as well as the volunteers that made it such a successful evening. Over \$23,000 was raised, which will allow Deal to implement its Gala objectives from the evening in the Arts area – in particular to bring in professional artists and provide some art installations for the building. It was a great night all around!

There is currently a lot of training either in progress or ready to be implemented. The city-wide IB training will be held at Deal this year and we are continuing our school-wide culture initiative that supports the diversity efforts of parents, staff, and the diversity committee.

There was a discussion of tardies and absences in terms of their relation to grade retention. Next year grade retention will be extended to 6th and 7th grades.

Staffing

Albright is expecting about 10 departures right now, primarily due to retirement, moves, and career changes. The hiring and replacement process has already begun.

PARCC

The PARCC is about to begin. Deal has a good model and thinks that the school is generally prepared, based on last year. This year there will be one testing window; last year there were two windows several weeks apart. Albright expects improvements as a result of the window reduction.

School Safety

Singletery raised a number of questions regarding the after school situation at Deal, focused on the hours between 4-5:30. Despite the policies currently in place, there still seems to be a large number of students in the building at 4 that are not enrolled or attending after school activities. The kids are in the bathrooms, the hallways, the locker rooms, etc., all of which are unsupervised. A discussion ensued regarding whether parents are under the impression that this is a “safe” environment at those hours, just because the kids are still within the school grounds. Albright reported that this has definitely been an issue; there are a number of kids still around at 6:30 pm and sometimes later, often outside during inclement weather. While he has increased his security spending to try to keep some adults on staff longer than most schools to account for this, it is not enough. There is a similar problem in the morning hours before school, but it is less pronounced. Albright noted that he is trying to address the issue, including: (1) ensuring that kids that are in the school after 3:30 for sports, music, academics, or school sanctioned activities know they must leave the building promptly at 4:30 or when practice/instruction is over, (2) through the newsletter to raise awareness with the parents, (3) providing for appropriate bus support for kids that need it, and (4) ensuring that the administration continues to escort kids out of the building on a regular basis.

LSAT Elections

Harris noted that there would be three parent LSAT slots open for next years, one of which is the ADCA liaison position. Elections for those three slots will be held by the ADCA in April.

Respectfully submitted by Karissa Kovner
May 19, 2016