

LSAT Meeting

December 8, 2017 at 7:30am

Final Meeting Minutes

In Attendance

Diedre Neal (Interim Principal)
Michael Moss
Patrick Rottman
Maurine Westover
Kari Brandt
Elyse Lerum
Tilney Wickersham
Michael Haller
Brittany Cuffee
Michael Koppenheffer (Chair, parent representative)
Tracy Scarrow (Secretary, parent representative)
Karissa Kovner (parent representative)
Mickelle Rodriguez (parent representative)
Julie Chen (ADCA representative)

Opening of Meeting

The meeting was called to order at 7:39am.

Approval of the Minutes

Michael Koppenheffer presented the draft minutes from November and made a motion to approve the minutes, which was seconded by Patrick Rottman. Final approved minutes will be forwarded to the Office of Public Engagement.

Principal Report

Staff and School Update

A Special Education teacher resigned. Interviews and demonstration lessons are to be held the following week. The new hire should be in place three weeks after an offer is made.

New Special Education Program at Deal

Ms. Neal reported that she has been informed that in an effort to make schools more equitable, two special education programs (an autism program and a specific learning impaired program) will be transferred from other schools to Deal. Staffing will come with this program which will have 8 and 12 kids, respectively, for a total of 25 new students. These programs will require their own space.

Space Issues

The LSAT discussed where additional space could be found on the school campus. Spaces included: where the planters are outside the cafeteria (potentially a space for a bubble cover); play space where the lower basketball courts are; double story trailers replacing outdated too small trailers; addition on side where current dumpsters are located; addition on top of cafeteria. Will further refine these ideas to discuss at the January meeting.

Updated Grading Policy

As a result of the Ballou grading problem, schools are being asked to more rigorously enforce grading policies. This will most affect Deal in the area of grading absent students (which is the enforcement of an existing policy). Students with 5 unexcused absences will get a grade reduction. It is unclear what "grade reduction"

means. Students with 10 unexcused absences get an FA, failure due to absence for the advisory. Students with 30 unexcused absences fail the course. This is particularly problematic for students who participate in outside events such as the Olympics. There will be an appeal process through Ms Neal for students affected. Vacations will not be considered an excused absence. In addition, under the attendance policy 3 tardys will be considered an absence.

Building Problems

Deal has a serious life safety problem with the bells and public announcement systems not working. DCGS has been unable to maintain the system which works in three different zones (cottage, Reno Building, and the main building). In addition there are no bells in the cottage. This is a life safety issue because teachers cannot be informed of emergency evacuations and thus the safety of the staff and students is at risk. This will be raised with DCGS one additional time to try to resolve this issue.

Overcrowding Working Group

The group has not met since the November meeting. It was recommended that the LSAT draft a letter to the Chancellor to address the fact that there is no path forward for Deal. Michael Koppenheffer will draft.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by Tracy Scarrow
January 3, 2018