

LSAT Meeting

November 17, 2017 at 7:30am

Draft Meeting Minutes

In Attendance

Diedre Neal (Interim Principal)
Michael Moss
Alieze Stallworth
Patrick Rottman
Maurine Westover
Arielle Alphonse
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)
Sydney Leiber (student representative)

Opening of Meeting

The meeting was called to order at 7:35am.

Special Guest Deputy Mayor for Health & Human Services HyeSook Chung

The LSAT welcomed the Deputy Mayor and Deal Parent HyeSook Chung. The Deputy Mayor came to address the issue of nurses in the school. She noted that there was a communications breakdown because it was always the intention that Deal would receive a nurse for 40 hours a week and the school should have been notified as such. Kari Brandt noted that Deal was simply informed that there would only be a nurse four days a week although just this week a fifth day of nursing services was added. Deputy Mayor Chung stated that now almost 97% of schools have 40 hours of nursing coverage. She also explained that her office did a needs assessment, surveying nurses and parents, which reflected that there is a need for improvement. Nurses reported that they are doing more administrative work and also have communications challenges with schools. While the nurse/school relationship varies by school, many nurses felt they were not sufficiently embedded in the school. The D.C. Council is making more of a shift to medically-certified staff while perhaps health navigators could be of assistance in many schools. For example, Deal would be a situation in which there is 40 hours of medical coverage and an additional 10-20 hours of health navigator coverage. Deputy Mayor Chung left the meeting after the nursing care discussion.

Approval of the Minutes

Michael Koppenheffer presented the draft minutes from October and made a motion to approve the minutes, which was seconded by Mickelle Rodriguez.

Principal Report

Staff and School Update

A new Spanish teacher has been hired to replace the one who left. The number of staff absences seem normal for a staff of this size. Deal is losing one of its special education teachers and that position will need to be filled. In addition, a temp is filling the position of an ELL teacher who is out on leave. Home visits are being conducted for non-English speaking parents. Ten teachers have been through the home visit training.

A special back to school event was also held for ELL families and 8 families attended. Buddy days have been going on and are going well. Deal has more students participating in athletics than some schools have in their entire school. Many of the teams, including soccer, cross country, and football, won the city championships. Congrats to Coach Downing for managing such an excellent program. The school is spending \$6000 on paper alone, so efforts are being made to reduce waste. Turkeys for families in need and the custodial and cafeteria staff were handed out. The ADCA paid for the turkeys for the staff while a parent paid for the turkeys for the families.

Enrollment and Capacity Issues

Three new students have started in 7th grade. The school has not met its projected enrollment numbers and it is unclear what the budget implications will be.

Staffing

Several teachers left since the beginning of the school year including a Spanish teacher, an ELL teacher, and a math teacher. All of those spots have since been filled and also a custodial position. Principal Neal will still be hiring a Dean to assist with 6th grade and her ideal candidate would speak Spanish.

Areas of Growth

Deal is struggling with the number of surveys that DCPS sends out every year. For the insight survey sent to teachers, Deal was the worst in the cluster for teacher self-satisfaction. While this survey is taken seriously, not a lot of teachers filled out the survey so Principal Neal is trying to find ways to get an accurate measure from such a large population. Similarly, the student survey, which impacts teacher ratings, reflected that "care" was rated poorly. There was, however, an acknowledgment that the question itself was poorly crafted as the definition used by the teachers and the students varies.

Comprehensive School Plan

Deal is working to implement the school plan, which has the priorities decided for the school. Specifically with the student social and emotional learning aspect, this learning piece is new and is helping Deal focus its energies. In addition, there has been a greater budget allocated for after school.

Overcrowding Working Group

Tracy Scarrow reported that she attended the Chancellor's Overcrowding Working Group. It was acknowledged that there is no long-term solution for Deal's overcrowding. The short-term solution was to get double-decker trailers to alleviate the immediate overcrowding issue. It was brought to the attention of the group that it made no sense to acknowledge that Deal was an overcrowded school while at the same time requiring it to take students (from under enrolled middle schools) off the waitlist so that "projected enrollment" could be met.

Items for December Meeting

Address short term solutions for space problems in SY2018-2019 and what issues need to be raised directly with the Chancellor. It should also be noted that an additional LSAT meeting will be held in February to address the budget.

Adjournment

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

Respectfully submitted by Tracy Scarrow
December 6, 2017