

LSAT Meeting

October 6, 2017 at 7:30am

Draft Meeting Minutes

In Attendance

Diedre Neal (Interim Principal)

Arielle Alphonse

Elyse Lerum

Tracy Scarrow (Secretary, parent representative)

Karissa Kovner (parent representative)

Kari Brandt

Michael Moss

Alieze Stallworth

Mickelle Rodriguez (ADCA representative)

Patrick Rottman

Tilney Wickersham

Michael Haller

Michael Koppenheffer (Chair, parent representative)

Opening of Meeting

The meeting was called to order at 7:36am. As a first order of business, Michael Koppenheffer presented the draft minutes from September. Rodriguez made a motion to approve the minutes, which was seconded by Kovner.

Principal Report

Enrollment and Capacity Issues

Current enrollment is 1495 – 6th grade at 484; 7th grade at 537; and 8th grade at 454. There are 5 teams in 6th and 7th grades and 4 teams in 8th grade. Principal Neal was directed by DCPS to call individuals off of the waitlist to fill the spots to meet the projected enrollment. Thirty-four families were contacted and only one student accepted the invitation to transfer to Deal. That student came from Hardy. It is clear that DCPS is not looking at Deal individually because on one hand they acknowledge that Deal is overcrowded and on the other they are asking the Principal to admit additional students. It was suggested that the Chancellor come to Deal to address issues specific to Deal.

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.

New Advisory Periods

The school psychologist, social workers, and counselors did a tremendous job in putting together the first Advisory where a 45 minute block of time was created so that students feel more connected to the adults at Deal. In a community circle format the students shared what values were important to them and what they wanted to bring to the table. These Advisories will continue throughout the school year.

Comprehensive School Plan

Deal in working to implement the school plan focused on literacy, response to intervention, social and emotional learning, and work directed at the lowest performing students. Specifically with the response to intervention, the school is focusing on student support and monitoring the intervention. Kovner inquired about how the response to intervention also addresses the highest performing students and it was explained that through better instruction for all, the highest level students were also being reached.

Overcrowding Working Group

Karissa Kovner reported that the Chancellor's Community Working Group began to address what solutions the Chancellor was taking off the table. (such as the potential sale of Old Hardy School and decreasing the number of out of boundary students in the feeder pattern). Solutions to consider are: 1) adding capacity by creating an early childhood center to relieve the pressure at the elementary school level and finding space for Wilson students such as a 9th grade academy or seniors taking some classes off campus such as at UDC. In addition strengthening the programs at schools adjacent to the feeder pattern could help. A new idea put forth was choice sets where parents would rank three elementary schools they would want their student to attend or they could choose between Deal and Hardy. This was thought to do little other than shuffle students around without fixing the problem. Another possible solution is taking 5th grade from Stoddert and Key and moving them to Hardy. It was agreed that the LSAT would engage the Deal community to get input on possible solutions and to come up with new ideas. The Deal calendar will be examined to find the best date.

Nursing Issue

The D.C. Council's Committee on Health unanimously passed the Public School Health Services Amendment Act 2017 that would require 40 hours of nursing in every school. Chairman Gray indicated that the overwhelming response the committee received from the community was instrumental in the unanimous vote. The measure will now go to the entire Council and then on to Mayor for signature.

Items for November Meeting

Address short term solutions for space problems in SY2018-2019 and what issues need to be raised directly with the Chancellor.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by Tracy Scarrow
October 10, 2017