

Shepherd Elementary School LSAT Meeting Minutes

September 4, 2024

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Agenda

- LSAT Overview – Roles, Members
- Elect LSAT Chair/s and Secretary
- Immediate Needs (Kindergarten Aids and First Grade Teacher, Outstanding vacancies overall and CES staffing, ECE Playground Redesign and Modernization)
- Review Parent Survey Findings
- Review 2023-2024 End of Year Data
- Discuss Comprehensive School Plan (CSP)
- Goals for 2024-2025 LSAT

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Action Items

- A noninstructional staff member will be elected to LSAT
- LSAT will discuss specific actions school is taking to close racial and gender gaps in ELA and Math testing
- Chair(s) will send out October meeting date

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Notes

LSAT Overview – Roles, Members and Election

- Kate Snyder and Anne Marie Pereira will co-chair our committee.
- Julia DeAngelo will be the secretary.
- Meetings will be held on the third Wednesday of the month from 4-5pm. There will be a zoom option and if anyone wants to join in person, the meetings are held in the Shepherd conference room.

Immediate Needs

- Kindergarten Aids and First Grade Teacher

- o AP Coles resent letter to DCPS Superintendent along with LSAT parents' letter of support. Current petition window closes at the end of September but feel hopeful it will be approved.
- o A third 1st grade classroom will open once teacher is approved and starts.
- o Beginning to look now at resumes and talk to potential teachers.
- Outstanding vacancies overall and CES staffing
 - o Waiting for PE teacher, 4th grade ELA, and 2 aids to get clearance to teach.
 - o Two additional teaching aids are needed.
 - o Substitutes are helping to fill gaps.
- ECE Playground Redesign and Modernization
 - o Approved to replace enclosed ECE playground next to school for Prekindergarten and CES students (design images in slides). Playground will be fenced in and offer sensory activities and shaded area with tables that was reviewed by the SPED team.
 - o Construction will start as soon as possible and take about 6 weeks (fastest, but planning for up to 10) to complete. While playground is under construction, ECE classes will move to field during recess.
 - o PTO has been separately working on approving a vendor for fencing for an outdoor fence located outside the Pre-kindergarten (3) entrance for an outdoor classroom space.

Review Parent Survey Findings

- 2024 parent survey was fielded at the request of the LSAT and school administration. DCPS has a Panorama survey that is disseminated twice a year for both students and parents that asks questions around being loved, challenged and prepared.
- 63 parents responded to the survey and indicated they felt overall satisfied in school activities and engagement with other parents and families. Open comments shared that parents want important and actionable information up front (e.g., signup for clubs), activities offered at different times, more advanced information on the timing of school events, more parent-classroom involvement, 1:1 parent teacher conferences, more grade-level activities, and prefer that information not be shared as PDFs. Mustang Express (email newsletter) was the most preferred option for communication followed by Remind and text message. The Community Weekly sent by Principal Russell weekly is popular. Overall position comments about school administration and PTO.
- School is phasing out Remind and using Class Dojo for parent teacher communications.
- Summary survey data are available in the slides. Contact Payal Martin at payalbipin@gmail.com (former PTO Vice President) for questions and additional information.

Review 2023-2024 End of Year Data

- 76% of students are on or above grade level in ELA and 73% are on or above grade level for Math, which is above average for our school cluster.

- For standardized testing over the past two years (DC CAPE in SY 23-24 and PARCC in SY 22-23), students were 74% proficient in ELA (2% growth) and 65% in Math (8% growth).
- Disparities exist between black students (63% ELA and 46% Math) and white students (84% for ELA and Math) comparing CAPE data in SY23-24.
- 90% of K-2nd grade students are performing at above benchmarks but lower performance for 4th and 5th grade students last year. Similar patterns when reviewing PARCC/CAPE data for black males and white students. Will look at data for black females next.
- School will focus on supporting black students, SPED students, and needs based small groups utilizing the MTSS intervention framework.
- ECE, Math, and ELA coaches meet with DCPS central office and academic leadership team in 4th and 5th grade band has been meeting.
- Beginning of Year (BOY) testing ends the first week of October.
- Current student demographics are approximately 60% black, 35% white and other is mixed races or other races.

Discuss Comprehensive School Plan (CSP)

- School administration and academic leadership team is developing goals and will send the draft CSP LSAT to review by the end of September or early October. LSAT will sign off that the goals have been reviewed that is sent to DCPS headquarters.

Goals for 2024-2025 LSAT

- Discuss at October Meeting:
 - Preview Enrollment Projection Timeline.
 - Preview Budget Timeline.
 - Discuss how the LSAT's and PTO's work can align so that the community is unified and school goals can be strategically prioritized.
 - CSP: Review the CSP
 - Welcome Back Principal Russell!
 - Briefly outline the strategies that are being implemented so far towards CSP goals.
 - If Beginning of Year (BOY) assessment data is available, look at the datapoints that relate to CSP goals to see where you are starting off.