

## **SHEPHERD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

### **Minutes of Local School Advisory Team meeting of JULY 29, 2013**

**Present:** Kesha Pendergrast (parent representative), chair; Mark Pattison (parent representative), secretary; parent representative: Keith White; teacher representatives: Elizabeth Guldin, Renee Hamer, Nicole Pethtel; staff representative: Robin Brooks; union representative: Tia Holt; community representative: Carl Bergman; plus Jamie Miles, principal.

**Absent:** Kamilah Proctor, parent representative; Robin George, teacher representative; Sherilyn Pruitt, PTA representative.

**Minutes:** Bergman moved, Pattison seconded approving the minutes of the June meeting. Motion carried.

**2012-13 Plans in Review:** The LSAT activities from the previous year were reviewed under the three priorities chosen by the LSAT.

#### **Academic Enrichment**

**Principal Sundae:** Ninety percent reading proficiency was required as per the TRC and DIBELS tests to turn the principal into a human sundae, but the school reached only 81 percent. It was seen as a laudatory goal and should be offered again.

**Get Caught Reading:** There was value seen in the year-round program.

**Librarians:** Bergman secured two librarians to volunteer twice a week. They will return for 2013-14. This year Shepherd is getting not only a part-time librarian but a full-time library aide.

**Spelling Bee:** Shepherd reached the district finals. This should be considered a school event.

**Science Fair:** Shepherd had students who finished in first, second, and third place in their respective categories and grades. This, too, should be considered a school event.

**GeoPlunge:** One team from Shepherd finished first, while another team finished either second or third. This should also be regarded as a school event.

**STEM Night with Mad Science:** This was well received by all who attended.

#### **Community Engagement**

**Cultural Arts Night:** Those who participated liked it, but the event needed better scheduling.

**Presence at the Shepherd Park Citizens Association:** Bergman did it last year, and was still hoping the Glovers, as parents, would fulfill this duty in the year ahead.

**Earth Day/Beautification:** It was opened up to the community and we got some support.

**Bike Rodeo:** This was done in conjunction with the Earth Day and Beautification events and the youngsters really enjoyed it.

### Culture and Climate

**Safety Patrol:** This was introduced in the past year. Students were enthusiastic about this and really got into it.

**TV-Video Game Turnoff Club:** This continued for at least the third year and got worthwhile student buy-in.

**Crossing Guard:** There is an annual battle to retain the guard. Now, charter schools are requesting guards but the budget line item has not kept pace with the requests. And, when Shepherd DOES get a crossing guard, the guard never seems to go to the intersection where the need is greatest.

**Jazz Night/Auction:** These are PTA events. Better coordination with the school and the neighborhood may result in greater participation. Ideas to foster said participation include a newsletter to the community and more skilled use of the neighborhood listserv.

**Items for Consideration:** parent engagement was a top concern and was eventually identified as a fourth priority to be adopted for 2013-14 by the LSAT. ... Safety: the safety patrol, parking and crosswalk blocking are all in the mix under this header. Respectful dropoff and pickup, as well as getting crossing guards stationed where they're needed also should be listed here. ... A "League of LSATs" or a "Posse of PTAs" to wield collective muscle for more, better and fairer funding for DCPS facilities is always on the back burner. ... Awards Day: Hoping that those who are "proficient" in a subject aren't mentioned as "just making it."

**Parent Engagement:** The PTA is planning separate events on Sunday, Aug. 11, 2-4 p.m., and Saturday, Aug. 17, for parents to get them more engaged. The PTA is also sponsoring the Beautification Day Aug. 24 which is combined with a play date for students.

Parent and community engagement are closely linked. The school needs to get more people involved than just the teachers. Ideas for greater parental involvement are Bingo for books (where even non-winners get a book by the end of the program), Pizza Pizzazz, and the Treasure Hunt. The requirement is that every child led a parent that the treasure hunt in hopes for prizes. Such events could require a whole group effort.

The school's Academic Committee would benefit from such LSAT suggestions.

Some students at last year's Back to School Night were dropped off at the school, which kind of defeats the purpose. This year's Back to School Night will be Sept. 11 to avoid conflicts with parents' (and teachers') schools.

Smart scheduling helps to keep parents and the community interested.

If parents were asked in a survey why they don't participate, would they respond? .... The personal touch may have a greater payoff than a survey.

A "buddy system" could be put into place where a new parent has a veteran parent explain things about the school and to engender more parent involvement.

Keep in mind that classroom involvement is different from school-wide involvement. ... Perhaps a survey at the end of an event would have a greater payoff.

Perhaps another PEP seminar, such as the one sponsored last year by the PTA, will help bring parents. A similar idea is advanced by Families And Schools Together (FAST).

Adding parent engagement to the existing three priorities – but with this item, it will cut across all priorities for a more holistic/infusion approach.

Let the pre-K teachers pick the room parents.

Do teachers know of school activities? Mark to invite each of the teachers to join the PTA listserv.

Kesha wonders whether an iCalendar feature can be employed on the school website as Janney Elementary does. Mark to ask the webmaster about it.

A first letter has been sent to new parents. No letter sent yet to returning parents.

Should we sign up people onto the listserv?

There will be a survey on Survey Monkey, with results available by the next LSAT meeting, on these and related issues.

We may want to ask PTA president Sherilyn Pruitt to talk about the PTA midyear during the LSAT meeting. Dan Nathan, who runs the Tifereth Israel tutoring program, will be asked once again to come to an LSAT meeting.

A request was made to post photos of the ongoing work in school renovations on the website.

Ms. Pethtel agreed to be the #2 moderator for the LSAT Google group.

Tifereth Israel is collecting school supplies for Shepherd. What does Shepherd need most?

Bergman is mulling over how to approach the Shepherd Park listserv with their thoughts and opinions about the school without opening a can of worms. He said he would run all questions by the principal before tackling this project.

The meeting was adjourned.

The next meeting will be **TUESDAY, SEPT. 10, 4 p.m.**, in the school library. Meetings will be monthly on the second Tuesday of the month until further notice.

Respectfully submitted,  
Mark Pattison  
LSAT secretary