

# LSAT Meeting Notes

## October 8, 2014

### **Attendance**

*Present:* Keith White (parent representative), chair; parent representatives: Aeva Doomes, James Elliott, Eve Lotter; teacher representatives: Beverly Johnson, Gail Liggins, Nicole Pethtel; Washington Teachers Union representative: Tia Holt; community representative: Carl Bergman; supplemental members: Mark Pattison, Kesha Pendergrast; plus Jamie Miles, Principal, and Angel Hunter, Vice Principal.

*Not present:* Robin George, teacher representative; Robyn Brooks; Washington Teachers Union representative.

### **Minutes**

The LSAT approved minutes from the September 11 LSAT meeting.

### **Candidate Forum**

The LSAT will not sponsor a candidate forum.

### **Traffic Safety**

Principal Miles reported that traffic safety issues (e.g., double parking) had improved. She credited this improvement to the efforts of Ms. Moorefield and other SES staff members who have been getting out early to provide direction during parent pick-up.

Jim Elliott reported on Walk to School Day, which occurred the morning of October 8. More than 60 people walked from Marvin Caplan Park, while 10-15 walked from Brightwood, and others walked along their customary routes. Mr. Langrock provided pedestrian safety education to students in advance of Walk to School Day, and walk leaders conducted a pedestrian safety quiz. The Neighborhood Pace Car Program was also launched on Walk to School. Parents who participate in the Neighborhood Pace Car Program pledge not to exceed the speed limit and to respect pedestrians and bicyclists.

### **LSAT Priorities**

The Chair, Keith White, initiated a discussion of LSAT priorities, with a focus on parent engagement and academic achievement. LSAT members suggested a variety of ideas to address these focus areas, including:

- Finding ways to communicate with parents so they have a better understanding of how they can support SES staff and the SES IB program (e.g., put a list of IB units with dates online)
- International Day
- Limiting the number initiatives the LSAT pursues to improve focus and follow-through.
- Re-establishing regular coffees/chat n' chews with SES administration
- Planting trees
- Hosting a spring event similar in scale to Fall Fest
- Improving the SES website
- Launching a reading initiative to involve students in the younger grades and their parents.
- Continuing the Car Talk initiative, which suggests ways that parents can engage students on academic topics while in the car
- Doing more to engage students who are above grade level, e.g., establish a learning lab or think tank similar to the one at Maury
- Establishing a Saturday academy
- Acclimating new parents to Shepherd and to a set of values to be branded as the "Shepherd Way"
- Continuing the TV/Video Turn Off program and potentially linking it to Book It
- Continuing academic enrichment programs, such as Mad Science, Geo Plunge, Mathletes, and Spelling Bee
- Establishing clubs, such as an amateur radio club
- Improving coordination between the LSAT and PTA (e.g., the PTA's newly established Academic Committee might coordinate with the LSAT on academic initiatives)
- Continuing the computer tutoring program

### Outcomes

Outcomes of the discussion of LSAT priorities included the following:

- *Car Talk*--Aeva Dooms will look into re-establishing the Car Talk program.
- *Regular coffees/chat n' chews*--Aeva Dooms and Principal Miles will look into the potential for re-establishing regular coffees/chat n' chews with SES administration
- *Maury Think Tank*--Aeva Dooms will send LSAT members information about the Maury Think Tank.
- *TV/Video Turn Off Program*--Keisha Pendergrast will take the lead on coordinating the TV/Video Turn-Off Program. Nicole Pethtel will contribute by coordinating creation of a box for collecting registration forms.
- *Mathletes*--Principal Miles will see if a staff member is interested in pursuing the Mathletes program as a club.

- *Parent Support of IB Program*--Keisha Pendergrast will talk with Principal Miles and SES teachers about ways that parents can help support the SES IB program

### **Other Business**

Mark Pattison and Carl Bergman reminded LSAT members that the Shepherd Park Neighborhood Association is planning a December service project, which it would like to coordinate with SES.

### **Next Meeting**

Wednesday, November 5 at 4 p.m.

*Meeting notes prepared by LSAT Secretary, Jim Elliott*