

LSAT Meeting Notes

January 2015

Attendance

Keith White, Chair
Jamie Miles, Principal
Tia Holt, Washington Teachers Union Representative
Gail Liggins, Teacher Representative
Nicole Pethtel, Teacher Representative
Beverly Johnson, Teacher Representative
Robyn Brooks, Staff Representative
David Trimble, PTA President
Eve Lotter, Parent Representative
Jim Elliott, Parent Representative
Mark Pattison, Supplemental Member
Roman Smith, Fellow

Minutes

Minutes from the December LSAT meeting were approved pending an update to the next meeting date.

TV/Video Game Turn Off

Keith White reported a problem with the TV/Video Game Turn Off page on the website. Attempting to download the pledge form results in an error. This may be a general issue with the Shepherd website, as other LSAT members reported similar errors on other pages.

Communication about IB to Parents

Principal Miles is planning to continue efforts to educate parents regarding the Shepherd IB program and other academic issues at future PTA meetings.

Spanish Teacher Concerns

Ms. Mulligan, Shepherd's Spanish teacher, has extended her leave of absence. Parents have reached out to the PTA with concerns about Shepherd's Spanish program. Principal Miles indicated that she would be more proactive in the future about notifying parents when teachers are out for more than a few days, or extend their absences, as in the case of Ms. Mulligan.

A strong Spanish program is an important part of attracting new students and retaining existing students. LSAT members discussed strategies for strengthening Spanish at Shepherd, including incorporating a Spanish language component in Star Achievers

and reaching out to other LSATs and DCPS to address the lack of substitutes for Spanish language classes. DCPS has a hard time recruiting Spanish language teachers for a variety of reasons, including a lack of graduates with Spanish language expertise who pursue careers in education.

Ward 3 Collaborative

The Shepherd LSAT is planning to reach out to the Ward 3 Collaborative, which consists of community members and people connected to Ward 3 schools, since schools in Ward 3 feed into Deal, as does Shepherd.

Mark Pattison and potentially also David Trimble will participate in the Ward 3 Collaborative. Keith White will reach out to the collaboratives in Ward 3 and 4 regarding Spanish language education.

International Night

Shepherd had a great International Night in December. Another international event may be planned for the spring. This event will be student-centered and will tap into work students are doing to study different countries.

Jazz Night

Jazz Night is planned for the end of February. There has been concern about parent talking and student behavior during Jazz Night.

Reading Initiative

The reading initiative is moving forward.

Budget Meeting

DCPS is holding a meeting to discuss budget priorities at Coolidge High School on January 22. Principal Miles expected the final budget to come out within 1 to 4 weeks thereafter. Principal Miles, Keith White, and Jim Elliott said they would attend the meeting. David Trimble said that he might attend as well.

School Improvement Team

Two new parents have joined the School Improvement Team. Both are expected to be great additions to the team. Several improvements will be made in the next phase of construction, including adding a dedicated art and music classroom, adding/expanding classrooms on the 2nd floor, and providing a second floor connection between the 1970s wing with the older wing. Improvements to the kitchen and cafeteria are not currently included in the next phase of construction; however, the School Improvement Team has reached out to the local ANC in an effort to identify funding to pay for these improvements.

Next Meeting

Wednesday, February 11 at 4 p.m.

Meeting notes prepared by LSAT Secretary, Jim Elliott