

LSAT Meeting Notes February 2015

Attendance

Keith White, Chair
Jamie Miles, Principal
Tia Holt, Washington Teachers Union Representative
Nicole Pethtel, Teacher Representative
Beverly Johnson, Teacher Representative
Gail Liggins, Staff Representative
Robyn Brooks, Staff Representative
Eve Lotter, Parent Representative
Jim Elliott, Parent Representative
Carl Bergman, Community Representative
Mark Pattison, Supplemental Member
David Trimble, PTA President
Nancy Ulba, teacher
Renee Haimer, Teacher
Ashley Hart, Teacher
Lashahn Booth, Teacher
Tenisha Whren, Teacher
Evelyn McIntyre, Teacher
Alice Hill-Dyal, Teacher
Koutouan Gadie, Teacher
Anne Charles, Teacher
Elizabeth Guildin, Teacher
Robin George, Teacher
Crystal Moorefield, Instructional Coach
Ms. Walcott?

Commented [AB1]: Does anyone know Ms. Walcott's first name and whether she is a parent or staff member? Also, please review this list. There were a lot of people at this meeting and I am only reporting those who signed in on the sign in sheet or that I clearly remember being there.

Minutes

Minutes from the April LSAT meeting were approved as amended.

Shepherd Visioning

Principal Miles provided an update on efforts to develop a vision for the future of Shepherd ES. The process involved separate meetings with parents and staff, with both groups contributing ideas for topics to be addressed as part of a future comprehensive planning process.

Principal Miles organized the topics identified through the visioning process into four broad categories and proposed that subcommittees be established to focus on each category. The proposed subcommittees were:

- Family/Community Engagement
- Climate and Culture
- Safety
- Academics

Communications

Meeting attendees discussed the issue of school-parent communications in depth. Some key takeaways from this discussion included:

- Parents have different experiences. Some parents believe the school does a good job communicating (or even feel over communicated with), while others feel communication needs improvement.
- There is a desire among some parents to streamline communications (e.g., through a single listserv or a single app) but also a recognition that there is a limit to such streamlining given the variety of messages that must be communicated and different communication styles and preferences.
- Teachers believe they do a good job of communicating with parents using a variety of methods and question the notion of a “disconnect.”
- Parents and teachers/staff might benefit by better understanding each other’s perspectives.
- Effective communication requires establishing clear expectations and being consistent. To address both, Carl Bergman suggested developing a matrix with the different types of messages the school needs to communicate along with the method by which each message type should be communicated. Those present at the meeting generally agreed that developing such a matrix would be helpful.

Subcommittees Established

The LSAT voted to establish the four subcommittees suggested by Principal Miles plus a Communications Subcommittee. Each subcommittee will include an LSAT liaison. The following meeting attendees expressed interest in participating the committees or were suggested for the committees.

- Climate and Culture—Nicole Pethtel, Beverly Johnson
- Safety—Eve Lotter, Jim Elliott
- Family/Community Engagement—Mark Pattison, Tia Holt, Crystal Moorefield
- Communications—Keith White, Robyn Brooks
- Academics—Kesha Pendergrast, Aeva Doods

Commented [AB2]: This list is not complete. I believe Nicole Pethtel kept a complete list.

Next Steps for Subcommittees

The following next steps were discussed:

- Establish an email account for each subcommittee so that parents and staff members can easily communicate suggestions and concerns with the committee.
- Each committee should identify three goals as well as immediate action items.

LSAT Elections

The need for LSAT elections was discussed and June 12 was identified as a potential date for these elections.

Meeting notes prepared by LSAT Secretary, Jim Elliott