

Local School Advisory Team (LSAT) Meeting Minutes

Date: March 18, 2026

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order on March 18, 2026.

2. Departmentalization for School Year 2026–2027

- Principal Russell discussed a shift from a departmentalized model (Grades 1–5) to a more self-contained classroom structure.
- Previously, students transitioned between different subject teachers.
- The proposed model reduces transitions and increases consistency within classrooms.

Grade-Level Structure however will not change for the following:

- **3rd Grade:**
 - Three cohorts of students will rotate among 3 separate teachers for:
 - English Language Arts (ELA)
 - Math
 - Science/Social Studies
 - **4th/5th Grade:**
 - Two cohorts will be established:
 - Math/Science
 - ELA/Social Studies
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3. Questions and Discussion

- The new schedule is expected to better support interventionist work.
 - Clarification was requested regarding whether teachers will have more instructional time in classrooms.
 - ELA instructional block will be **120 minutes**.
 - Questions were also asked about how larger cohorts can receive comprehensive instruction across all three subject teachers; there is concern of a lack of continuity around individual learners with so much variance in the day; also concern teachers can't fully evaluate a student's progress with such short periods of time spent with each teacher.
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4. Evaluation of Core Boost Program

- The Core Boost program will be **phased out for the 2026–2027 school year**.
 - Further considerations regarding instructional support structures will continue.
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5. Parent and Community Input: Curriculum Expansion

- **Enrichment programming and curriculum alignment:** If the Shepherd 2026-2027 budget is approved as submitted we will add an additional specials class. We will have a conversation about the elementary **performing arts** and **STEAM** options currently being explored, including how either could intersect with Shepherd's IB curriculum and the overall elementary schedule.
 - Discussion on gathering input for potential additions:
 - STEAM programming
 - Performing Arts curriculum
 - Both options were noted as **transdisciplinary**, with the potential to enhance the Unit of Inquiry framework.
 - Survey will be sent to families to vote on their preference between a STEAM teacher and a Performing Arts teacher. This will be an added special for the 26-27 year, and will integrate transdisciplinary, IB curriculum approaches.
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6. LSAT Elections

- March 1-April 24: **Nominations Window**
 - April 27-May 1: **Ballot Finalized**
 - May 4-May 7: **Voting**
 - May 8: **Election Results Announced**
 - June 1-June 30: **Transition Meetings**
 - July 1: **New LSAT/PTO Term Begins**
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7. Next Meeting April 22 at 3:45pm

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned.