



Shepherd Elementary LSAT Meeting

May 20, 2026



AGENDA

- 2026-2027 LSAT Members
- Enrollment Update
- Staffing Update
- Ed Tech Discussion
- Looking Forward to June!

ROLE OF THE LSAT

The Local School Advisory Team (LSAT) is a group of elected and appointed members that exists for every DCPS school.

Our Shepherd team consists of parents, teachers, non-instructional school staff and a community member to advise the principal on matters that **promote high expectations** and **high achievement for all students**. The LSAT is a key lever to **increasing transparency** at DCPS and **ensuring decisions affecting school communities are made collaboratively** with the help of a diverse group of school stakeholders.

SHEPHERD ELEMENTARY LSAT MEMBERS 2025-2026

Teacher Representatives:

- Koutouan Gadie
- Denise Hector
- Brenda Brown-Wimberly
- Cassidy Martinez

WTU Building Representative:

- Promithious Denmark Lawal

PTO Representative:

- Candace Mainor

Parent Representatives:

- Marianna Papademetriou
- Wesley Thompson
- Kimberly Rollins
- Kate Snyder

Community Representative:

- Michelle Colson⁵

Non-Instructional Staff Member Representative:

- Avani Mack

Welcome New Members



SHEPHERD ELEMENTARY LSAT MEMBERS 2026-2027

Teacher Representatives:

- Rachel Douglass
- Koutouan Gadie
- Edna Ripley
- Reginald Smith

WTU Building Representative:

- Promithious Denmark Lawal

PTO Representative:

- TBD

Parent Representatives:

- Candace Mainor
- Marianna Papademetriou
- Wesley Thompson
- Kara Thomas

Community Representative:

- TBD ⁷

Non-Instructional Staff Member Representative:

- Uchenna Offer

Enrollment

Total Projection- 420

Current Re-enrollment- 256

Benchmarks

May 1st - 60% (252)

June 1st- 90% (378)

June 18th - 100% (420)

Incentives:

- Water Balloon Fight with Admin & Pizza
- Popsicles and Extra Recess
- Treasure Box Picks
- Schoolwide benchmark to 100% benchmark- Schoolwide Cookout

Supports: *What else do parents need?*

- Ms. Offer's Office Hours
- Parent Cafe

Staffing Updates

Recently Hired

-
Soft Offers Extended to candidates for:

- Special Education Inclusion Teacher
- Physical Education Teacher
- STEM Teacher
- School Librarian

Current Vacancies

- Manager of Specialized Instruction (MSI)
- Instructional Math Coach

Anticipated Vacancies

- Two Classroom Teachers
- Two Special Education Aides

Education Technology in Elementary Schools

- What is this about?
 - A parent and educator led movement across the country to ensure the education technology tools are helping our scholars learn.
 - To that end there has been nationwide organizing to advocate for evidence-based guidelines around technology in the classroom.



Education Technology in Elementary Schools

- What is going on in DC?
 - Organizing across all 8 Wards to both make technology evaluation and changes in individual schools and citywide.
 - Parents and caregivers organized to oppose the automatic renewal of the iReady contract.
 - A federal class action lawsuit against Curriculum Associates alleges that its i-Ready platform unlawfully collects and shares students' sensitive data without proper parental consent.
 - DC Council passed a disapproval resolution which halted the automatic extension of the DCPS iReady Contract
 - This doesn't halt the contract but sets a 30 day clock for the Council to discuss concerns with DCPS and the Office of the Attorney General.
 - Board of Education hearing today, May 20 at 5:30; advocates are offering testimony

Education Technology in Elementary Schools

- What does this look at other DCPS Schools?

OA Tech Use: Pedagogical Guidelines (Working Draft)

Oyster-Adams Bilingual School is committed to providing instruction that supports children's cognitive, social-emotional, linguistic, and physical development. This policy ensures that use of video content:

- enhances, rather than replaces, hands-on learning and rich social interaction
- protects children from known cognitive and behavioral harms associated with excessive digital media use, and
- reflects our mission to cultivate critical thinkers, bilingual communicators, and healthy, engaged learners.

1. Indoor Recess: Prioritize Play, Not Screens

Indoor recess is an opportunity for students to engage in **interactive, cooperative, and hands-on play**. Accordingly:

- **At OA we do not use screens** or videos during indoor recess (we welcome playing music in the background!).
- **Primary options** include board games, collaborative activities, imaginative play, and social interaction.

2. Centers and EdTech: Prioritize Student Discourse and Peer Learning

To protect the integrity of Centers as a time for differentiated, hands-on learning:

- We do not use Ed Tech during Centers **without a clear purpose, collaboration with leadership, and clear time boundaries in class**. Even if DCPS has vetted it, it does not mean that the app fits our instructional model or specific curricular needs as a bilingual school.
- Approval for EdTech **outside of the designated curriculum** must come from an **AP or Instructional Coach**.
- The DCPS vetted **EdTech** that we do adopt:
 - Has a clear instructional purpose that a teacher or partner teacher in the space could NOT fulfill through any other more effective live means of instruction. Coaches and AP's are constantly building a larger toolkit for teachers in meeting pedagogical goals in autonomous centers (which is typically where EdTech is most heavily relied on).
 - Be explicitly linked to Unit goals
 - Include a **specific time limit**
 - **An app being available on Clever is NOT sufficient rationale for its use**



Education Technology in Elementary Schools

Community Observations, Thoughts & Questions

At Shepherd Students Use:

- iReady
- Clever
- Canvas
- Approved YouTube



Education Technology in Elementary Schools

Proposed Working Group: Education Technology

This working group would bring together interested parents, educators, and LSAT members to better understand how educational technology is currently being used at the school, gather community perspectives, explore research and best practices around screen use in elementary education, and develop potential recommendations or questions for school leadership. This group would also consider how and if we participate as a community in the larger citywide movement.

Chair: TBD

LAST LSAT MEETING SY 2025-2026: JUNE 17 AT 3:45!

We are **CURIOUS**

We are **ENTHUSIASTIC**

We are **SHEPHERD ELEMENTARY**

Questions or agenda items for our next meeting,
please email LSAT Chair:
Kate Snyder kateasnyder@gmail.com

August LSAT

- Election of the LSAT Officers for SY 2026-2027
- Review of the EOY Shepherd Testing Data
- Discussion of the Priorities for the CSP