

Shepherd Elementary School LSAT Meeting Minutes

Meeting time: September 23, 2026 4:05–4:38 p.m.

Welcome and housekeeping

Kara introduced the LSAT members and reviewed the group's purpose. She asked families to send school inquiries to Shepherd.lsat@k12.dc.gov. During meetings, participants should raise their hands for questions about the topic under discussion and place other questions in the chat. The LSAT will review questions that cannot be addressed during the meeting.

A parent asked about the community reader program; Dr. Hooks will provide an update soon. Candice reminded families to sign up for PT Board.

Principal's update

Dr. Hooks announced a **Celebration of Learning on October 23**, when families can visit classrooms and learn about what students are studying. A suicide prevention session for parents and guardians will take place immediately beforehand.

Current enrollment is **422 students**. The school expects to receive next year's enrollment projections within a month. Those projections will inform budget and staffing discussions, including whether third grade needs another class and whether custodial staffing should change.

School leaders are reviewing beginning-of-year (BOY) data to identify student needs. Dr. Hooks said programs such as Early Readers and Math Enrichment, along with opportunities such as science fairs and spelling bees, are being considered as part of that review. The school has also revamped its Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS) leadership team. Future family newsletters will provide more information.

Dr. Hooks said the school will follow the newly released DCPS technology policy, which emphasizes purposeful learning, student safety, and accessibility.

Discussion and questions

Student supports and academic progress. Dr. Hooks said families should receive regular communication from classroom teachers about supports for their children and may contact teachers directly with questions. Supports are determined according to each student's needs, which may range from help with a specific skill to broader support in an area where a student is below grade level. There is no single score threshold that determines eligibility.

SES LSAT September 2026 Meeting Minutes

Asked about instructional time lost because of last year's scheduling issues, Dr. Hooks said the school has put systems in place to meet requirements this year. Students identified through the BOY review as needing additional help will receive support. Dr. Hooks also explained that the school generally does not compare end-of-year results directly with BOY results because factors such as changes in the student population and summer learning loss make the measures difficult to align.

Dr. Hooks and AP Moss said DCPS provides guidance on research-based interventions and training for teachers. Some teachers are already taking part in that training, and Ms. Bromley can work with teachers on interventions.

Specialized instruction and staffing. Dr. Hooks said a Manager of Specialized Instruction position discussed last spring was not funded in the current budget. The school will assess its needs for next year before deciding on next steps. In response to a question about special education services, Dr. Hooks said Shepherd is well below the district average in the number of students receiving those services.

Technology use. Asked how the school will monitor adherence to the DCPS screen-time policy, Dr. Hooks said school leaders regularly observe classrooms. Staff have been informed of the policy's expectations.

The meeting adjourned at **4:38 p.m.**