



Capitol Hill Cluster School

Where Every Child Achieves

Peabody | Watkins | Stuart-Hobson | A DC Public School

February 1, 2022

7:00 pm – 9:00 pm

Welcome & Introductions

Members in attendance - Ramona Burton (Watkins parent co-chair), Henri Rowe (Watkins teacher co-chair), Kerslyn Featherstone (Stuart-Hobson parent rep), Annie Slattery (Peabody teacher rep), Shannon Russell (Peabody parent rep), Sarah Cissna (Peabody parent rep), Kathy Zeisel (Watkins parent rep), Monique Sullivan (Watkins teacher rep), Bethany Rosera (Stuart-Hobson teacher rep), Nancy Abou-Samra (Stuart-Hobson teacher rep), D Ambra Taylor (Stuart-Hobson teacher rep), Tiffany Kaijage (Stuart-Hobson teacher rep), Peter Honarvar (LSAT Community member), Sara Friedman (Peabody teacher rep), Denise Forte (PTA liaison), Layth Elmusa (Watkins teacher rep), Ebon McPherson (Peabody teacher rep), MScott Berkowitz (Peabody/Watkins Principal), Eric Fraser (Stuart-Hobson principal)

LSAT Open Business

- Covid Quarantine Protocols
 - <https://www.washingtonpost.com/education/2022/01/31/dc-schools-covid-guidance/> – specifies “selected” PK classes. Principal Berkowitz shared that all PK classes are under the new pilot for test to stay and they have been doing it (several classes have had it applied so far). Test to stay will apply even if positive on Tuesday. Spit testing at Peabody is now just for Kindergarten. Pre-K is doing only rapid antigen testing. They work on Monday mornings to verify any positives reported over the weekend before deciding to close classes.
 - The letters sent home give instructions what to do about quarantines for vaccinated vs unvaccinated kids or kids who have had COVID in the prior 90 days.
 - Classes won't close unless there is a major outbreak at Peabody. Hopefully the situation with Ms. T's class would be the last time that happens for Peabody unless there is an actual outbreak at the school.
 - How are you verifying vaccination status?
 - Principal Berkowitz is only asking when a class needs to quarantine.
 - There is no tracking of vaccinated students at either school because they have been discouraged from doing so at DCPS.
 - For student-athletes who have either religious or medical exemptions and require weekly testing, is that PCR or rapid tests and does the school provide the weekly test?
 - Principal Fraser said that students who need testing for athletic exemptions can join in weekly testing and should notify the testing coordinator that they would like to do so.
 - What test to use for different scenarios?
 - See <https://coronavirus.dc.gov/sites/default/files/dc/sites/coronavirus/page>

- How is the supply stock of PPE going?
 - Good on general PPE inventory at all three schools, and DCPS upped the number of KN95 masks to three per week per staff member. S-H just distributed the KN95 masks to teachers en masse (entire supply for the rest of year distributed to each teacher to manage their own use). PTA placed order for 800 KN95 masks as well, but pending cancellation because schools said they had enough.
- Who is responsible for keeping track of all the testing/vaccinations/etc?
 - Principal Fraser noted: “When schools receive full-time COVID coordinators it will be that staff member’s responsibility. For now, it tends to fall on the 3 COVID POCs who have been doing all COVID related tasks (contact tracing, case notifications, testing, etc.) since the beginning of the year.”
 - Principal Berkowitz stated they are tracking reported positives at Peabody and Watkins to get students off the testing list to avoid keeping students out of school. Parents can let school know their child was positive or just opt them out temporarily of the testing.
- Other Covid Observations
 - Reminder that schools will be doing test to return after February and April break
 - City is recommending that staff/students don’t take PCR tests for 90 days after infection (yields false current positive). Regular asymptomatic tests are PCR tests. Parents may want to consider not having kids take the test because the child has to quarantine again.
- Library Instruction @ Watkins
 - Students who have library 2x/week in Term 3 will be having Food Prints instead. We have been able to re-open the Food Prints kitchen.
 - There is spot coverage for the third day of Library (combination of staff)
 - FoodPrints will come back for all students once the weather warms up in Term 4 (back to monthly schedule)
 - We hope to also have a plan to open it up with volunteers once we have volunteers lined up.
- Update on Equity Initiatives
 - Watkins/Peabody Equity Group had third meeting last week, there was an asynchronous opportunity for staff and will have parallel tracks so that everyone has access to the opportunity. Will be breaking into inquiry groups after meeting 4.
 - Kindred Year 2 Equity Team is now incorporating admin into meetings
 - Kindred Year 2 Dialogue Groups have launched/are launching, with Kindred year 1 folks leading the new class of parents and staff.
 - Principal Fraser – On PD day, did some work with courageous conversations. Staff started working on a racial autobiography. Will also be sharing resources with families to raise awareness and have discussions together. Working with S-H PTA Exec Committee to use some allocated funding to support this work.
 - No robust update on the Holocaust education, meeting this week to get an update.

- Bijan: “We’ll have more to share after the meeting this week. Anyone should feel free to reach out to bijan.verlin@k12.dc.gov if you have questions around the Holocaust follow-up education.”
 - Question: Any events planned around Lunar New Year or Black History Month?
 - At Watkins/Peabody
 - At Watkins: Winter of Soul (modeled after the Summer of Soul), Black Lives Matter Week of Action
 - At Stuart-Hobson – We will be featuring lesser-known Black Americans from Black history and culture with trivia questions in the morning announcements. We have celebration scheduled on 2/17.
- Budget Forecasting Discussion– Campus Breakout Groups (30 mins)
 - Peabody/Watkins Budget Priorities
 - Academic supports – There was a question on whether WIN will continue. Ms. Rachel and Mr. Hill are essentially full-time subs. What about City Year staff?
 - Ms. Sullivan – not enough behavioral support (anyone who can respond to a student in crisis – social worker, behavioral technician, etc.) in the building right now and it makes the day-to-day very stressful – would be the first thing she’d add.
 - Ms. Rowe – Kids need the help, the services.
 - Lots more conversation about needing more bodies in the building, a combination of general folks and folks with specific skills
 - Bijan Verlin shared Assessment guide for parents resource - https://dck12-my.sharepoint.com/personal/bijan_verlin_k12_dc_gov/_layouts/15/onedrive.aspx?id=%2Fpersonal%2Fbijan%5Fverlin%5Fk12%5Fdc%5Fgov%2FDocuments%2FSY21%2D22%20DCPS%20Assessment%20Guide%20for%20Families%2Epdf&parent=%2Fpersonal%2Fbijan%5Fverlin%5Fk12%5Fdc%5Fgov%2FDocuments

LSAT Standing Topics

- CSP Update - CSP updates were not discussed this month; a robust discussion will be planned for our March meeting after the completion of MOY testing.
- Staffing Updates/Needs
 - Watkins 5th grade teacher continues to be out. PB will have an update for those families “pretty soon.”
 - Regarding the librarian at Watkins library, Ms. Jurkowski is still technically the current librarian.
 - Stuart-Hobson is in need of long term coverage for 6th and 7th grade science plus self-contained special education. We have long term coverage for each period of those science classes, but need permanent coverage for all day. Deeply grateful to teachers for coverage. The 6th grade is an actual vacancy and the other two are long term coverage. Also hiring for a COVID coordinator (central office is hiring, but could propose someone).
- School Culture (moving this to March meeting)
 - Behavior Management/Positive Interventions/Bullying/Discipline Data

General Campus Updates

- Peabody -Open House February 8th;
- Watkins -Report cards being mailed February 9; Open House February 9th
- Stuart Hobson
 - Both boys and girls basketball teams were in the playoffs
 - HS application deadline is tonight 2/1, shout out to counselors and AP Turner to support families on applications; teachers have until 2/8 to finish recommendations
 - Shout out to Ms. Taylor who is organizing study abroad program. It will be domestic this year.
 - Term 3 is underway; eliminated the study block and lengthened academic periods and lunch period/recess. Have advisory time first thing in the morning.
 - Just had spelling bee wrap up
 - National Junior Honor Society met up earlier this week

Public Comment

Next meeting: March 1