



Capitol Hill Cluster School

Where Every Child Achieves
Peabody | Watkins | Stuart-Hobson | A DC Public School

Local School Advisory Team (LSAT) Meeting
June 7, 2022
7:00 pm – 9:00 pm

MEETING MINUTES

Welcome & Introductions:

Ramona Burton (Watkins parent rep, LSAT co-chair), Henri Rowe (Watkins teacher, LSAT co-chair), Denise Forte (PTA rep for LSAT), Ebon McPherson (Peabody teacher rep), Kersyln Featherstone (S-H parent rep), Bethany Rosera (S-H teacher rep), Annie Slattery (Peabody teacher rep), Sarah Cissna (Peabody parent rep), Sara Friedman (Peabody teacher rep), Shannon Russell (Peabody parent rep), Kathy Zeisel (Watkins parent rep), Peter Honovar (City Year/community rep), Tiffany Kaijage (S-H teacher rep), Nancy Abou-Samra (S-H teacher rep), Gerty Johnson (S-H parent rep), Assistant Principal Mark Boisvert (Watkins), Assistant Principal La-Tarsha James (Peabody), Principal MScott Berkowitz (Peabody/Watkins), Principal Eric Fraser (Stuart-Hobson)

- **Introduction of new Team Members:** LSAT is excited to welcome Dr. Amber Williams as Peabody Parent Representative, Telithia Anthony as Watkins Parent Representative, and Carmen Coles Tull as Stuart-Hobson Parent Representative. Ramona, Shannon, and Gerty will be cycling off as LSAT representatives.

LSAT Open/New Business

- **SY '23 Comprehensive School Plan (CSP) Overview**
 - Stuart-Hobson MS
 - will continue with **shared leadership** with different staff groups, parents;
 - maintain goals around **inclusive engagement** with outreach to families;
 - **culture of achievement** and academics will focus a lot of love and feeling appreciated for students and will work to continue building a safe, predictable climate at school for teachers/staff and students;
 - **academics** goals-will have PARCC data goals when PARCC scores come back, maintain goals around individual student growth (lean into equity work), and continue focus on multi-tiered system of supports (MTSS) to make sure recognizing needs and (just in-time) supports for students
 - Questions on mission and vision group work that was postponed, and how school will continue working towards shared leadership since teacher leadership positions had to be cut because of budget constraints.
 - Peabody/Watkins ES
 - **academics** growth leadership looked back at CSP for any changes but will confirm after looking at academic data, lining up teacher/school

- leader/CSP goals to academic growth for black students and special education students with;
 - biggest change will be explicit MTSS integration in CSP because of staffing and covid challenges Watkins couldn't sustain robust data collection and necessary time to hold meetings on MTSS;
 - **culture of achievement** goals will continue but recent Panorama data showed highest scores from students (grade 3-5) for "feeling loved" but more room to grow and will continue to integrate Kindred work here;
 - **shared leadership** will recommit to ALT meetings because that work wasn't feasible this school year.
 - No major changes to Peabody CSP.
 - Question on Watkins specials schedule for SY '23; middle of year academic growth of special education students; MTSS data and intervention plans for students this year and next year;
 - Question to both principals spoke about the idea of students feeling loved and gaps in historically marginalized groups, and what is being done outside of academic PD to change mindsets. Question on zero period and advisory period at S-H. Question on keeping cohorts at Stuart-Hobson.
- **New instructional model for Grade K-1:** Peabody and Watkins have been talking about this for a year, so changing Grades K and 1 to staying in same classroom all day (not departmentalized). There is an imbalance between literacy and math, literacy content takes more time than math instruction so an even split between teachers causes a loss in time needed for literacy instruction. The rationale for the new instructional model is also about closeness, connectivity, and relationship to teachers. No change to Grades 2-5 instructional models next year. There was discussion about instructional minutes required for literacy and math for grades 2-5, as well as discussion on supports/PD over the summer for teachers who have to teach a new content area next year.
- **Summer Enrichment Updates:**
 - S-H will not be hosting DCPS summer school. For students who need summer school, families can register at a site most convenient for them. There will be math acceleration (in-person) for different math levels, including rising 6th graders (have to register at S-H). There will be a Zearn challenge for S-H students all summer. Panther Pride academy is the 2nd week in August, After-School All-Stars is partnering with Panther Pride Academy during that week.
 - Peabody is off-limits because of building work during the summer. Watkins will be a DCPS summer school site for neighboring schools and Ms. Hightower will be summer school principal. J.O Wilson will host Peabody's rising (PK students) summer school students. Flex and Joe's Den will be operating for summer enrichment. There was discussion about the big math gap for 5th graders because of lack in teacher stability this school year. Stuart-Hobson will continue its newly formed partnership with George Washington University Teach, offering math support after school to students who need it. This year was a small pilot group but will expand to about 75 students next school year.

LSAT Standing Topics

- **Vacancy/Staffing Updates**

- S-H has filled all known vacancies (at least with verbal commitment), also interviewing candidates for six long-term vacancies who potentially may not return.
- Peabody/Watkins: Working through one PK teacher and psychologist vacancy at Peabody. The biggest vacancy is the Assistant Principal vacancy at Watkins but still working on that. Looking for two 1st grade teachers and a psychologist at Watkins. The SPED teacher and 4th grade teacher vacancies has been filled, and the new 5th grade teacher will stay at Watkins.
- There was discussion on covid guidance for next school year, this will likely be updated or finalized by DCPS before the start of the SY '23.

General Campus Updates

- Peabody and Watkins: The Race, Class, and Equity team hosted the “Pizza, Popsicles and People” and it was a hit! Updates on spring sports; embassy adoption team going to Lithuania Embassy; fifth grade step-up day at S-H was a hit; Field Day will be on June 10th at Peabody and June 14th at Watkins. Finishing up EOY testing across classes and teachers will make SY '23 class lists later.
- Stuart-Hobson: DGS has been fixing HVAC system that failed over the holiday weekend. Parent volunteers have been great at helping with logistical and admin work. Music showcase organized by Mr. Simmons was great. Updates on spring sports. Class trips are scheduled for next couple of weeks. First annual track invitational will happen on June 13th for Watkins, Ludlow-Taylor, and JO Wilson students, thanks to Ms. Featherstone. Step-up days going on for feeder schools. EOY testing ongoing and building master and student schedule for SY '23. First in-person musical will happen on Friday night and Saturday (June 10 and 11), content is for older elementary kids. The summer send-off soiree will happen on June 16 (5:30-7:30pm) just as a social event between rising 6th grade families and other grades and staff, including newly hired staff.
- There was discussion on building issues and Watkins, such as door handles and locks at Stuart-Hobson, sewer back-up odor at Watkins, front door latch and side doorbell at Peabody. After reaching out to DGS, they are actively working on and ordering parts to fix the doors and locks at S-H. LSAT members offered to reach out to DGS to resolve the outstanding building issues.

Public Comment

- LSAT Team member wanted to go on record about the math challenges for two cohorts of 5th graders at Watkins; there was a long period of time with no teacher and then attendance concerns after teacher was onboard. IS Stover promised to provide support for those students by way of some sort of enrichment programs (after school or during the summer; unfortunately he did not deliver on providing a way for the kids to catch up on the gaps in their learning. Principal Fraser will ensure that his staff provides information regarding the summer math enrichment for those in that group who will be SHMS students next year as his summer programs are only for incoming or current students.
- A parent shared a list of self-directed math resources provided by a school teacher:

<https://nrich.maths.org/8889> : a lot of fantastic games & resources, but this page in particular has some really nice open-ended problems.

<https://figurethis.nctm.org/index.html>: some really nice word problems & solutions.

<https://mathigon.org/>: The "Activities" section includes some cool web apps and word problems. The "courses" section is still being built out for Middle School, but there is a unit on Divisibility and Primes that might be a good fit (haven't really looked at it beyond the topics).

<https://www.youcubed.org/tasks/> You Cubed is one of my all time favorite math resources. Most of their materials are either for teachers or are resources for parents along the lines of how to support mathematical thinking, but this page has some very cool problems. This page <https://www.youcubed.org/resource/apps-games/> also has some cool ideas of things to do at home.

For more "lesson-y" type options, online learning platforms: Khan Academy, Clever, IXL or Brainpop.

For workbooks, I've seen Beast Academy pop up on the internet, but I don't have any direct experience with it or know any other teachers who do: <https://beastacademy.com/books>.

- Question was asked about the foul odor in lobby of Watkins ES at pickup earlier today. Principal Berkowitz indicated that it happens sometimes when it rains; appropriate authorities were notified; smell was gone when lead custodian left building at 7pm.