



Capitol Hill Cluster School

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

December 7, 2021

7:00 pm – 9:00 pm

Welcome & Introductions: Ramona Burton (co-chair), Henri Rowe (Watkins teacher co-chair), Shannon Russell (Peabody parent rep), Annie Slattery (Peabody teacher rep), MScott Berkowitz (Peabody/Watkins Principal), Kathy Zeisel (Watkins parent rep), Bethany Rosera (Stuart-Hobson teacher rep), Sarah Cissna (Peabody parent rep), Peter Honarvar (LSAT Community member), Ebon McPherson (Peabody teacher rep), Eric Fraser (Stuart-Hobson principal), Gerty Johnson (Stuart-Hobson parent rep), Sarah Friedman (Peabody teacher rep), Kerslyn Featherstone (Stuart-Hobson parent rep), Denise Forte (Stuart-Hobson parent rep), Nancy Abou-Samra (Stuart-Hobson teacher rep), DAmbra Taylor (Stuart-Hobson teacher rep), Mark Boisvert (Watkins Assistant Principal), Assistant Principal James (Peabody Assistant Principal)

LSAT Open Business

- SY '22-23 Enrollment Projections:
 - LSAT team members provided feedback within a tight timeframe back to Peabody/Watkins and Stuart-Hobson administration.
 - Peabody projection was same as this year at 210, but different numbers per grade. Watkins' projection is slightly lower than last year (422 versus 417). There is a question to DCPS on how numbers of students projected will impact new school budget process. Overall, Principal Berkowitz accepted as projected by DCPS enrollment for Peabody and Watkins.
 - Stuart-Hobson went much further into waitlist this year than past years, likely due to pandemic-related movements for families. Principal Fraser accepted as projected by DCPS enrollment for Stuart-Hobson.
- Peabody Nursing Update/Medication Management Training for Staff: Friday newsletter announced that Peabody is now staffed with a nurse.
- Budget Priorities for SY '22-23
 - Watkins*
 - Principal Berkowitz wants to keep Strong Tier 1 instructional models for next year. Students' socio-emotional needs will be a priority again for next school year and continue equity work with Kindred.
 - There was a question on more support on writing skills for students, specifically starting a WIN time for writing support. The pandemic severely hampered handwriting and spelling skills. Watkins currently provides only reading and math interventions during WIN time. AP Boisvert explained Writer's Workshop and will go back to instructional team to talk more about how to support spelling and grammar for higher grades and more work in Foundations for lower grades. He also share some possible writing interventions that could be incorporated for students in need.

Stuart-Hobson

- The school's priorities incorporated more robust in-house student support structures for this school year, Principal Fraser wants to look at data later in the winter to evaluate the results of the staff investment.
- There was discussion on Watkins' third graders eventually going to Stuart-Hobson and may have difficulties in writing in middle school. Principal Fraser explained the Hochman method used at Stuart-Hobson and the training that would be needed for Watkins staff to implement. There was discussion on support for students with dyslexia and dysgraphia in Stuart-Hobson.

LSAT Standing Topics

- Staffing Updates/Changes: Watkins is fully staffed; Peabody is now fulling staffed. There have been no changes. Discussion on hiring new temporary teachers for teachers who will be on maternity leave later this school year. Ms. Dunn is back at Stuart-Hobson (from retirement) as a substitute teacher; looking for more substitutes and to fill an aide vacancy.

- School Culture

Behavior Management (Positive Interventions/Suspension Data):

Watkins

- There have been nine student suspensions, for six students in 4th and 5th grade. Discussion on out-school suspension, in-school suspension, general information (demographics, IEP status) of the students suspended.
- Principal Berkowitz did state that the Love, Challenged, and Prepared domain for Watkins, from Panorama survey, is up overall this year compared to Cluster-wide.

Stuart-Hobson

- Fraser shared Culture of Achievement Panorama data, LiveSchool data and what's celebrated for students, and the top merits celebrated are staying focused, on time/prepared; top demerits being given are skipping class/out of location.
- There have been 47 on-and off-site suspensions, typically for Tier 3 or repeated Tier 3 infractions (horseplay, disruption, fighting, bullying/threats). There was a question on IEP, grade level, etc. for these 47 suspensions, Principal Fraser will follow-up later.
- Relationship building is starting to pay off to address students not being in the building last year including lack of daily structure for students during the pandemic. Panorama Student Survey data is going in right direction. Student Satisfaction Panorama data was low but on par with past years during the fall timeframe.

General Campus Updates

Peabody

- Fully open and capable for aftercare with FLEX.

Watkins

- Principal Berkowitz presented data collected per student diagnostic testing and results from WIN time for some students; there was good growth for reading and math. Principal Berkowitz also shared iReady usage per grade.
- The gym divider will be largely nonfunctional by the end of this school year, administration has contacted DGS. The gym divider likely have to stay open if Watkins is going to have a basketball team; there will be some adjustments for lunchtime but there will still be social distancing.

- Discussion on recent protests and police presence near Watkins and the need for MPD/DCPS coordination for student/staff safety and less disruption during student drop-off and pick-up.
- Kudos to PTA and staff for organizing a really fun holiday party!
- Embassy adoption program is underway, representatives from Lithuania visited the school and will visit again on Dec 17.
- Watkins is looking forward to opening Watkins basketball games to families, with social distancing in mind. Exciting music events happening at Watkins soon.
- W.A.T.C.H. D.O.G. Dads visiting Watkins soon!
- Equity audit meeting #2 will be on December 15th and looking forward to new families joining.

Stuart Hobson

- Lots of appreciation to PTA and staff for supporting staff holiday party.
- Town halls were really welcomed and exciting for students.
- Vaccinations open for younger kids and really excited about potentially more students getting vaccinated.
- First open house next week, current parents and students are invited to join and share their experiences.
- Winter sports starting off well.
- Staff is providing supports for students on their National History Day projects.
- Big shout-out to guidance counselors for their help to parents/students in selective high school application process.
- Eight period is now going to be graded, the thought is to help students to increase good grades. This new eight period is going to be akin to content in advisory period. Some clubs happening during eight period chose to assign grades.
- There was a discussion on RCT (Required Curriculum Task).

Public Comment

Next meeting: January 4, 2021