



# Capitol Hill Cluster School

*Where Every Child Achieves*

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

**October 5, 2021**  
**7:00 pm – 9:00 pm**

## **Welcome & Introductions**

LSAT member attendees: Ramona Burton (parent Co-Chair), Shannon Russell (Peabody parent rep), Annie Slattery (Peabody Teacher rep), Kathy Zeisel (Watkins parent rep), Bethany Rosera (S-H building rep), Nancy Abou-Samra (S-H teacher rep), Ebon McPherson (Peabody teacher rep), Monique Sullivan (Watkins teacher rep), Peter Honarvar (LSAT Community Member), Gerty Johnson (S-H parent rep), Henri Rowe (Watkins teacher rep), Denise Forte (S-H parent rep), Tiffany Kaijage (S-H teacher rep), Eric Fraser (Stuart-Hobson Principal), MScott Berkowitz (Peabody/Watkins Principal), LaTarsha James (Peabody Assistant Principal), Bijan Verlin (DCPS)

## **LSAT Open Business**

- LSAT Leadership Vacancy
  - The LSAT voted earlier to fill the teacher Co-Chair position. Ms. Henri Rowe (Watkins Special Education Teacher) was voted to fill the teacher Co-Chair position.
- Review of 21-22 Budget Priorities
  - Stuart-Hobson decided on two big priorities for this school year: (1) increase support opportunities outside of the classroom/ overall well-being of students and school culture; and (2) building consistency across classrooms for instruction and grow teacher and staff positions. Stuart-Hobson leadership already seeing benefit of focusing on these two priorities.
    - Question on how last period is going: Still making adjustments to 8<sup>th</sup> period. Will start clubs (debate, theatre, etc.) and other students can start getting more targeted academic support/tutoring. Just started high-impact tutoring, City Year core members and American University students will start helping with tutoring.
  - Watkins added Behavior Tech and 2<sup>nd</sup> Instructional aide this year, these two new staff are busy supporting students. WISE (Wellness in School Environment, Medstar Georgetown) position is a Social Worker visiting the school once a week, working with teachers and students. She works closely with Mental Health team as well, and consulting (and leading) on professional learning. Watkins leadership sees these as good budget moves. Watkins was included in Community Based Organizations (CBO) cohort and added a full-time Social Worker from Catholic Charities. She has picked up non-Special Education and non-504 work and has had a positive impact.
  - Peabody reduced Business Manager (part-time) from last school year, administration hasn't seen anything missed this year.
- Academic & Behavioral Interventions & Support

- (What I Need) WIN time at Watkins: WIN time started about 2 weeks ago and too early to see benefits actualized. Grade Level Leaders are meeting to work on looking at BOY date and adjusting groups if needed. Also looking at how school will communicate with families on what their children are doing during WIN time.
  - Question on 5<sup>th</sup> grade Math teacher position: Mr. Evans signed contract today and will be in school tomorrow.
  - Question on recess being taken away as punishment. Principal Berkowitz clarified that this is not Watkins policy at all (also according to Healthy Schools Act), and that parents should communicate directly to teacher and school administration. One teacher added that transition to recess may be taking longer so this cuts into recess time.
  - Multi-Tiered Support System (MTSS) at Stuart-Hobson: finalizing Term 1 progress check, just now starting on first cycle on academics, attendance, and behavioral well-being and will be thinking about systematic Tier 2 and 3 supports for students. School will reach out to families on approaching Tier 2 or 3 support for their student.
- Outstanding Facility & Health Concerns at Peabody
    - Nurse suite at Peabody is still not ready. The virtual and on-site inspections will be soon, and then the nurse will be ready to serve. School has no insight on when inspections will be scheduled.
    - Nurse at Watkins (three or four nurses have shown up) scheduled for four days a week. Nurse attendance at Watkins is very low, there have been substitutes but no permanent nurse. Watkins administration and parents discussed advocating to different levels of DC government on the nurse situations at Peabody and Watkins.
    - Discussion on roof repairs completed and looking for any further leaks in FoodPrints room, and work needed in other classrooms in the Watkins building.
    - Discussion on completeness of student health forms at Peabody and Watkins.
- Contact Tracing/Quarantining Procedures/Academic Support
    - Concerns regarding process for teachers providing schoolwork to students who have to quarantine. Teachers are working out how to provide instruction (live, simulcast, etc.). Per DCPS memorandum of agreement, DCPS has to try to offer other options for quarantine students before resulting to simulcast.
    - Discussion on DC Council legislation passed today on expanding virtual learning for certain students.
    - Discussion on accurately counting excused absences while students quarantine (confirmed case within school versus potential exposure outside of school).
    - Contact tracing has shifted and evolved within DCPS since school year started. Contact tracing rests with school administration/staff. Management of COVID cases, quarantine notices, and new curriculum pushes have been a huge lift for school administrations this school year.
    - Discussion on contact tracing for mixing of students at Peabody and Watkins during before-care, breakfast time, school day (including WIN time), and after-care. Administration stressed maintaining social distancing within classrooms to mitigate mixing of cohorts during these different transitions. Administration will work with before-care and after-care program for contact tracing.

- Devices are available from Peabody and Watkins for students that need them while they have to quarantine. Reminder for families to return laptops from last year.

### **General Campus Updates**

- Peabody/Watkins: Family Engagement Leadership team sending out survey to families; Hispanic Heritage month celebration to be held on October 14 at Watkins; getting back up to normal capacity for laptop carts; students will take Panorama survey on October 13-15 for grades 3-5; filling other vacant positions is ongoing.
- Stuart Hobson: Term 1 progress reports will go live on Aspen on Tuesday (October 12); club survey send-outs underway for students interested in eight period clubs.

### **Public Comment**

**Next meeting: November 3, 2021\***

\*Meeting date adjusted due to holiday