



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

LSAT February Meeting Minutes

May 4, 2021

6:00 – 8:00 pm

Zoom Meeting

LSAT Member Attendees: Ramona Burton (Parent Co-Chair), Kimberly Griffin (Teacher Co-Chair), Katherine Antos (Secretary), Shannon Russell, Ebon McPherson, Annie Slattery, Pamela Dickerson, Kimberlynn Jurkowski, Monique Sullivan, Steve Sweeney, Gerty Johnson, Vernastene Black, Kate Fiske, Karen Gordon, Bethany Rosera, Brittney Prophete, Tatiana Sheppard, Beth Dewhurst, Jenn Loeb

Principals MScott Berkowitz and Eric Fraser, AP Boisvert, Bijan Verlin

Approximately 20 parents and teachers

Meeting recorded and available upon request.

LSAT Open Business

LSAT Nominations and Elections

- Encourage nominations for reps that will have students in one of the 3 campuses for the next 2 years. Each campus seeking 1 rep
- LSAT-PTA distinction: LSAT's role is to advise the Principals on development and implementation of Comprehensive School Plan (CSP), budget, curriculum, school culture and family engagement; PTA strengthens school community by supporting students and campuses and providing funding for programs and supplies
- Parents interested in serving on LSAT can reach out to Ramona Burton (lsat@chcspta.org), Katherine Antos (Katherine.antos@gmail.com), or Bijan Verlin (Bijan.Verlin@k12.dc.gov) to learn more

CSP

Principal Berkowitz

- Do not anticipate major changes to CSP. Will narrow focus of the work in the coming weeks
- Have the beginnings of a Family Engagement Leadership Team made up of teachers, social workers, administrative team. First time Peabody/Watkins has had this.
- Highlighted importance of Academic Leadership Team and it's role interfacing with Principals and teachers

Principal Fraser

- Glad that DCPS is acknowledging importance of having a 3-, 5-, 10-year plan so start by previous year's CSP, though ok to make major changes as needed
- Also underscored importance of ALT
- Will interface with families, students before finalizing

Budget Updates

Principal Berkowitz

- Mayor announced additional funds for schools. 3 tiers:
 1. Make schools who faced major budget cuts whole
 2. Fund previously unfunded budget assistance requests that were made by principals in which allocated budget was short on meeting school needs. Watkins was in this tier, and will receive \$56k, equivalent to an additional 0.5 FTE of a full-time teacher or interventionist. Flexibility in how funding will be spent – personnel or nonpersonnel
 3. Remaining schools can make new budget request. Will decide if Peabody will do this, working with LSAT and ALT
- Will reconvene closed door session with LSAT this week to further discuss
- This 0.5 FTE will not carry forward to additional years, so challenge in using for personnel

Principal Fraser

- SHMS is in 3rd tier, therefore not expecting to get additional funds thru assistance requests
- These are ARP-ESSER III dollars and less restrictive than previous ESSER funds
- More info at <https://learningpolicyinstitute.org/blog/covid-analysis-american-rescue-plan-act-2021> and <https://osse.dc.gov/recoveryfunding>

General Campus Updates

Peabody Construction/Building Repair Project

- DGS messaging was unclear at last SIT meeting, and attendees left with different perceptions.
- Plan A – open on time.
- Plan B – DGS will work overtime, weekends to get done
- Plan C (worst case) – week delay
- Principal Berkowitz has made clear to DGS that he and custodial staff need to be in before teachers, and teachers will need time to set up
- Charles Allen met with DGS, and DGS confirmed will be complete before next school year

Other Peabody/Watkins Campus Updates

- First round of play dates went well and well-received
- Date for 5th grade promotion ceremony – can do in person, outside with up to 250 attendees. This equals 2 guests/student
- Also looking into K promotion ceremony – a little further behind given less institutional memory around K ceremony
- Summer acceleration program – once address technical issue, will send out invites. 1 class/grade of up to 15 students. 1 blended PK class. July 12 and July 19. Mr. G running it
- Teacher appreciation: Can't thank them enough.
- Enrollment: in 20s%; middle of pack for Cluster 4. Currently a chokepoint is admin team processing the forms that have been submitted

Stuart-Hobson Campus Updates

- Can't thank teachers enough, as well as parents serving as teachers and teachers who are parents
- Debate team won national championship
- Ms. Fiske nominated for DC Teacher of the Year for her work on National History Day; Ms. Rosera won GWTeach Mentor Teacher of the Year
- PTA-organized grade-level meetups

- 8th grade promotion Wed 6/23 – doing as multiple events given limit is 250 and over 160 8th grade students. Want each student to be able to bring a guest or do virtually
- Summer Acceleration Academy – for rising 6th – 8th graders and previous 8th graders w/ incompletes to resolve. Trying to get final numbers this week so can assign staff
- Summer Bridge in August
- Providing summer assignments to help keep subjects fresh and prepare for new subjects
- Have vacancies to fill (mostly internal; creating positions with leadership opportunities). Welcome parent to serve on interview panels
- Enrollment: estimate tomorrow will be at 50%. Rising 8th graders furthest ahead, followed by 7th than 6th. 3 feeder schools competing for ice cream social. Admin team has been reaching out to families to ask if they've enrolled
- HVAC – getting audit of system by DGS. DGS will fix what can during the audit, and money set aside to purchase needed equipment, with retrocommissioning complete by mid-August. Will get portable window units that will provide necessary support for classrooms being used for summer programming. Principal will keep families updated and feels his concerns being heard thru necessary channels; recognize families will advocate as they see necessary

How using ESSER funds to support teachers:

- Multi-tiered system of supports (MTSS) – supporting social emotional learning in particular. Coaching, support for teachers though program that partners with small number of schools in DC. Well received by participating schools. Will look at students needing greatest support

Public Comment

- See information on SHMS HVAC above. Principal Berkowitz noted Watkins building engineer confirmed cooling units all working. Will check if outstanding work orders discussed during reopening walk throughs have been closed for HVAC
 - Post-meeting update: Principal Berkowitz confirmed May 5 there are no outstanding HVAC work orders
- Have some funding for Kindred committed and expect PTA to also contribute so community is invested
- Conscious Discipline (CD) will no longer be featured in Watkins CSP. Principal Berkowitz has heard that CD over-promised and under-delivered. Aspects of it will be folded into Trauma-Responsive Schools (TRS) model. CD's first year is all about work with adults, and Watkins will do adult- and student-facing work. Components of CD are part of CSP (under Fingerprints in the TRS Model). TRS is similar to Responsive Classroom, but less funding needs. Keeping what working and don't anticipate needing to ask PTA for additional resources for training for TRS. In fall, will look into if should be resources for families to continue to reinforce these approaches at home
- Summer programming for Tier 1 students at SHMS: Will offer hybrid approach in part due to cohorting requirements. Will provide coursework that is largely self-guided w/ virtual and possibly some in-person office hours. If not all 200 spots filled, will offer spots to some Tier 1 students. Anticipate cohorting restrictions will change before SY21-22 in order for DCPS to meet commitment of bringing all students back to in-person learning.

Meeting adjourned 7:25 pm.

Remaining 2020-2021 Meetings

2020-21 Meetings	Location
June 1	Virtual
July 6	Virtual