



Capitol Hill Cluster School

Where Every Child Achieves

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

January 6th, 2023
6:30pm-7:30 pm

Join Zoom meeting link

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7128354486?pwd=bUVCbnkwTXVzamRheG5UR005WW5Xdz09>

I. Welcome and Introductions:

- Henri Rowe (Watkins teacher, co-chair)
- **Peabody:** MScott Berkowitz (Peabody/Watkins Principal), Sara Cissna (Peabody parent rep; Amber Williams (Peabody parent rep); Annie Slattery (Peabody teacher rep); Lisa Brooks (WTU Peabody building rep); Ebon McPherson (Peabody teacher Rep);
- **Watkins:** Kathy Zeisel (Watkins parent rep);
- **Stuart Hobson:** Eric Fraser (Stuart-Hobson Principal); Carmen Tull (Stuart Hobson parent rep) Kerslyn Featherstone (Stuart-Hobson parent rep); Bethany Rosera (Stuart Hobson teacher rep)
- Jess Pannett (PTA rep)

II. Co-Chair/Secretary confirmation:

- Amber Williams confirmed as co-chair
- Carmen Tull confirmed as Secretary

III. Budget Appeal Results:

- Berkowitz (Watkins) – As a result of the budget appeals process, Watkins went up 12 kids to 385, and Peabody went up 10 students to 222, this is equivalent to a full classroom, and the net total brings us closer to where we should be.
- Fraser (Hobson) – We did not submit an appeal. Our student projection number is 443, which is under what we are currently. Our current student number is 470 for the year. Acknowledge that there has been an increase in students transferring from Two Rivers lately.
- The 2023/2024 Budget is to come out in February and we will have more time to discuss priorities

IV. Family Engagement Survey

- Survey is being designed to determine how we can improve our practices and help to build the community and ensure that we continue as many students as possible begin at Peabody and continue through Watkins and Stuart Hobson
- There is some feedback about the rigor of the curriculum and Principal Berkowitz noted that we need to do a better job of telling the story of how our kids are learning especially for preparing for kindergarten. There also needs to be an understanding of our approach to differentiation. This also needs to be a key message in our open houses.
- Everyone is encouraged to send in feedback.

- It was decided to send out the survey in mid-February to influence the decision-making for existing families.
- If we are concerned about the pipeline (Peabody, Watkins, Hobson), then we need to acknowledge the challenge of deciding and going through the High School application process. Are there resources that we need to share to help parents navigate the high school application process?
 - Principal Fraser noted that at Stuart Hobson they do assist with the high school application process.
 - There was a discussion of when to start raising the issue of discussing the high school selection process.

V. **Enrichment /Issues surrounding music/band as an elective**

- 6th graders have to take alternating electives in the 6th grade, but the alternating schedule is challenging the issue of building a 6th-grade pipeline of band students. 6th grade classes change every turn which means there will not be a 7th-grade band next year.
- Mr. Simmons presented the issue to the administration and parents, noting that it is the best instrumental music program in the middle school.
- Ms. Rosera noted the challenges with scheduling to address the issue. The rules on scheduling every year. 6th graders are required to rotate and take several electives, which makes it challenging.
- Principal Fraser noted that another challenge is that Mr. Simmons can only teach five classes a day, which is a challenge and makes it difficult to match every person to everything. We need to recognize the more we specialize in electives, we will be putting other students into classes that they are not passionate about. It is important to note that we are doing more than other students already. While not perfect it is still better than what others are doing.
- There was an agreement to have a small group discussion to see what other solutions can be found.
- Issues were also raised about how to address music in Peabody and Watkins.

VI. Other issues:

- We will address bullyin at the next meeting
- Watkins – all Elevator pieces should be here by the end of the month
- Hobson – we are still waiting for the door locks and handles to be addressed and we had a burst pipe this morning. We need to fix the doors/gates to the field. Good news we found a last-minute heating solution for the auditorium.

Next meeting- February 7th @6:30pm

Remaining 2022-2023 Meetings

2022-2023 Dates	Location
February 7th	Virtual
March 7th	Virtual
April 4th	Virtual
May 2nd	Virtual
June 6th	Virtual

