



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

LSAT December Meeting Minutes
December 1, 2020
6:00 – 7:00 pm
(Reopen Community Corps Meeting from 7 – 8 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, Henri Rowe, Kimberlynn Jurkowski, Monique Sullivan, Steve Sweeney, Gerty Johnson, Vernastene Black, Kate Fiske, Karen Gordon, Bethany Rosera, Jenn Loeb, Rachel Houghton, Beth Dewhurst, Brittney Prophete

Principals MScott Berkowitz and Eric Fraser; APs Boisvert and Hollis

Approximately 10 parents and community members in attendance

Meeting recorded and available upon request.

LSAT Open Business: Enrollment Projections for SY21-22

Peabody/Watkins – Principal Berkowitz:

- Need to consider impact of pandemic on enrollment this year when developing projections for next year
- Enrollment projects are part of budget formula. If underestimate enrollment, schools get lower budget. If overestimate, can end up overenrolled compared to projections and have larger classes. 1-2 over one thing, 5 over feels very different
- Heard many appeals will be rejected this year
- Right before enrollment deadline, often many seats declined. Less so at PK, some at kindergarten. Therefore allow class lists to be larger at start of year b/c expect some will drop off in fall. In past, about 1/3 of seats offered on waitlist accepted, so not concerned with filling seats
- 2nd: Class size 22, so project 88 though DCPS projects 81. May appeal to add 7 given 81 is less than historic grade size
- 3rd: Though projection (93) less than recent grade sizes (98 and 97), may not appeal since class size of 24-25 is very large. Considering whether to appeal to add 7
- 5th: Not planning to appeal since 83 similar to past years and going higher would be a big jump in class sizes
- Would want to know more what would be gain of funding from additional budget. DCPS sticking with current budget model for SY21-22

Parent reps:

- Recommend capping class sizes at 23. Anything higher is really hard, especially in specials and given testing and prep that occurs in higher grades
- Appreciate willingness to share

- Agree with not padding projections to maximum level, leading to potentially larger class sizes
- Recommend appealing projections where DCPS projections less than historic enrollment in non-pandemic years so not leaving funds on the table

Teachers:

- Appreciate chance to review numbers
- Prefer to stay at/below cap
- In recent years, have seen reduction in Watkins in behavioral techs, academic aides, dean. Will feel this hit when back in person. If way to get funding to restaff these positions, should do so. Would certainly be an even greater need for these positions if increasing class sizes

Stuart-Hobson - Principal Fraser:

- SHMS added 27 students in SY 2020-21 and was among the first schools in DCPS to meet enrollment target this year, 515 students currently enrolled.
- S-H has very high re-enrollment rates for a middle school – 92% this year, indicating that current 7th and 8th grade families were eager to return (SY 2019-20 re-enrollment rate was 93%, for comparison).
- Made waitlist offers to current 6th grade families starting in mid-July because 6th grade enrollment was not on pace with 7th and 8th.
- SY20-21 6th grade enrollment lagged because of uncertainty associated with school during pandemic, in-person learning opportunities at other schools (charters, private), etc.
- Increasing enrollment over historic levels would be an issue because no space, resources to readily accommodate additional students
- Have waitlists for all grade levels now, so could increase enrollment Stuart-Hobson if wanted to make offers
- Enrollment stability (projected in SY 2021-22) would mean stability of schedule for students, programming, etc.

Public Comment:

None

Meeting adjourned 7:00 pm.

Remaining 2020-2021 Meetings

2020-21 Meetings	Location
January 5	TBD
February 2	TBD
March 2	TBD
April 6	TBD
May 4	TBD
June 8	TBD
July 6	TBD