



Capitol Hill Cluster School  
*Where Every Child Achieves*

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

**LSAT Meeting Minutes**  
**Stuart-Hobson Middle School**  
**December 3, 2019**

**LSAT Member Attendees:** Meg Booth (Chair), Tiffany Kaijage (Chair), Vernastene Black, Alva Abdussalaam, Katherine Antos, Principal Comeforo, Principal Bell, AP Hollis, AP Boisvert, Jherlyn Brady, Jenn Loeb, Pamela Dickerson, Kimberly Griffin, Annie Slattery, Ebon McPherson, Lauren Tate, Rachel Houghton

Approximately 5 parents

**LSAT Norms**

The meeting was not recorded. Chairs talked about the need to establish and revisit norms in light of questions about LSAT guidelines and whether meetings should be recorded. LSAT members discussed the norms they have found helpful in other contexts that could be adopted. The norms will be shared with all members after the meeting for further refinement and will be discussed at the January meeting.

**Action:** Distribute proposed norms, seek input, and make decision at next meeting

**STAR Ratings**

DC's STAR ratings are available at <https://dcschoolreportcard.org/>. Principal Comeforo provided an overview of the process. They are a federal requirement, and it is up to each state to develop a rubric. In DC, OSSE develops the rubric and ratings. Based on academics (3<sup>rd</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup> grades rely heavily on PARCC), culture, re-enrollment, attendance, suspension rates. Look at achievement, growth, teacher/staff information. The group discussed the positive aspects and concerns STAR ratings:

Pro:

- Allows apples: apples comparison of DCPS and charter schools.

Concerns:

- Directly proportional to poverty rates
- Test scores are heavily used for ratings
- Very metric-based, leading to concerns regarding fairness and the ability to capture what the school has to offer versus a focus on negative data points.

Results: Peabody does not have full rating because no PARCC testing. Watkins and Stuart-Hobson are both 4s, Stuart being up from a 3 in previous year. Better performing among schools with a large percentage of non-white students. Will further explain results at January meeting.

**Actions:**

- Principals will ask DCPS Central Office data specialists to attend Jan 7 meeting
- LSAT members to provide questions to Chairs by Wednesday, December 11

**LSAT Priority: Writing**

Watkins Breakout:

- Looking to LSAT for ideas on how to support writing. Many of the recommendations from the November meeting have resonated with teachers
- Low-hanging fruit/immediate actions:
  - o Build parent/family knowledge around writing instruction. Also explain to kindergarten parents to support the transition to Watkins
- What LSAT representatives recommended families need to know:
  - o What teachers are looking for with writing
  - o How to support writing at home without making it a chore
  - o Brand Cluster approach to writing to make inclusive of PreK. Not all writing is pen to paper, and pre-writing skills developed in PreK must also be emphasized
  - o Intentionality – how pieces fit into whole. Eg, share all the types of writing students are exposed to and expected to understand
  - o How writing celebrated
- How
  - o Examples sent home
  - o Take home journals
  - o Apps to share, engage, exchange
  - o Weekly newsletters
- When
  - o Weekly updates
  - o Publishing parties
  - o Displaying work
- Who
  - o Parents, students, teachers, APs, literacy coaches

**Actions:**

- AP Boisvert will discuss with teachers, literacy coaches to decide which recommendations they can do and report back at Jan 7 LSAT meeting

**Updates and Public Comment:**

- Visitor policy:
  - o DCPS Central Office made some edits to bring in line with DCPS policy but overall fine and in line with DCPS policy.
  - o Also shared with PTA executive committee.
  - o Principal Bell is currently reviewing comments about the name of the document, how to implement the policy and inform parents.
  
- Communications regarding case of chicken pox at Peabody: Communication went out same day got confirmation of chicken pox case, consistent with DOH process. Could not have sent out before Thanksgiving break because did not have confirmation until after break.

The LSAT meeting ended at approximately 8:00 pm.