

Deal LSAT minutes

Friday 11/5/2021, 7:30-8:30am

Attendees:

Jacqueline Beliveau
Britney Cuffee
Raymond Cummings
Michael Donaldson
Stacey Gathers
Jordan Hensley
Patti Macie
Nzingha Massaquoi
Diedre Neal
Richard Pohlman
Patrick Rottman
Elizabeth Stuart
Michelle Vanneman
Gwendolyn Washington
Raymond Cummings

Minutes

- Meeting started 7:34am with introductions
- Minutes from October 1, 2021 (vote)
 - Minutes circulated in advance for comments and edits
 - Corrections made on name spelling
 - Vote to approve minutes with corrected name was unanimous
- Principal's Report (Principal Neal)
 - Term 1 successfully completed. Some slight academic challenges, but more challenges socially as kids and teachers readjust to being in the building.
 - Assistant Principal update; 3 on board now. Really need 5, budgeted for 4.
 - Mr. Moore on leave of absence and will be resigning to deal with family issues.
 - New 7th grade AP: Dr. Raymond Cummings - on board and in attendance
 - Dr. Murphy taking medical leave; currently unclear on return timeline
 - Enrollment
 - 1396 fully enrolled on count day (first week of October); range right around 1400
 - Some students that were automatically rolled from feeder elementary schools did not complete enrollment and now need to be formally withdrawn
 - Don't anticipate that budget will be impacted next year because of lower numbers; expect to be held harmless with respect to enrollment numbers

- Student Budget Testimony
 - Two students participated in a middle school budget roundtable this week: Owen Carpenter (7th grade) and Clara Doyle (8th grade). Three questions: 1) how are you feeling about being back in school and what did you miss most, 2) schools will receive funding based on student needs -- what does this mean to you? [lots of discussion of more supplies and better teachers in Ward 3 and what kids get for lunch], and 3) what would they prioritize more [extracurricular activities beyond sports].
 - Shift from constant contact to new communications tool has been a bit challenging but working through it -- long-term the shift will be good.
 - Deal listed as a top middle school in the City Paper ratings!
- Budget Testimony Submission for November 9, 2021 DC Council Hearing
 - Subgroup has been working on written testimony for submission
 - Invitation to all LSAT to join and provide written feedback on the proposed testimony
 - Putting together language around the implications of the budget model for large schools
 - Will plan to submit electronically on November 9 to ensure the thinking of this group is captured in DCPS budget process
- LSAT Representative Reports
 - W3EdNet Report (Elizabeth Stuart)
 - Upcoming meeting Monday November 8 at 7pm with DC Public Schools Deputy Chancellor Melissa Kim and Social Studies Director Scott Abbott.
 - Upcoming meetings:
 - Monday, December 13 at 7pm: DCPS Director of School Finance Allen Francois to talk about DCPS budgeting and anything he can share on plans for a new budgeting model.
 - Monday, January 10 at 7pm: Council Member Christina Henderson will share her vision for education in the city and take questions.
 - ADCA Report (Gwen Washington, for Keri Sikich)
 - Fundraising going well
 - Saturday November 6 community day and food drive
 - ABAR (Anti-bias Anti Racism) community will be there as well and sponsoring another gathering on November 14
 - Deal theater gearing up
 - Winter greens sale starting after Thanksgiving
 - Garden beds being taken out from out back to give more space for outdoor recess
 - WTU Report (Michael Donaldson)
 - Met with CM Mary Cheh (organized by WTU) and meeting soon with at-large council members around the proposed Protecting Our Children Emergency Amendment Act of 2021. During the meeting, WTU raised concerns about:

- Lack of sufficient water bottles and kids running out of water during the school day.
 - Student exposure notifications within classrooms;
 - New act passed by the council should give a stronger contact tracing team and they should start doing classroom level notifications.
- WTU and teachers are also concerned with and plan to offer testimony in upcoming hearings regarding equitable access to technology.
 - Deal has computers for all students but logistics have made it challenging to get them out to all students and not all computers are actually functioning currently.
 - Supposed to have a 10% contingency of computers, which doesn't exist at this point
 - Tension of having computers for testing and having computers for 1:1 instructional uses
- School culture concerns
 - Student behavior has been challenging this fall.
 - Teachers consistently report major challenges with behavior and lack of ability to intervene and with relatively few security -- long delays in getting support with behavioral challenges, and the architecture of the building makes it hard sometimes. May benefit from a clear cut disciplinary rule and structure.
 - Teachers outlined concerns with the number of security staff, unclear roles of security staff, and concerns about coverage throughout the building
 - Teachers feel a need for the school to focus on discipline and to figure out staffing to ensure a safe educational environment.
- LSAT proposed forming an LSAT subcommittee to dive into this and talk through potential solutions.
- LSAT also agreed it would like to help push DCPS to give more technological and security support to Deal to reflect the large size.
- New Business
 - Ad hoc security committee to be formed- follow ups will be reported out at the December meeting.
- Meeting adjourned at 8:34.