

Deal LSAT minutes

Friday March 4, 2022 7:30-8:30am

Attendees:

Michael Donaldson
Stacey Gathers
Jordan Hensley
Patti Macie
Nzingha Massaquoi
Jennifer Murphy
Diedre Neal
Patrick Rottman
Keri Sikich
Elizabeth Stuart
Michelle Vanneman
Gwendolyn Washington

Minutes

- Meeting was called to order at 7:32
- I. Parent budget advocacy.
 - Shelley Venneman provided a report on recent advocacy to DCPS and DC City Council by the parents on the Deal LSAT, together with parent LSAT representatives from CHEC and Wilson. The group met with Amy Maisterra on February 18, discussing budget issues, including severe underfunding of large schools and specific positions at the same level for all schools, regardless of school size. The group has sent a follow-up to Dr. Maisterra and will continue discussions.
- II. Adoption of the Minutes for January 7, 2022 Meeting
 - This will be done via email following the meeting
- III. Principal's Report (Principal Neal)
 - Principal Neal expressed appreciation for the parent advocacy.
 - Test to return worked very well upon return from February break
 - Following DCPS guidelines for mask wearing, activities, etc.
 - Projected enrollment for next year is 1404; working hard to get enrollment up. 5th grade at feeder schools is smaller than normal. Goal is to have all students enrolled before summer break. Will look for help from LSAT with that.
 - 4 teachers out on maternity or paternity leave; for 3 have temporary staff hired and in the process. Final is in the works. Mr. Donaldson commented on need for advocacy that new procedures for hiring are slowing down the process; streamlining needed.
 - Mr. Rottman reported on the upcoming community service fair (March 26); 8th graders working to make the world a better place.

- Mr. Donaldson inquired about budget process and where things are. Principal Neal reported she has been communicating with DCPS and will be finalized soon. Hiring will start sooner rather than later given anticipation of potential for hiring challenges.
- IV. LSAT Representative Reports
 - a. W3EdNet Report
 - Previous meetings with Councilmember Christina Henderson and Chair Mendelson
 - Upcoming meeting on Tuesday March 8
 - b. ADCA Report
 - Lots of upcoming activities: Shakespeare, auction, other community activities.
 - c. WTU Report
 - WTU elections coming up – a lot going on with the Union
 - Mr. Donaldson has been working with Council through the WTU to help advocate for what Deal needs, e.g., computers, bathroom concerns.
 - Working on ways to boost morale among teachers, including some gatherings, gift cards, etc.
 - Also using some union resources to help give kids fun activities and encourage back to school.
 - Monitoring guidance around DCPS/DC Health changing evolving guidance and encouraging them to follow CDC guidelines.
 - Working with Principal Neal on job responsibilities for upcoming hiring for positions.
- IV. New Business: None
- Meeting adjourned 8:10am.