



LUDLOW-TAYLOR ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Local School Advisory Team (LSAT) September Meeting Minutes

Wednesday October 26th, 2022 at 05:30pm

Virtual meeting

Attendance*

LSAT members: Lesli Jackson, Miranda LeBlanc-Karim, Lynette Davis, Cate Brandon, Cierra Clarke-Days (Chair), Laura Delaney, Caleb Ward (Secretary), Heather Martin

Admin: Principal Miller, Joel Popkins (DCPS Community Action Team)

Other Teachers: Gretchen Giovanni, Kaitlyn Roman, Angela Hannah

Parents & Caregivers: Karen Wardzala, Bernadette Wittschen, Angelle Baugh, Beth O'Connor, Elisa Comis, Paige Ramamurti, Hilary Gidden, Armelia Arsenault, Oliver Fischer, Sarah Lane, Gerty Johnson,

**Additional members of school community in attendance but incomplete identifiers from zoom login.*

1. Dates for upcoming meetings, and updates to LSAT roster

- Committee decided dates for future meetings will be: 2nd Wednesday of each month at 5:30pm (for November, this will be deferred to Wednesday 16th to accommodate the election day long weekend).
- Committee decided remaining meetings will be virtual, to optimize ease of attendance from all members of the school community.
- Ms. Jackson (WTU Building Representative) confirmed that with Dr. Lacy leaving L-T/DCPS, there is a teacher vacancy on the LSAT. She is overseeing election of a new teacher representative. 3 nominations so far.

2. Principal updates

- Beginning of year testing is now complete for all grades except for ECE, where it is a more continuous process.
- School community building events continue with leadership from PTO. Stressed that building of community is essential for making children feel safe and able to take risks in class.
- Students in 3rd – 5th grade are currently completing Panorama survey that will provide important data on whether students feel loved, challenges and prepared to positively influence society and thrive in life)
<https://dcps.dc.gov/surveys>)
- Staffing updates – per below.

3. Staffing updates

- Principal Miller confirmed that candidates have been identified for most remaining classroom aide slots. There is one vacancy still for a self-contained

classroom + one for a new aide slot Principal Miller was able to add to the budget. Some candidates are still pending clearance from DCPS central office.

- With Dr. Lacy's departure, the school does not have a Psychologist. DCPS has made arrangements for an itinerant psychologist to fill these duties (will be scheduled by the school for one specific day/week).
- The Social Worker position remains unfilled. Principal Miller noted there are no candidates in the DCPS pool, and many schools in DCPS without a Social Worker (see below for further discussion). Principal Miller did receive clearance to hire a Restorative Justice Coordinator with unused funds.
- Assistant Principal Ejechi is currently on leave.

4. Social emotional learning/vacancies in the mental health team

- Laura Delaney (LSAT parent rep), Karen Wardzala (parent) & Bernadette Wittschen (parent) all raised concerns that with no social worker in place, there are essential services not being provided. This is especially concerning to parents given the challenges children are facing post the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Suggestions included allowing psychology graduate students who need clinical hours to work under supervision (as has been done in surrounding school jurisdictions).
- Additional suggestion raised: partnering with classroom teachers to ensure that each class has a safe area designated for students who may need a space for processing emotions.
- Follow up items:
 - i. LSAT to draft letter of concern to submit to DCPS. Laura Delaney & Bernadette Wittschen to take the lead on drafting.
 - ii. Principal Miller to survey teachers re whether there are any additional resources that parents/PTO can provide to assist with this.
 - iii. If anyone wishes to register for the DCPS Fiscal Year 2024 Public Budget Hearing to advocate for specific resources, the link to register is:
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/dc-public-schools-fiscal-year-24-school-year-23-24-public-budget-hearing-registration-440407770497?aff=odcleoeventsincollection>

5. Educator Wellness

- Concern expressed by parent members of LSAT and others in attendance re impact of current staffing and COVID-19 pandemic stress on educator wellness, including recent WTU poll.
- Principal Miller noted there is an annual anonymous survey for staff to assess wellness, job satisfaction etc. Last year there were not enough responses from L-T staff for school specific data to be released.
- Principal Miller reminded attendees that if parents are to volunteer more than once in the building, they will need to complete background checks: <https://dcps.dc.gov/page/dcps-volunteer-faqs>. Parent confirmed there is no cost for fingerprints needed.

6. Math Instruction

- Principal Miller confirmed that she is developing a plan to address lower proficiency levels in math for L-T on the PARCC scores (aggregate data: <https://osse.dc.gov/page/2021-22-parcc-and-msaa-results-and-resources>), and specifically to address disparities by race/ethnicity.
- Further discussion deferred until next meeting due to time.

Meeting adjourned at 06:35pm. Next meeting: Wednesday 16th November at 5:30pm.