

LSAT + Advisory October Meeting
Monday, February 07, 2022, 5:30pm - 7:00pm
[Remote Meeting due to COVID-19 concerns]

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86190985360>

Meeting ID: 861 9098 5360
One tap mobile
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Present:

- SWS LSAT Members:
 - Elizabeth Corinth - Chair/Parent
 - Jaime Arora - Parent and Auction Chair
 - Mischa Thompson - Parent
 - Wade Ingram - Teacher
- Non-LSAT DCPS
 - John Burst - SWS Principal
 - Bijan Verlin - DCPS Community Action Team - Clusters 4 and 7
 - Helen Tzow - Director of the Office of Elementary Schools for DCPS
 - Abbie Daniels - Director of Special Projects for DCPS
- Parent-Led Committee Chairs
 - Molly Wagoner - Communications Co-Chair
- SWS Parents
 - Naamal DeSilva
 - Christian Calleri

Introductions

LSAT Chair Elizabeth Corinth performed introductions and had a small icebreaker for all attendees. She also announced that Raphael Bonhomme is no longer able to engage with the LSAT. Principal Burst will connect with the WTU representatives so they can coordinate an election to fill the open slot.

Committee Updates

Elizabeth Corinth asked if there were any committee chairs that would like to provide updates.

Communications

Update given by Molly Wagoner, Co-Chair of Communications Committee.

- Recruitment
 - Recently had second open house
 - one more coming up on the 18th
 - Highlighting deadline for MySchoolDC lottery
- Newsletter
 - Put out our third newsletter; first of the new year
 - Next newsletter will highlight Black Joy project - also will share on social media

- Girls on the Run registration now open (3rd/4th/5th grade)
 - Sliding scale fee & payment plans
 - Will be at Sherwood
- Test to return coming up for February break
 - Principal Burst mentions that it will be especially helpful to have tests in by 11am rather than later in the evening (so John and Shawna aren't scrambling if there's a positive) - for break and also for prek students each week
- Anything you want to share, let Molly know
- Spring fundraiser / parent prom has been pushed back to May 7

Letter of Advocacy - Dedicated Sub & Contact Tracer

- All schools have been promised a dedicated sub and a contact tracer; these have not yet come through, for any schools as far as we're aware. (Bijan says some schools have received covid coordinators, but it's not clear which schools / how they are deciding the order.) Principal Burst has noted that at this point they have worked out systems to cover contact tracing, but the sub would still be incredibly helpful.
- Proposal for the LSAT
- Who to send it to?
 - Superintendent
 - Office of Elementary Schools (OES) division email: dcps.oes@k12.dc.gov (feel free to email that any time for any topic)
- Clearance process is a source of hang-ups - new through CFSA
- Points about need for sub
 - Regular teachers on leave - More stress-related absences, more family crises (not actually more sick leave)
 - Every day you're wondering if you'll be able to cover classes successfully
 - Key to having consistency for students
- Ask for an update / further information / expected timeline
- Christian volunteers to put together a first draft and circulate to review

Report Card Changes - Presentation & Opportunity for Feedback

- Goals of the redesign:
 - Sharing clear and supportive info with families
 - Embracing whole child vision
 - Streamlining the process for teachers
- Started with focus groups of parents, teachers, school leaders
 - What are the challenges of the current report card?
 - Grading scales are confusing (1-4, work habits, BDSM)

- Parents really love narrative comments; teachers don't always have space to write them
 - Too much - standards that aren't taught
 - How to think about SEL - SEED framework. /SE capacities not incorporated — how can we incorporate?
 - Would be nice to include assessment data
- o Survey
 - Here is the link to the current ES report card public input survey. We will also send over a blurb to be included in any school newsletter/staff email. If you add in your info in the first two questions, the mock-up report card draft will also be there.
 - <https://publicinput.com/elementaryreportcard22>
- Overview of changes
 - o Will be a differentiated / adapted report card for students who things don't apply for
 - o Highlight percentage for attendance
 - o SEL - area of growth / strength; bank of options to select examples
 - o Only 1-4 scale (not multiple)
 - o Teacher can choose 2-3 strengths and 2-3 focus areas
 - o Box with assessment data
 - o Science & social studies
 - Just one overall grade
 - Teacher will select focus area, areas of strength and areas to work on
 - o Specials - teacher will write an overall comment and an overall grade
 - o Box for each of the main teachers to provide narrative information
- Feedback
 - o Appreciate written comments
 - o Is this going to be too much work for teachers?
 - A lot of things are set up as drop-downs

Budget Priorities Discussion

- Goal for this discussion: to get on the same page about budget priorities in advance of the upcoming release of the budget numbers – will then have a meeting to look at a specific proposed allocation and give feedback / input
 - Recovery funds can be used - will we have to petition for those? (Last year we had to; we got ours but some schools didn't)
 - Hopeful we will come out even (though staying the same can be kind of like a cut due to pay raises etc)

- 5-10% increase seems like a lot of money but doesn't always go as far as you'd think; money goes quick
- Privileged to have funding from community, so able to use most of our funding for staff, including non-personnel; turn to fundraising to support educational tools (don't get the best deal; cheaper to go through DCSP)
 - Going to get a bunch of technology in modernization
 - Not going to have to replace furniture this year because of modernization
- Principal Burst's proposal of top 4 areas of focus:
 - Need additional administrative support; has been a particular struggle the past few years
 - Purchase a registrar position - would take a lot of grunt-work off Shawna so she can focus more on managing and organizing - \$40,000 position
 - We have shored up on ELA interventions but we don't support Math the way we do ELA
 - Coach works as interventionist but she isn't able to see as many kids as we can in ELA
 - Other tools besides iready to use in class?
 - Purchasing someone to support mathematic intervention along with the Coach - we currently use more of her time towards that than we should
 - Contribute to equity work
 - We've done a lot of taking assistants and promoting them to other positions within the school - are we able to pick up an other assistant who can support with interventions, project work in upper grades - trying not to rely on Friends on assistant positions (way of showing our employees we value them - we can support them better through DCPS than Friends)
 - We've been running 75-80% world language, we could bump that up to full time
 - She's been really expanding by focusing on specific countries where French is spoken
 - Would allow us to include some enrichment for upper grades - double doses rather than once a week
- Question: music - is it a funding issue? No, we've just not yet met the person we want to keep long-term; don't want to take someone until they're of the quality

Open Forum

Will do a final push to complete the community survey, sent out along with the invitation to complete the report card survey.

Adjourn

Elizabeth Corinth adjourned the meeting.