

## LSAT minutes

October 21, 2020

In attendance: Carol Baker, Keri Sikich, Emily Olesh, Josh Beraha, Beth Prince, Dawn Gray, Shareen Beech, Jen Geoffroy, Julia Krahe, Elke Chen, Liz Stuart and Skip Holmes

### *Discussion about the role of LSAT in reopening:*

DCPS asked us to schedule a walk-through, but with so much in flux, DCPS is not as yet scheduling them

Principal Geoffroy said the walk-through would have to take place on a Wednesday if teachers were to join due to their schedules

DCPS central office has already performed a cursory walk-through

### *Discussion on building readiness:*

Principal Geoffroy said most of the minor things are close to getting sorted out (moving chairs/desks, signage). There have been HVAC contractors at Hearst for the last week. The contractors report to DGS, not Principal Geoffroy, and therefore we don't know the extent of the HVAC improvements. We do know that new HEPA filters have arrived and that the recirculation is modernized in the new addition building. There may be issues in the older building, we don't know. No updates on the air quality in stairwells/hallways.

No update from WTU right now. Per a Washington Post report, negotiations between DCPS and WTU have stalled

### *Discussion on reopening impact on small school like Hearst:*

Per Principal Geoffroy, the next steps are as follow: DCPS must determine who is available to teach, the teachers will get their assignments and then schools will get their in-person rosters.

We still don't know the threshold for keeping/collapsing a class (e.g.: only 3 kids want in person 4<sup>th</sup> grade- would we still offer that?)

Could we combine two (or more) grade levels if demand is small? Could we combine an in-person classroom with a CARES classroom?

Overall, we just don't know- DCPS not providing much details on these issues.

*How can LSAT help with advocacy:*

Parent members asked if there was anything LSAT could do to help right now. Liz Stuart presenting testimony to SBOE as well as forwarding out LSAT concerns to DME, Mayor's office, Councilmember Cheh, at-large Councilmembers and others. This testimony is publicly available and was shared on our list serve.

LSAT parent members as well as PTA have expressed willingness to help Principal Geoffroy and Assistant Principal Chen in any way needed.

*Discussion on how Hearst is doing 8 weeks into first term:*

Dr. Chen says staff has worked on building really strong relationships and getting communications strengthened. We have tested all students in iReady Math and almost everyone in iReady English.

Showing improvements in diagnostic data for overall student performance

Working on being more nimble in seeing student work and providing more immediate feedback

On the ANet test, the 3-5<sup>th</sup> graders had top performances compared to other districts. We still have some kids that struggle and we want to be sure they are getting support they need

Ms. Prince says the instructional coaches are integrating really well into virtual learning. They improve the response time and give a more personalized learning experience.

Ms. Beech has observed that Pre-K, K and 1<sup>st</sup> grade students are really engaged in virtual learning, lots of smiles and kids eagerly sharing with one another.

*Trailer update- no news. Skip will follow up with email to Jen Comey and Andrea Swaitocha.*

*Enrollment issues:*

We have maintained the same population since the official count day (Oct. 5<sup>th</sup>). This number (346 students) will help yield projections in December for the following year. The projection number often informs DCPS budget decisions.

We were projected to have 353, so we are very close to our mark. We seem to be closer to our projected enrollment than many other DCPS schools.

We can make a case to DCPS that more kids will return when schools have safely reopened.

DCPS still working on budget model for next year. With city revenues down, Principal Geoffroy expects there to be cuts in the budget.

We have not faced pressure from DCPS to pull kids off the wait list as our numbers are close to projections. We don't want to pull kids out of other DCPS schools that are currently under enrolled.

*Survey information:*

PTA will report more on results at their meeting

Staff has been having one on one check ins with Principal Geoffroy.

Dawn Gray- staff appreciates the challenges on the family's side and the teacher's side. Everyone is working hard to make this work.