

LSAT – Hearst Elementary School Minutes from 2/17/21 meeting

In attendance: Jen Geoffroy, Keri Sikich, Jonathan Topping, Skip Holmes, Elizabeth Stuart, Elke Chen, Emily Olesh, Josh Beraha, Kestaganer Johnson, Shareen Beech, Julia Krahe, Beth Prince, Dawn Gray, Sarah Schiers

Budget discussion:

DCPS still has not released any budget information. Principal Geoffroy does not have any knowledge of when to expect its release. Further, there is no indication of how this year's budget will compare to previous years.

Principal Geoffroy has been unable to use the "Sandbox" app to create mock budgets reflecting possible 5% increases/decreases. This tool has been unavailable city wide.

School budgets (by law) cannot be lowered by more than 5% in a given year. However, we may receive unfunded mandates that could be challenging to budget for.

The upcoming enrollment projections are also unclear at this point. Principal Geoffroy thinks it is likely we will be budgeted for three K classrooms. Perhaps we'll get the money for three 1st grade classes as well.

Principal Geoffroy continues to advocate for a more realistic enrollment projection for Hearst. Especially in light of the fact that DCPS has allocated trailers for our growth, we should see that reflected in our projected enrollment numbers.

We don't know yet when our budget will be due to return to DCPS. We do know that the mayor's budget is due at the end of March.

Next tentative meeting to discuss budget: 2/24 at 4:30pm

RCC discussion:

Below is the tentative RCC timeline as proposed by Principal Geoffroy

- Tentative Term 4 RCC timeline
- Wednesday, February 24 – Term 4 reopening chat (already scheduled)
- Week of March 1 - RCC planning meeting
- Week of March 8 - Individual grade level meetings, open survey to families

- March 10 - Term 4 planning meeting for staff
- Week of March 15 - RCC planning meeting to review grade level meeting feedback and draft plan
- Week of March 22 - Share final plan with community
- Wednesday, March 24 – Term 4 reopening chat (already scheduled)
- Monday, March 29 - Term 4 offers start (tentative, awaiting confirmation from DCPS)
- Monday, April 19- Term 4 starts

The chats on 2/24 and 3/24 will allow families to interact with Principal Geoffroy and create a channel to provide productive feedback.

We would like to have our next survey come out after the individual grade level meetings. Hopefully, the information gathered in the class meetings will help better focus the survey questions.

We need to set up a channel for families to ask questions before the opening chats. We can try to dispel some of the myths/misunderstandings within our community beforehand.

Theme for Term 4: Reopening Plus. We are going to try and get more kids back to in person learning.

Vaccinations still difficult to schedule for teachers. The Term 3 vaccinations were delivered too late. The first shots were given right before start of Term 3 and the second shots during Term 3.

Principal Geoffroy (and other RCC members) are trying to learn from other schools about their successes/challenges in reopening in term 3.

Principal Geoffroy is trying to get definitive answers from DCPS on how Hearst can maximize the physical spaces to safely accommodate as many kids as possible. This includes possible outdoor space use as well.

The PTA is working with the student council to create more opportunities for social interactions within cohorts. There should be activities coming online in March for three different grade bands at Hearst.

New K class update: we are getting help/instruction to the kids that need it the most. Has been challenging due to weather and other disruptions but otherwise going well.

Cares Plus update: also successful in targeting the kids that need the extra support.

Regular Cares classrooms: the kids here are also showing signs of improvement, especially in regards to their productivity (e.g.: able to complete more assignments)