

LSAT – Hearst Elementary School Minutes from 4/28/21 meeting

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

General discussion on how Term 4 has been progressing

We have jumped from 50 kids on campus to 250 kids. About 75% of our student population is on campus for some form of in person instruction.

It is also a big transition having so much more staff back on campus.

Staff expressed a much more settled feeling by week 2. Things were getting “normal”.

We have staffing challenges given the severe shortage of substitute teachers. We will combine two K Cares classrooms into a combo class that will free up two staff members to help with our unexpected instructional needs.

Concerns were raised about kids who have remained virtual learners. We want to follow up and make sure all of our students are receiving the same great education in every new format.

We have heard concerns from families about kids using Minecraft in the Cares classrooms. The staff is finding alternative things for kids to do: books, Zearn, Clever, Lexia, etc. and then they can be given 30 minutes of Minecraft. Want to have the Care teachers checking in to see that all assigned work is being completed first. Students that are in Cares+ classrooms are in a more typical classroom setting. They have more regular structure/schedule and parents with concerns here should reach out directly to their Cares+ instructors.

SEL: Ms. DeWerd and Ms. Brown are working on a new schedule to implement the Mindfulness Moments curriculum and tailoring it to students that are IPL and/or virtual.

Question about the DCPS guidance on cohorts. The staff knew about this new guidance before spring break. Thus, the way things are set up now for Term 4 is with these guidelines in place. The main thing that was changed is how third grade is handled. It has allowed those instructors to move between more cohorts.

Big takeaway: Every family that wants IPL for their child has some portion of the day available to them.

More families are now asking for the additional ½ day of Cares to supplement their IPL time on campus. Hearst just doesn't have the space and staffing to meet this demand. This is especially true in grades 2-5.

DCPS intends to have a "normal" year starting in the fall. Kids that want to remain virtual would have to have medical clearance to do so. And, the same would be true for teachers.

Thinking ahead, the different grade level teams have been getting together to track curriculum. Each team is creating oversight that all critical items are met and tracking "missed" content for inclusion next year.

CWG update

We had a good meeting. We need the Hearst community to respond to the survey.

Next step: schedule a meeting in two weeks. We can take advantage of Brian Doyle having attended all the CWG meetings from all other schools in Wilson feeder network.

LSAT elections

They will be run through the PTA. We have copy from last year to share with the PTA EB to help with the distribution of information.