



# Capitol Hill Cluster School

*Where Every Child Achieves*  
Peabody | Watkins | Stuart-Hobson | A DC Public School

**November 3, 2021**

**7:00 pm – 9:00 pm**

## **Welcome & Introductions**

LSAT representatives: MScott Berkowitz (Peabody/Watkins Principal), Eric Fraser (Stuart-Hobson Principal), Annie Slattery (Peabody teacher rep), Sarah Cissna (Peabody parent rep), Sara Friedman (Peabody teacher rep), Shannon Russel (Peabody parent rep), Ebon McPherson (Peabody teacher rep), Kimberlynn Jurkowski (Watkins teacher rep), Monique Sullivan (Watkins teacher rep), Henri Rowe (Watkins teacher rep/LSAT co-chair), Kathy Zeisel (Watkins parent rep), Gerty Johnson (S-H parent rep), Bethany Rosera (S-H teacher rep), Nancy Abou-Samra (S-H teacher rep), Peter (LSAT Community member), D'ambra Taylor (S-H teacher rep)

Denise Forte

## **LSAT Open Business**

- Peabody Repairs/Nurse/Nursing Suite Update:
  - On Friday, Peabody now has all the outstanding supplies and lock for Suite and the nurse is ready to start but inspection is still pending.
  - Online training for epipen complete for personnel.
  - Online and in-person training for medication management is still pending; some personnel registered for the training but waiting to hear about the training dates. Parents will organize to advocate for training to happen sooner rather than later.
- Update on campus Equity & Inclusion initiatives  
*Watkins/Peabody*
  - Watkins school leader and teachers have aligned their goals to focus on all students but additional layer on students with disabilities and African American students.
  - Question: if Watkins are focusing on black students for gap in academic growth, what is the school doing to identify the reasons for the academic gaps and address those reasons? Another Watkins is doing a lot to support families and students, but wondering if this actually meets families and students where they are and what they need.
  - Question: There was no fifth-grade math teacher for seven weeks in the beginning of year and new teacher has been absent for a few days since starting. Parent has concerns that students are falling further behind in math.
  - Kindred is facilitating an equity audit, to look introspectively to what extent the schools practice, outcomes, culture, and mindset equitable to all students. Will be looking at panorama survey data for students and families, student achievement data, suspension data, etc. Kindred will also facilitate community building.
  - Plug in for parents and caregivers to join Kindred dialogue groups for Year 2.

*Stuart-Hobson*

-Spirit week last week and virtual pep assembly went well last week.

- The fall sports team wrapping up for the season, Stuart-Hobson teams is competitive with other top middle schools.
- After-school All Stars in full swing with activities after school.
- Looking at first-term data and wrapping up for full first term (ending Nov 5).
- Wrapped up Bully Prevention Awareness Month with conversations in class, and art making posters and door decorating contests.
- PTA starting up grade parents at S-H and looking forward to working with this new initiative. S-H and students also interested in doing an equity audit.
- Question: All schools staff expected that social/emotional needs are really amplified and have been sustained this year post-virtual learning. S-H staff is trained to handle to deescalate situations and have crisis response team (includes mental health team) to respond to needs when incidents happen. Restorative counseling happened on the day after a student escalation incident in cafeteria during 6<sup>th</sup> grade lunch.
- Question: How is SHMS going about to monitor, identify, and prevent situations? Staff is making sure that students know who they can go to for help for themselves or for another student; this year S-H have an additional counselor for students; clubs help students find a secure, safe circle; prevention includes education such as good-touch/bad-touch lessons that happened earlier in the year.

- Technology Availability/Access and Usage in the Classroom: Watkins has 2 carts with 24 computers in for each grade level and 1 floater with 1 cart (10 extras). The particular concern is to make sure grades 3-5 have access and familiarity with devices since they'll be using devices for PARCC tests. Watkins is currently not monitoring for usage.
- CSP Overview & BOY Data Review (Break-out Groups)  
*Watkins/Peabody*
  - CSP goals, strategies, and rationales were shared in all four domains - Academics, Shared Leadership, Engagement, and Culture of Achievement.
  - Academic goals at Watkins** exclusively focused on Black students and students with IEPs. **Math:** 70% of Black students and 55% of students with IEPs achieve their iReady Math growth goals on the 2022 EOY assessments. **Reading:** 62% of Black students and 58% of students with IEPs achieve their ELA growth goals on the 2022 EOY iReady assessments.
  - Academic goals at Peabody** encompass all PK3/PK4 students. **Numeracy:** 80% of students achieve grade-level benchmark on the 2022 EOY GOLD assessment for objective 20 "uses number concepts and operations". **Literacy:** 80% of students achieve grade-level benchmark on 2022 EOY GOLD assessments for objectives 16, "knowledge of alphabet" and "writing skills."
  - Shared Leadership:** Increase individual staff engagement on Spring 2022 Panorama survey to 70% or more at Peabody and Watkins.
  - Engagement:** Increase parent responses on the parent communication portion of the Spring Panorama survey to 71%
  - Culture of Achievement:** Increase percentage of students who feel loved from 68% to 75% on Panorama survey; Peabody: increase daily attendance from 85% to 96%. Watkins: Maintain the average daily attendance of 95%
  - Principal Berkowitz shared that iReady Reading assessments are being expanded for use with all grades to establish some continuity and consistency in metrics across grade levels.

-LSAT team members mentioned the fact that it is possible for students to meet their iReady growth goals and still not be on grade level at the end of the year. The same is true for students with IEPs who may be several grade levels behind. IEP goals are written to gain one year of growth so there are students who will never achieve grade-level proficiency.

-BOY data for TRC assessments shared during the meeting revealed that while more kindergartners are reading on grade level this year despite the pandemic year, there was also a significant increase in the number of kindergartners reading significantly below grade level.

-Principal Berkowitz shared that the BOY data should not alarm us as it is normal to see the low performance (red/yellow) at the beginning of the year yet many of the students will indeed meet their targets at the end of the year.

-LSAT Team members inquired about the use of the data shown to make decisions about teacher assignments as longitudinal data could possibly reveal more/less effective teachers.

### *Stuart-Hobson*

**-Shared Leadership:** teams and teacher meetings aligned along MTSS, coaches and department chairs are meeting to discuss needs and assign champions (academic or social-emotional) to follow-up on specific students. This year, there is a Panorama dashboard to track for academics, attendance, social-emotional, etc. with notes for specific students that show added tutoring sessions or meetings/interventions.

**-Culture of Achievement:** Student Support team-this year added a guidance counselor and Behavior Tech to help students

**-Engagement:** Current strategies include monthly attendance rewards (Jeans/Jersey day for perfect attendance); LiveSchool points and store (Flamboyan grant); MTSS Tier 3 check-in/check-outs with a staff member throughout the day so that students feel engaged, loved, supported from staff; and Clubs, sports, extracurriculars for students.

## **General Campus Updates**

- *Watkins*

End of spirit week was a success even though parents couldn't attend because of weather. Specials classes change at the start of Term 2. The first complete WIN (What I Need) cycle is coming; caregivers will be advised of changes for their child. Wellness in School Environments training- staff wellness and automatic thoughts is coming up. Outdoor lunch was spotty because of weather, 55 degree limit for having outdoor lunch. The school will use electric heaters and see how they work out.

Question: How students are feeling about going to WIN intervention group, some students feel embarrassed about it and jealous of students who go to enrichment (will be internal school discussion).

Question: another concern on withholding recess; Principal Berkowitz noted again that withholding recess is not Watkins policy. Also that this doesn't sound like a global issue and the parents with concern should get in contact with Principal or Mr. Boisvert to help resolve the issue.

Gas situation: Watkins was evacuated for gas smell on 11/3; Washington Gas went to school and gas is turned off until further notice. Cold foods will be served until gas is turned back on.

- *Stuart Hobson*

Campus updates were provided earlier in meeting. Live school “paychecks” are going out to students on Friday so they can redeem their “bucks”, this is a result of a Flamboyant grant.

**Public Comment**

**Next meeting:** December 7, 2021