



Capitol Hill Cluster School
Where Every Child Achieves
Peabody | Watkins | Stuart-Hobson | A DC Public School

LSAT February Meeting Minutes

April 7, 2021

6:00 – 8:00 pm

Zoom Meeting

LSAT Member Attendees: Ramona Burton (Parent Co-Chair), Kimberly Griffin (Teacher Co-Chair), Katherine Antos (Secretary), Shannon Russell, Ebon McPherson, Annie Slattery, Pamela Dickerson, Kimberlynn Jurkowski, Monique Sullivan, Steve Sweeney, Gerty Johnson, Vernastene Black, Kate Fiske, Karen Gordon, Bethany Rosera, Rachel Houghton, Beth Dewhurst, Lona Valmoro

Principals MScott Berkowitz and Eric Fraser, APs Boisvert and Hollis, Bijan Verlin

Approximately 18 parents and teachers

Meeting recorded and available upon request.

LSAT Open Business

LSAT Elections

- Elections coming up. Looking to increase diversity of LSAT members
- Parents filled out survey regarding which campuses and grades their children are in; whether students on, above, below grade level; whether students have IEP or 504 plan; race. Way to track who participating.
- Can be harder for parents of students w/ IEPs to be on LSAT given demands on time. Virtual meetings make it easier for all parents, including with children w/ IEPs or who live in different wards, to participate.
- Ideas for new members: intentionally recruit parents who are on RCE Working Group, [Kindred Group](#), have children w/ IEP
- PTA meetings will remain virtual next year
- Nominations open 4/26 – 5/16. Voting 5/17 – 5/25. Announce winners via email and at June meeting
- **Actions:** Participants should send Ramona names of potential LSAT candidates so can reach out and recruit. Participants should also reach out to potential candidates directly.
- **Decision:** LSAT meetings will remain virtual in SY21-22

Peabody Construction/Building Repair Project

- After last School Improvement Team (SIT) meeting, communicated that a lot going to happen and keys will be turned over in early August
- DGS would not offer Plan B when Principal Berkowitz asked; he will ask again
- Proposal for LSAT to press DGS to develop Plan B
- Lona has raised this to Charles Allen as well

Term 4 and Summer Acceleration Plan Updates

Stuart Hobson:

Term 4

- Term 4 will almost double number of classrooms and AM/PM groups on Wednesdays due to increased teacher willingness.
- Making offers now. Hope that most families will receive offer to join Wednesday sessions
- Wednesdays include organizational skills, checking assignments on Aspen and time to work w/ teachers 1:on:1. Where teachers have matching expertise, teachers can provide instruction. Both AM and PM students have opportunity to get meals at school, though most do not.
- Spacing down to 3' with exception of eating; still 6' for eating. If spacing becomes an issue for eating, have auxiliary spaces
- Interested to see if students who participated in Term 3 showed improvement in grades; have heard qualitatively that it's been successful
- PTA helping to organize more activities – cycling club
- Athletics– baseball (boys), track (boys and girls)
- Going to get guidance soon on 8th grade ceremony
- About to share information regarding school photos
- Mixed messaging on cohorts. Believe that the cohort size can now be bigger (so long as 3' distancing), but students can only interact with 1 cohort (more restrictive). Only exception is athletics. More information [here](#) and [here](#)
- This is part of why SHMS not going back on days other than Wednesdays, b/c can't keep students in 1 cohort given different classes

Summer

- 3 opportunities:
 - Acceleration Academy: Will serve 66-150 Tier 2 & 3 students. Imagine will have same cohort requirements. From 9 – 5. Will include 2 STEM/humanities instructional blocks and 2 enrichment blocks (SEL, Arts, Athletics, work with partners, academics). 7/19-30
 - 8/9 – 8/12: Summer Bridge for rising 6th graders from all feeder schools. 9 am - 2 pm. Hope will be available to all students.
 - Additional enrichment and academic acceleration in literacy, math, arts, or athletics
 - DCPS centralized programs: "I" resolution – chance for students to improve an I or F
 - School budget and PTA stipends can support these 3 programs

Other:

- Attendance better than last year (based on logging on). However, real test is grades
- Starting CSP for next year and will do Town Halls with family. Looking at standardized metrics (eg, ANet) to assess how doing. Initially seems to be largely holding the line
- Also partnering with ANet on instructional recovery so past years' curriculum (gap closing) can be incorporated into current years' curriculum.
- Public comment from parent requesting support for 8th grade families in 9th grade application process. Support was delayed this year b/c unclear what application components were this year. This year's application components and admissions process available [here](#), though will likely be different next year.
- Principal Fraser realizes each grade level has particular needs re: community, support – 6th grade transition in, 7th graders who've never been at SHMS, 8th graders applying for 9th grade schools

Peabody/Watkins:

Summer Acceleration

- Staff mostly confirmed. All are opting in. 9 staff coordinated by Mr. Gross. Includes teachers, 1 aide, 1 social worker
- Offered first to Tier II or Tier III students. 7 classes w/ ~14 students = ~94 students
- Rising Pk4 – 5th graders
- July 12 – 23, 5 days/week. 9 am – 1 pm for all students and free; 1 – 5 pm extended enrichment w/ community partner. Will need to maintain same cohort b/t morning and evening. Pricing, contract, procurement in process and scholarships available for almost half students
- At Watkins w/ possible walking field trips
- Standard assessments to measure impact.
- Creative, fun, SEL-based curriculum developed by teachers based on ideas from teacher
- 2 weeks and timing give teachers chance to recharge after SY20-21 ends and before SY21-22
- Maybe: School partner host enrichment camp. Needs DCPS approval. Would be on separate floor from Peabody/Watkins summer program.
- Will let families know soon if will likely be considered for summer spot

Term 4

- 1st round calls based on “high need” students, including students who were offered but turned down spots in Term 3 (although direction from DCPS was not to start over from the top)
- Then looked at siblings of in-person
- Then random pool, picking up where left off in list after Term 3 calls ended
- In almost all cases, siblings were offered spots
- This wasn’t clear from Principal’s message, so LSAT and RCE leadership appreciated clarification that high-need students who turned down spots for Term 3 were first to be offered spots in Term 4. LSAT and RCE leadership asked Principal to be bold in commitment to equity.
- **Request was made to update and share equity chart to be transparent with community regarding students given IPL seats; to be shared at May LSAT meeting**
- From 109 up to 268 total. New classes – 1 more for PK3, 4 more for PK4 (2 days/week – up to 46 students), 1 more for 3rd grade
- 9 staff opting in for IPL
- Seats remaining (constantly changing): Pk3 – 15 seats, PK4 – 5 seats, K – 7 seats, 1st – 3 seats, 3rd – 12 seats, 5th – 1 seat
- If not called by Friday, won’t start until Thurs 4/22 in order to give teachers time to set up classrooms, finalize rosters. Otherwise new IPL students start 4/19
- 2nd grade and 4th grade remaining 100% virtual b/c don’t have teachers, staff volunteering to teach those students
- Contract of Ms Moore (who was supporting 2nd grade) ended b/c teacher returned. Frustration from 2nd grade parents b/c Ms. Moore leaving was inconsistent with previous communications. Also frustrated took so long to hire Ms. Moore (back end after Principal Berkowitz selected her)
- Request for general updates on grades be shared with full community (not just, in this case, 2nd and 4th grades)
- Principal Berkowitz: Recognition that 2nd graders experience problematic and affected learning due to staffing situation. Will need additional attention in SY21-22. LSAT and public comment concern: many 2nd graders who aren’t Tier II or III students won’t receive additional supports.

MTSS:

- Name Tier I supports
- Create master schedule with intervention time
- New data system
- Professional learning on interventions

- Co-teaching camp
- PD on Tier I, interventions, pilot data system (perhaps for 3rd grade), implement interventions, monitor, improve
- Change mindset so recognize all students need some type of intervention, not just Tier II and III

General Campus updates:

Peabody/Watkins:

- Books with Berkowitz: Congresswoman Norton, Mayor Bowser
- Spirit week and both schools morning meeting about Earth Month
- Girls on the Run started
- Staff Kindred #9 of 10
- Grade level play dates started; all grades will have one in April. Will do “Step Up” play dates by EOY so students can meet next year’s teachers

Public Comment

- Incorporated into above discussions

Meeting adjourned 8:05 pm.

Remaining 2020-2021 Meetings

2020-21 Meetings	Location
May 4	Virtual
June 8	Virtual
July 6	Virtual