



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

**LSAT Meeting Minutes
Watkins Library
January 9, 2018**

Attendees: *Ebon McPherson, Allyson Kitchel, Tom Guglielmo, Samah Norquist, Katherine Moxley, Ann Brigioli, Lona Valmoro, Jeff Seltzer, Principal Bell, AP Angry, AP Croft, Ann Brigioli, Nakisha Winston, Harolyn Brown, Sherry Trafford, and Principal Comeforo; Approximately 8 parents.*

Peabody Building Update - Invited Guest, Vashaunta Harris

- Guest spokesperson: Ms. Vashaunta Harris, Director of School Strategy & Logistics, DCPS is the liaison between our administrators and DGS.
- Prior to Winter Break, there were 20 leaks identified at Peabody. They were repaired but over the course of the repairs, new issues were detected.
- The bulk of the work will be done over the MLK weekend since they cannot do the work when children are in the building.
- A DCPS letter will be going out tomorrow (Wednesday) updating parents on the current status of the heating system.
 - a. Parents/community members ask to please keep the lines of communication open, even if the update is that they do not have an update and an idea of when the next actionable update will be provided.
- Space heaters and hanging heaters are being used in the interim and these are monitored for fire and overall safety by the Fire Inspector who will be out again this week to check on the temporary heating sources.

Stuart Hobson Principal's Updates - Principal Comeforo

Enrollment Projection Update

- SH started with 420 students projected for SY 2018-19 and submitted a petition for 430. We received approval for an increase of 8 students.
- Budget will be set at 428 students.

Staffing Update

- Part-time psychologist has left SH and DCPS, overall. DCPS is providing itinerant support. (SH is 12% special education.)
- Mr. Smullen is serving grand jury duty from January-March and current SH math teachers will be covering for him.
- Ms. O'Donoghue is on medical leave through the end of January. Other teachers, along with Principal Comeforo will judge and grade the 7th grade science fair

- projects.
- Theater is moving from 9th period to zero period to accommodate the large number of students who have afterschool obligations, making attendance inconsistent.
 - a. A question was raised regarding what happens to students who are unable to get to school in time for zero period. Principal Comeforo said they will make accommodations by continuing to make some elements of theater available during 9th period.
 - After School All Stars – 21st Century Grant was obtained and after school programming will continue for the next three years. Ms. Martin is now the after school site coordinator at SH.
 - Due to staffing and budget issues, After School All Stars will end at 4:30pm on Fridays only.
 - Principal Comeforo is working on a joint performance with four other DCPS schools at National Monument in DC, tentatively February 1st. More details to follow.

Cyberbullying and School Culture

- Students do not have access to their cell phones during the day.
- There have been two known incidents of cyberbullying at SH to date.
- When these issues do arise, they are mediated in a similar way as if they happened in person.
- Principal Comeforo acknowledged there may be times when it happens but is not brought to the attention of teachers or administrators
- Principal Comeforo asked for feedback from members and the community around ways to help students navigate social interactions involving technology. Suggestions included:
 - a. A parent round table to help parents discuss and understand how their children interact with varying social media tools
 - b. Helping children understand the lasting effects of their online interactions

SH Comprehensive School Plan

- SH is currently working through mid-year data assessments this month and we will have a detailed analysis in February at the LSAT meeting.

Watkins & Peabody Principal's Updates - Principal Bell

Enrollment Projection Update

- Peabody was approved for an additional 4 students next year. For reference, the current year's budget is based on 224 students.
- Next year's projections by grade are:
 - a. 60 students at PK3
 - b. 80 students at PK4
 - c. 87 students at Kindergarten
- Watkins was approved for an additional 9 students next year for a total of 443

students. For reference, the current year's budget is based on 424 students. We expect a budget increase.

- Next year's projections by grade are:
 - a. 92 students at 1st Grade
 - b. 92 students at 2nd Grade
 - c. 90 students at 3rd Grade
 - d. 90 students at 4th Grade
 - e. 79 students at 5th Grade

Staffing and Scheduling

- Ms. Harrell is expected back in February.
- Ms. Walters' maternity leave begins in March.
- Peabody's PK3 aide position for Ms. Bellino is still vacant. Three previous candidates fell through. Interviews are lined up for next week.
- Peabody's part time social worker, Ms. Schwartz, resigned from DCPS.
- Watkins' annual MLK speech must be postponed until February 2nd because of weather.
- Watkins will host a Black History Month event on February 28th at 6PM.
- Other events will take place throughout the month of February. Information is forthcoming.
- Winter sports (skiing and boys/girls basketball) are in full swing. Ski trips are planned for the month of February.
- Ms. Bowers is the point of contact for Drama. An interest meeting for students will happen at the end of January/beginning of February.
- A teacher is not yet identified to lead a choir.
- A member asked about a plan to address the challenges associated with having events at Watkins that are scheduled in such a way that a parent must choose which child's event to attend.
 - a. The administration noted this topic has been discussed amongst staff and agreed to rethink how to best accommodate families that have more than one child. Some suggestions from participants included;
 - video/webinars so you could attend one session and watch another (this would be challenging to 1. ask teachers to use their personal equipment and 2. to have multiple devices streaming at once
 - staggering start times
 - repeating programs on multiple dates (this presents a challenge to teachers' time requirements.)
 - splitting programs among different dates by grade level

Comprehensive School Plan & Differentiation - Principal Bell

- At Watkins, developing consistency around implementation is a focus. There are teachers who consistently implement small group programming, but there are teachers who do not do this on a regular basis. The goal is to ensure small group is

- happening in the majority of classrooms.
- The administration is now going through lesson plans to determine what is appropriate and rigorous since each student should have an individualized growth goal.
 - In each classroom, students are observed to determine progress and how well they are comprehending the material presented.
 - Administrators meet with teachers to review all students who are not on track to meet growth goals.
 - All teachers have been observed for IMPACT and students are going through mid-year assessments.
 - AP Angry noted similar observations occur at Peabody. Teachers are implementing small groups regularly using techniques and feedback from Creative Curriculum and according to NAEYC guidelines.
 - In December, Watkins had a training for all math teachers on Do the Math which we will be implementing throughout the year.
 - The Achievement Gap Task Force is scheduled to meet the third Tuesday of every month. Principal Bell is looking for specific leadership feedback from the Achievement Gap Task Force. The next meeting should be Tuesday, January 16th.

Adjourn 7:55