



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

**LSAT Meeting Notes**  
**Stuart Hobson Middle School**  
**April 2, 2019**

**LSAT Attendees:** Ebon McPherson, Meg Booth, Principal Bell, Principal Comeforo, AP Bosivert, AP Croft, Jessica Pannett, Lona Valmoro, Tiffany Ahn, Tatiana Sheppard, and Nakisha Winston

Approximately 6 parents were in attendance.

The LSAT meeting began at 6:15pm.

**Stuart- Hobson - Principal's Updates**

- Budget update: SY19-20 enrollment projections anticipate 483 students, an increase of 55 students. (6<sup>th</sup> Grade – 182, 7<sup>th</sup> Grade – 171, 8<sup>th</sup> Grade – 130). As a result, SH received an increase in funding.
- Overall goals for the budget process: Decrease class size, increase access to technology and to increase social emotional support. All three objectives were met by increasing the total number of teachers, adding a part-time social worker, additional City Year Team, and DCPS central office is investing in technology. Specific staffing changes for SY19-20 include the following:
  - Adding Science Teacher
  - Adding Social Studies Teacher
  - Adding Special Education Inclusion Teacher
  - Adding Special Education TLI Teacher and LEA Rep
  - Adding ELL Teacher
  - Adding Social Worker (Part Time)
  - Eliminating Registrar
  - Adding Assistant of Strategy and Logistics (combined Registrar/Clerk)
  - Increasing City Year Team (from 7 in SY18-19 to 9 members)
- Community Building: Principal Comeforo highlighted Family Fun BBQ on Friday, April 26<sup>th</sup> – invitations extended to incoming feeder and neighborhood families.
- High School Acceptance: SH had 50 students accepted into application high schools and 74% of all students who applied were matched to a school in their top three ranked choices.

## Watkins & Peabody - Principal's Updates

- SY 19-20 Budget update: DCPS added the cost (and equivalent funding) for security to the upcoming budget in addition of a .5 FTE to support the new physical education requirements. When considering the changes in budgeting and staffing requirements, Watkins nor Peabody did not receive a budget increases. This require for necessary staffing changes, which include the following:

Peabody:

- Eliminating Registrar
- PE position changed from Full Time to Part Time

Watkins:

- Adding PE Teacher
- Adding Behavioral Tech
- Eliminating Dean of Students
- Petitions: Watkins was once again granted a Reading Specialist, however was denied an additional Social Worker.

- SY 19-20 Teacher Training: Next school year Watkins staff will begin training in “Conscious Discipline” social-emotional learning and classroom management. The 3-year implementation will be in addition, not in place of, the current responsive classroom. Teacher training will start in August. LSAT discussed the behavior management program, how responsibilities will be divided with the elimination of the Dean of Students, and the implications for students and teachers.

- Enrollment/Re-enrollment

- Peabody is projected to have 222 students next year, a decrease of 4 students. The re-enrollment rate in 2018-2019 was 83%.
- Watkins is projected to have 447 students next year, an increase of 3 students. The re-enrollment rate in 2018-2019 was 87%.
- Peabody/Watkins has a Kindergarten/First Grade Buddy Day will take place in April.
- Administration is encouraging families to enroll early and have set aside on specific Mondays for enrollment for additional hours for enrollment in addition to DCPS-wide early enrollment day on Saturday April 27<sup>th</sup>.
- Parents in the audience asked questions regarding activities to try to retain 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade students.

## Substitute Teachers

There was a request prior to the meeting to discuss current teacher absence rates and policies for substitute teachers. Principals supplied information on their campuses regarding teacher attendance, as follows:

- Peabody current teacher attendance rate is 92%
- Watkins current teacher attendance rate is 96%
- SH current teacher attendance rate is 95%

The Cluster follows Washington Teacher's Union leave policy. Teachers have 12 days per school year of leave. They are asked to text by 6:00am if they are not going to be in that day however, the union rules stipulate that teachers are allowed to notify the school up to 15 minutes before they are expected to report to school. Teachers are required to have plans filed with their administration for substitutes in the case they are out at the last minute.

Administration has successfully maintained a pool of substitutes that allow for coverage. When substitutes are unavailable or when there are not enough substitutes to cover the needed classes, decisions are made where to place the substitute based on what is best for each classroom, at times that necessitates splitting classrooms between the remaining classrooms in that grade. AP Croft said this has been happening more as of late to meet the union rules that limit the duration of non-teachers (aids, etc.) that can be used in a classroom.

The official LSAT meeting ended at 7:57pm.