

Miner Elementary School LSAT
LSAT Meeting: September 17, 2019 - 5:00 pm
Meeting Minutes

The meeting came to order at 5:05pm.

Introductions:

The following members were present:

- Sara Saxton
- Bernadette Wittschen
- LaShawn Oliver
- Julie Muir
- Ms. Pitoniak
- Mr. Yoho
- Ms. Loving

LSAT Business:

- Sara Saxton and Mr. Yoho were elected LSAT Co-Chairs.
- LaShawn Oliver and Julie Muir were elected LSAT Co-Secretaries.
- Nominations for vacant Teacher Representative position are due Wednesday, September 18; election will be held Wednesday, September 25.

Appointed Positions:

- The LSAT and some of the non-voting visitors were generally in favor of adding an additional Parent Representative for diversity purposes. We agreed that the ideal candidate would be an African American upper grade parent. A bonus would be a male, but we were aware that might not be possible. Suggestions should be sent to the Co-Chairs in advance of the October meeting if possible.
- The Community Representative is a position voted on by the LSAT. Any suggestions/interested parties should be shared with the Co-Chairs in advance of the October meeting if possible. It was suggested that a good candidate might be someone within the Eliot-Hine family to enhance our feeder school relationship.

Updates/Discussion (Principal Jackson):

- Enrollment
 - Our projection was 372 – we have already passed it with current enrollment at 374.
 - The hope is to reach 378; last year we were 25 students over the projection.
 - Realistically we will be close to 400 by the end of year (if this happens in time, we could get a \$300,000-\$500,000 budget bump for SY20-21).
 - Principal Jackson is making an ask for an addition SPED teacher – we have already passed our projection by 20 students.
- Hiring
 - Currently there are 2 vacancies.
 - ESL teacher (we currently have a part-time person in place from DCPS because none of the many candidates interviewed were appropriate).
 - Educational Aide (this is a one-year vacancy as a current aide is only out for the school year and will return SY20-21).
 - Interviews for educational aid will begin Monday, Sept. 23; interviews for ESL are on hold until mid-year when the candidate pool expands.
- Before/Afterschool Programs
 - DCPS and The Fishing School replaced PAL this year.
 - DCPS is for K and ECE students.
 - The Fishing School is for 1st-5th grade students.
 - Apollo replaced Springboard this year.
 - At-cost provider.
 - Provides before and aftercare.

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- Clubs will likely be for older (K-5) kids but will be at the discretion of the teacher in charge.
- ECE kids likely won't have access to the types of programs that Springboard provided (gymnastics, soccer, etc) because there is a space issue.
- Once clubs are in place, Mr. Jackson will look into the possibility of bringing in outside extracurricular groups (ie Tippi Toes) for ECE students if space permits. This will be at cost to parents.
- Community School Updates
 - Program review is next week.
 - We are starting year 2 soon.
 - Foster grandparent program is on the verge of returning to Miner for ECE.
 - Mobile TB clinic coming Sept. 23, results read Sept. 25 (12 spots remain; currently 38 parents have signed up – at minimum of 10 are required).
 - Request to improve communications about the Community School Coordinator (CSC) was made; Mr. Jackson says the October newsletter will provide information/profile of CSC.
- Playground
 - Progress is being made – structures are being put in.
 - Walkway is starting to go in.
 - Structures will be available for recess before field is done.
 - Still looking at an October 14 open date but Mr. Jackson realistically is hoping for Nov. 1.
- Technology
 - 3rd grade is still expected to have a 1:1 ratio of laptops to students per DCPS standards.
 - Students will be trained on device use.
 - PTO purchased 5 Chromebooks per classroom for grades K-2 (non-testing grades) so ~25 laptops were removed from those classrooms and places in testing grades.
- EOY/PARCC
 - Detailed information is in each binder under “ELA Data,” “Math Data,” “SEL Data.”
 - Student surveys are conducted for grades 3-5 only.
 - PARCC
 - Net neutral: -1 in math, +2 in ELA, but that equates to only 1 or 2 students.
 - This is a good year to make academic change; year 3 is when impact is really seen.
 - Administration has strengthened lower grade cohorts that don't test (ECE – 2nd grade) and they feel great about the current 1st grade data.
 - Hope is for an option of Saturday school to support students who need help with testing (teachers will get paid).

Planning:

- CSP
 - October start date so no report yet.
 - Each month Jackson will report action items and progress toward goals to the LSAT.
- Budget/Priorities
 - David Treat, former LSAT Parent Representative, presented a list of LSAT priorities over the past few year (and administrations).
 - Priorities of the past include Reggio Emilia and special curriculum.
 - Reggio was dropped from K most likely as a combination of budget and transition to common core (though this is only a guess as it happened before Principal Jackson's arrival at Miner).
 - Past special curriculum ideas included IB, STEM/STEAM, dual language, etc. This was all part of a hope to give Miner a “hook” to attract families but nothing ever really came from it due to a variety of reasons (lack of interest, no desire to lose teachers, new administration, DCPS not willing to add a program).
 - More recent/current priorities include:

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- Community School
- Improving literacy/reading performance
- Improving math performance
- Improving climate and culture via restorative justice
- Continue STEM instruction
- Upgrade technology (with PTO)
- Improve attendance
- Increase field trips (with PTO)
- Mission & vision work is a priority this year
- Progress
 - Reggio is no longer an LSAT priority.
 - CSC is going strong with an increase on the way.
 - PARCC has grown in reading but very slowly.
 - PARCC has gone backwards in math.
 - Discipline is moving in the right direction – fewer suspensions.
 - STEM – emphasis in master schedule plus change in 3rd-5th grade scheduling to have dedicated science teachers.
 - Tech – moving in good direction; funding for iPads for pk classes enabled school to order 2 iPads/class so they no longer need laptops.
 - Attendance – this is mixed. In-seat attendance is down slightly: fewer students are chronically truant, but many more days truant for those who are (many are at the pk level). The focus this year is on chronically truant, not in-seat attendance.
 - Field trips – goal for each student to attend at least 2 field trips this year.
 - Mission and vision is really important this year. LSAT will be asked to review a plan to get the process started with a goal of 75% family participation. Mr. Jackson will send plan prior to October LSAT meeting for feedback and discussion.
 - Questions about the possibility of partnering with Flamboyan came up, but there's no budget for that.

Advocacy:

- Old Miner – no new updates, still as far as we know there's a plan to add a birth to 3 childcare center, which we have sent a letter (from LSAT and PTO) requesting that they include pk3 and 4 in their plan.
- LSAT Advocacy
 - Community Engagement Committee of the PTO is looking for volunteers, including a Committee Chair. If anyone is interested in joining and/or testifying at hearings relevant to Miner advocacy issues, please contact the PTO.
 - Past advocacy issues have included lead issues and technology improvements.

PTO Check-In:

- Fall fundraiser (Bear Paw) kicked off last week at the PTO meeting; goal is \$10,000 from 50% of families.
- Oktoberfest is the first major event of the Family Engagement and Events Committee. It is scheduled for October 31.
- Holiday Greenery & Baked Goods Sale is scheduled for December 6 & 7.

Meeting adjourned at 6:45pm.