

Miner Elementary School LSAT
LSAT Meeting: October 15, 2019 - 5:00 pm
Meeting Minutes

The meeting came to order at 5:05pm.

Introductions:

The following members were present:

- Tammy Alexander
- Sara Saxton
- Bernadette Wittschen
- Julie Muir
- Ms. Pitoniak
- Mr. Yoho
- Ms. Loving

LSAT Business:

- Roster is up to date
- We still plan to add an additional parent for diversity purposes (Latoya McCarthy-Scott has been suggested and is interested; Mr. Jackson will contact)
- Community Representative(s) needs to be elected:
 - Julie Muir will reach out to Nikki Wiggins
 - Mr. Jackson will reach out to the Eliot-Hine Community
 - Any other ideas? Send to Sara Saxton or Mr. Yoho

Updates/Discussion (Principal Jackson):

- Enrollment
 - Our projection was 372 – we have already passed it with current enrollment at 374.
 - The number used on “count day” was 379 but charters made a last-minute push and 4 students left (1 left before “count day”)
 - Currently 3 open PK4 seats
 - PK early stages seats will no longer be released
 - No additional wait list seats will open
- Personnel Update
 - Principal Jackson was denied his ask for an additional SPED teacher
 - A 3rd-5th grade math teacher resigned so the Personnel Committee will begin interviews next week (currently 5 candidates)
 - We want to ensure there is support for the new teacher so the transition is easy for him/her and the students
 - Concerns about the 3-5 model
 - We won't see a difference until year 2
 - Students love having science and social studies daily
 - Administration met with SCAC to go over concerns about planning time for 3rd-5th grade teachers:
 - Additional planning time will be added into their schedules which will take the pressure off.
 - The specials teachers will have an additional lunch period to cover so the 3-5 teachers can add a planning period.
 - Overall a very productive meeting
 - Are teachers happy with the 3-5 model? We will have a better sense in January but the biggest complaints have involved transitions and planning time, both of which are in the process of being resolved
 - If 3-5 model doesn't work out, we could keep science and social studies teachers but we would need to come up with approximately \$220k in budget.

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- Hiring
 - Currently there are 3 vacancies.
 - ELL teacher (DCPS can't find a teacher for us but have provided a part-time person and we have one candidate to interview).
 - Educational Aide (this is a one-year vacancy as a current aide is only out for the school year and will return SY20-21). Today's sub was interested and is already DCPS cleared.
 - 3rd – 5th grade math teacher (see personnel update above)
 - We have a consistent sub with a background in accounting while we find a full-time teacher
 - Ms. Coles is doing some lessons in the meantime
- Other
 - Community issues within 3rd grade will hopefully be resolved by additional circles each week
 - Miner is part of the mental health support expansion, and as a cohort 2 school we will be partnered with MBI (clinicians will on-board soon).
 - ECE budget concerns
 - Potential for budgets to be cut
 - We don't yet know if the cuts will be to coaches and coordinators or actual classrooms
 - Factors determining which schools receive cuts will likely include number of Head Start families in the program
 - This could have significant impact on Miner's growth since 1/3 of the school is ECE
 - Competitive grant from DCPS is due October 31
 - Miner is still early action
 - There will now be the possibility of adding a Title 1 preference to the My School DC Lottery (along with sibling preference and geographic preference)
- Community School Updates
 - Kindred Dialogue Groups are starting this week.
 - Foster grandparent program is on its way back.
- Playground
 - Did not open as scheduled (on Oct. 14)
 - Mr. Jackson is waiting for an update from DCPS
 - Parking lot fence has been removed
 - Lumber from OSSE grant will be delivered this month
- Technology
 - 3rd grade is still expected to have a 1:1 ratio of laptops to students per DCPS standards
 - Devices should be delivered in December
 - Still looking for parents to join tech advocacy team
 - Technology inventory complete.

Advocacy:

- No Old Miner update
- We have agreed as a team that no individual will represent LSAT or PTO without consent of the body as a whole
- October 29 – DCPS budget hearing

PTO Check-In:

- Fall fundraiser (Bear Paw) has raised over \$7,900 from 21 families.
- Oktoberfest is scheduled for October 31
- The PTO received a grant for \$1,000 from ANC 6A toward our FoodCorps Program

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Planning/Key Topics for November:

- CSP
 - Draft copy was shared
 - Opportunities to provide feedback throughout the year (updates can be made constantly)
 - Plan for mission and vision work is a priority – the benchmark is 75% staff and 75% family participation
- Topics for next month
 - Teacher communications
 - Specials teachers communications
 - Community safety

Meeting adjourned at 6:40pm.