

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

The meeting came to order at 5:05pm.

Introductions:

The following members were present:

- Tammy Alexander
- LaToya McCarthy-Scott
- Sara Saxton
- Bernadette Wittschen
- Julie Muir
- Mr. Yoho
- Dr. Ramsey
- Ms. Loving

Discussion:

- ESSA Star Rating
 - Our score dropped about 20 points
 - Our star rating dropped from 3 stars to 2 stars
 - PARCC testing accounts for 70 of the 95 available points (3rd – 5th grades)
 - Neutral on students meeting/exceeding expectations
 - Neutral on students approaching expectations
 - Slight decrease in ELA and Math median growth (4th and 5th grade measurement)
 - Significant decrease in ELA and Math growth to proficiency (lost around 15 points here)
 - Reasoning?
 - Loss of 5th grade math teacher
 - Too many kids pulled from classrooms for interventions
 - Broad focus of LEAP teams
 - Coaches were unable to coach entire cohorts because they had to do too much specific teaching
 - We have a good sense of what went wrong and what needs to be done to fix it
 - Concern for Sy19-20: loss of 3rd – 5th grade math teacher
 - Coach could teach but then would be unable to support other cohorts (this was a problem last year)
 - Long term sub is getting support
 - Whole team is working closely but planning was restructured because of the need for more rigor in the classroom
 - Ideas
 - Consult other similar schools that have improved to see what they are doing that works (Payne, Tyler, etc)
 - Anonymous teacher survey to find out what they need to feel supported
 - Growth in attendance score
 - Growth in re-enrollment score
 - Neutral in pre-K categories
 - Federal Head Start Status
 - Grant likely to be cut significantly
 - Schools are in 3 categories, based on number of Head Start eligible families in boundary:
 - Cat. 1 – likely to retain all funding
 - Cat. 2 – likely to retain pre-K program but lose some funding (Miner is here)
 - Cat. 3 – likely to lose some or all of pre-K program

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- Miner is expected to retain all classrooms so won't lose staff (DCPS will be able to fund), but would lose funding for field trips, family services coordinator, and supplies
- We would have to fund supplies from school non-personnel budget, and since supplies are for 1/3 of school this would be a huge increase (everything from diapers to paper towels to outlet covers and more)
- We will not know status of grant until after budgets are submitted (likely April or May) so we must plan accordingly; if we do retain funding then we can re-allocate budget
- DCPS and the My School DC Lottery are testing an at-large preference at one school (with priority over sibling preference); Miner is likely to no longer be early action after this year (not by choice)

Updates from Previous Meetings, Previous Agendas, or Questions:

- Communications
 - ECE could use class dojo without behavior aspect? Not all ECE teachers may like this format
 - Potential concerns re: Bloomz – Mr. Jackson is following up and will report back
 - Could there be a standard school-wide?
 - Yes: K-5 uses class dojo and has a “monthly newsletter” requirement
 - What about ECE?
 - Broader issue is family engagement – could we sign people up at events with high attendance like Back to School Night or Oktoberfest?
 - Could we team with Flamboyan? A family engagement organization used by some DCPS schools; monetary incentives for home visits, etc.
- Enrollment Projections – no change (390) but there may be a need for additional self-contained pre-K SPED classrooms. Miner has offered to take one if our enrollment projection is increased to 400 (which would mean budget increase of approximately \$400,000).
- Community Safety
 - Increase in robbery with weapons in ward 6
 - School has been on “alert” twice this year (when a crime occurs nearby), but a lockdown has not happened as it can only be ended by police.

PTO Check-In:

- Holiday Greenery and Baked Goods Sale raised over \$6,100. Huge success!

LSAT Business:

- Community Representative(s) needs to be elected:
 - Suggestion: Joe Weedon, but it was determined he does not meet the requirements
 - Mr. Jackson has reached out to the Eliot-Hine Community
 - Any other ideas? Send to Sara Saxton or Mr. Yoho

Advocacy:

- If interested in testifying at upcoming hearings, contact David Treat at dtreat2mars@gmail.com
- Ward 6 technology coalition is meeting with DCPS to discuss implementation of new technology and training/IT needs

Planning/Key Topics for January Meeting:

- Next meeting is January 21, 2020
- If anyone has specific budget questions, please submit them to Mr. Jackson, Sara Saxton, or Mr. Yoho by January 14
- Budget is expected late January/early February, so LSAT budget meeting scheduled for Tuesday, February 11 and the back-up date is Monday, February 24 in case the budget is late

Meeting adjourned at 6:42pm.