

Miner Elementary School LSAT
LSAT Meeting: May 19, 2020 - 5:00 pm
Meeting Minutes

The meeting came to order at 5:04pm. The meeting was conducted via zoom due to the school closure.

Introductions:

The following members were present:

- Tammy Alexander
- LaToya McCarthy-Scott
- LaShawn Oliver
- Sara Saxton
- Bernadette Wittschen
- Julie Muir
- Ms. Coles
- Ms. Pitoniak
- Dr. Ramsay
- Mr. Yoho
- Ms. Luttmer
- Ms. Loving

Updates from Previous Meetings, Previous Agendas, or Questions:

- Budget update
 - Chancellor emailed budget as proposed by Mayor today
 - No changes for LSAT purposes: all non-personnel spending (except cleaning supplies) for current year has been frozen
 - Visit dcpsdatacenter.com for each school's individual budget
 - Submitted budget shared with LSAT in February; signed by one chair
 - We did make some spending cuts with the intent for the PTO to help fund them; these cuts now seem like a good decision but we may need to realign funds for next year when a plan is in place.
- Enrollment
 - Miner is the top re-enrolled school in cluster 4 (42%)
 - Goal is 50% on May 29
 - We are second in the cluster for total number re-enrolled
 - Suggestion: make a step-by-step video for those having issues with online re-enrollment (something to consider but issues have primarily been with submitting once form is complete)
 - Lottery enrollment numbers not available yet
- Grading Policy
 - Term 3 grades are in but won't go home until June with Term 4 grades
 - Term 4: if students have engaged in distance learning then they will get a P for "pass;" if they haven't, they will get an NM for "no mark"
 - ECE only required to send the equivalent of a progress report but can send GOLD report card (for students who have actively engaged in distance learning)
 - "Pass" = 80% of distance learning completed
 - Specials teachers grade separately so they will also have their own 80% requirement
 - No punishment for families who could not engage in distance learning

Discussion:

- Planning for next year
 - Still TBD
 - Don't even know summer school status yet
 - Must be prepared for all contingencies
 - Need to plan for distance learning
 - Need to plan for various types of in-person learning

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LSAT Meeting: May 19, 2020 - 5:00 pm

Meeting Minutes

- Could teachers loop? Anything is on the table
- Budget adjustments needed for fall and/or future distance learning
 - Could we petition for an extra custodian? Yes, but we would have to cut elsewhere; the custodians' schedule has been changed, particularly in the evening hours, so there is more night clean up time next year.
 - HVAC/air filtration options are being considered—a team will visit each school to determine the most effective measures
- Communications Policy
 - Currently no formal policy is in place
 - Admin has worked to let families know about distance learning
 - The need for a communications policy predates the pandemic/distance learning
 - Policy needs to be written and followed
 - Concerns with communications during pandemic
 - How is leadership/admin engaging with kids
 - Can we have weekly community meetings with admin to maintain the bond
 - Virtual recess has been a huge hit – something like that with the admin?]
 - Plan for summer communications (particularly with high risk families)
 - Homeless liaison program will stay in touch with those families
 - Summer communications would be via blackboard since teachers are gone (and blackboard does not reach everyone)
 - Miner is expected to remain a feeding site throughout the summer (this is not yet confirmed)
 - Some online resources will still be available in the summer months
 - Programs that Miner pays for (such as ST Math, Lexia) will be available
 - Programs that are not paid for by Miner are TBD
 - Can we come up with a plan for engagement throughout the summer? Admin can come up with a plan (in June?) if LSAT makes a formal recommendation
 - LSAT will move this discussion to email to come up with a plan
- Open Positions and Interviews
 - Open: teaching and critical need positions are open; others are frozen (this only applies to our cluster)
 - Personnel committee has revised questions and interviews are going forward
 - Some internal moves are happening, we are just waiting to make it official and then interviews will go forward
- LSAT Elections will be held in fall and will be conducted by the PTO for parent representatives; WTU reps will also be elected in the fall; the school will hold staff and teacher rep elections TBD
- Comprehensive School Plan Focus Areas
 - No EOY data because no testing
 - CSP will be created and must address the following:
 - Shared leadership
 - Family and Community Engagement
 - Culture of Achievement
 - Academics
 - What should priorities be (past priorities have included community school and technology):
 - Distance learning plan—be prepared ahead of time with focus on equity
 - Mission & Vision (reach out to the Miner community including alumni)
 - Plan to “meet kids where they are” (both academically and social/emotionally)
 - Social emotional needs (will be higher after distance learning)
 - Teacher training/professional development for SEL needs
 - Parent resources for SEL in both classroom and virtual settings

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Meeting Minutes

- Technology (student and teacher laptops)—could we replace tech? Could families who received laptops from the school hold on to them going forward?
 - Focus on what has been successful for staff and families during distance learning
 - Teacher trainings for tech platforms (including Microsoft Teams)
 - Equity plans for pk3-5th grade (not just upper grades)
- Celebrate student achievement
- Get kids outside more often
- Community conversations during summer to keep families involved
- Interventions – ho to implement during distance learning and in fall
 - There has become a clear racial achievement gap at the pk-2nd grade level which doesn't show up in the testing grades since 3rd-5th grades are predominantly black students
 - No end of year data to show if interventions have helped
- Prioritizing SPED students
- Structured math interventions
- Prioritize families of color when it comes to academics, outreach, and community involvement
- Mindful approach for the transition from pk to K, offering a more play-based approach at the beginning of the year for K students
- Suggestions
 - June LSAT meeting before current term ends
 - Going forward the budget meeting should be shorter with a better plan in action going into the meeting

PTO Check In:

- Elections will be held in fall as soon as we come back to school
- PTO (at Mr. Jackson's suggestion) distributed 44 Chromebooks to students who didn't have tech (this was done before DCPS permitted their devices to be distributed)
- With the admin we scheduled and hosted 4 virtual info sessions for new families (3 for pk and 1 for k-5)
- With the admin and K team, we scheduled and hosted a virtual open house for current pk4 families
- We are working with the Equity Team to spread the word/raise money for the Mutual Aid Network
- Thanks to Ms. Luttmer's suggestion, we raised funds for over 60 gift cards to grocery stores for Miner families who may need them (each gift card was \$25)
- We are still accepting requests for classroom grants; if you do not need to use your grant money you can donate it toward the promotions budget line for our 5th, K, and pk4 students

Meeting adjourned at 6:46pm.