

Miner Elementary School LSAT
LSAT Meeting: October 20, 2020 - 5:00 pm
Meeting Minutes

The meeting came to order at 5:03pm. The meeting was conducted via Zoom.

Introductions:

The following members were present:

- Parent Representatives
 - Marissa Gunn (K parent)
 - LaToya McCarthy-Scott (K parent)
 - David Treat (3rd and K parent)
 - Bernadette Wittschen (2nd and PK4 parent) – Co-Chair
- Parent Organization Representative – Julie Muir (1st and PK4 parent)
- Teacher Representatives
 - Ms. Coles (Instructional Coach)
 - Ms. Halley (3-5 SPED)
 - Ms. Hillenbrand (5th)
 - Mr. Yoho (K) – Co-Chair
- WTU Representative – Mr. Martin (2nd)
- Staff Representative – Ms. LaTorya Loving (ECE paraprofessional)

Community Representative has not yet been elected. Two who would like to be considered for the position were present: Nikki Wiggins and Joshua Gillerman.

Community Members:

- Nikki Wiggins
 - Lives and works in-bounds to Miner
 - Works for Christ City Church DC, a longtime partner to Miner
 - Here to support Miner in any role, whether formal or informal
- Joshua Gillerman
 - Lives in-bounds to Miner
 - Has no children but is invested in the community and will send his children here when he has them
 - Former DCPS teacher, now Civil Rights Attorney
- We are looking into the possibility of having 2 community members; otherwise we will vote for a representative in November
- Third Tuesday of month is not a conflict so they will be able to attend meetings regularly

Reopening Plan:

- Begins Nov. 9
- Mayor is now saying 75% of students will return (previous stated 25%)
- Expected to open 1 class per grade pk3-5th plus as many self-contained SPED classrooms as possible
- Each classroom must be fully staffed (teacher + aide(s) + “relief” staff)
- Students will remain in the classroom except during recess (one class at a time for recess)
- Full health screens will be conducted each morning at arrival for both staff and students (will include temperature check, new mask, hand sanitizer)
- CARE classrooms will be staffed by staff members while students continue their virtual learning
- Remaining 25% of students will continue with their at-home virtual learning
- Preferences for in-school learning:
 - Students experiencing homelessness/housing instability
 - Students with IEPs or SPED students
 - ELL students
 - At risk students
 - General education students

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- Classes are required to have a maximum of 12 people in a room + a staff member who can float in/out as needed
 - 1st-5th grades will cap at 11 students (plus 1 teacher)
 - Pk4 – K will cap at 10 students (plus 1 teacher and 1 aide)
 - PK3 will cap at 8 students (plus 1 teacher and 1 aide)
- Arrival and dismissal will be staggered (options to do this safely may involve closing the main parking lot)
- Breakfast and lunch will be in the classroom
- Teachers/staff will be able to take breaks/lunch in Covid-safe spaces
- Each student will have outdoor recess at some point in the day (1 class at a time)
- Playground will be cleaned either 2 or 3 times a week (per CDC guidelines)
- Walk-thru for LSAT Chairs, PTO President, WTU rep is next week TBD
- Next steps:
 - Determination of staffing
 - We don't have enough staffing for CARE classes but middle/high school staff will be detailed (we do not know numbers yet)
- Plan will be shared with staff as soon as admin knows how many classrooms will be used
- If more than 14 classrooms will be open, that potentially changes all planning that has been put in place.
- Admin is supposed to find out staffing on Friday
- It is possible for zero teachers to return to a grade, but staffing is currently unknown
- Many students will “lose” their teacher/be shifted into a different class
 - Upper grades: will be hard to departmentalize if a teacher returns; admin is looking for a creative way to make it work with as little disruption as possible.
 - ECE and lower grades: students will be put in new classes and on top of that, teacher and aide pairings will likely change
 - Other negative reality: virtual class size will increase (DCPS has said cap will be 40; max that could currently happen at Miner is 38)
- No official sense of how many students will return, but it's likely the max allowed will return based on school size and the number of classrooms (certainly for classes with a teacher as those classes will max out at 8-11 students per grade level)
- Considerations for outdoor classroom spaces are being made
- Currently very little planning for a potential full reopening in January is in the works
- Special Subjects:
 - Some teachers may return, some may not
 - Current plan is to leave specials blocks as is
 - It's reasonable to assume specials teachers are only able to return part-time
 - If a specials teacher does not return, their class would be projected virtually for students in school
- Wednesday schedule won't change virtually so CARE class students will come into school for all asynchronous learning (morning meeting will still be live)
- Keep in mind: this info is constantly changing!

Comprehensive School Plan:

- Distance Learning Schedule Update
 - New schedule is “wonderful”
 - Parents have said it is better
 - Teachers feel better prepared
 - Admin has been very accommodating and open about with dialogue
 - Not all grades have had schedule changes yet, in some cases due to on-going testing and in others because the teachers have not implemented the changes yet

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- BOY overview – will have to wait as info not available yet; will be sent out in advance of November LSAT meeting if available
- Enrollment: currently 400; projections for next year out in November
- Live attendance tracking is not being done by the school; some teachers are doing it but in some cases that could require tracking up to 7 different live sessions so school does not require it
- Playground access – PTO/Equity Team will take lead. Admin has provided the key, we just need a schedule and further discussion.
- Schoolwide tech update
 - Everyone who requested a device/hotspot via DCPS tech survey has received it (plus some additional families who realized late they needed devices)
 - DCPS has sent out new survey to schools to determine number of useable devices they have
 - Students in CARE classes will be required to leave their DCPS device at school over night for safety purposes

Future Meetings:

- Next meeting: November 17 at 5pm

Meeting adjourned at 6:35pm.