

SWS LSAT / SWS Advisory & Support Team Meeting
07.07.15
Minutes

Attendees: Genevieve Sapir (outgoing LSAT chair), Jon Leavitt (LSAT at-large), Nathan Darling (LSAT member – Friends of SWS liaison), Caroline Alder Pierson (Recruitment co-chair), Torey Potter, Fran Ewart (LSAT -late elementary teacher), Ramin Taheri (Community Outreach Co-Chair), Christi Johnson (Health & Wellness chair), Kyo Freeman (Community Outreach Co-Chair), Grace Funk (LSAT early childhood, Dave Stevenson (LSAT early elementary), Bill Buchman (LSAT late elementary), Shahna Gooneratne (Community Building co-chair), Jere Lorenzen-Strait (LSAT early childhood teacher), Jackie Havard (Environment Chair), Beth Bacon (Communications Co-Chair), Liz Paisner (Communications Co-Chair), Denise Forte

LSAT/SWS Advisory & Support Team Organization

LSAT: Advise Principal on budget

SWS Advisory & Support Team: includes LSAT, committee heads, principal

LSAT vacancies: Chair, Secretary, community member, support staff member (non-teacher)

Role of Secretary: Take minutes, circulate to LSAT and co-chairs for edits, post to Weekly Update. We will create a schedule for rotating secretarial duties. Each person will be assigned a month.

ACTION: Genevieve to prepare a preliminary schedule.

Role of Chair: prepare agenda, run meeting, act as liaison with principal, and beyond!

Community Member on LSAT: preferably around the school, does/will not have kids in our school.

ACTION: Please consider who could be a community member. Community outreach chairs to take the lead on this – give them suggestion.

ACTION: Fran and Jere to take up issue of staff LSAT member with John, staff.

Support Team/Committee Organization

Vacancies: Fundraising Chair, Auction Chair, Environmental Committee co-chair
Friends sets the vision and goals for fundraising. They will work closely with the Fundraising Chair/committee.

Major fundraising goals: auction, annual giving campaign (formerly Principal's priorities and Friends and Family), wine raffle, SWS store

Generally, we hope for chairs to lead for 2 years and work with co-chairs so that co-chairs can step into leading roles when previous chair steps down.

Planning for Planning: Back-to-School

Handbook

Last year this was led by Julia Noonan. She will plan to work on this with the communications committee.

Directory

Last year this was led by Julia Noonan.

ACTION: Dave Stevenson will plan to work on this with Shawna Friedman.

School Picnic

Date is set for September 11th at 5:30-7:30. Rain date is September 18th.

One possibility to avoid long lines and running out of food: have each family bring their own dinner.

Beautification Day

No DCPS beautification day this year. Environment committee will coordinate other work days and should work with John to order items needed. Place order with downtown? Nicole Mogul or Margi Fineran have more information?

ACTION: Jackie to follow up with Nicole, Margi, John.

Summer Letter

Will this include schedule of school events (Beautification Day, parent breakfasts, etc.)?

ACTION: New chair will prepare LSAT letter to go in summer packets. Genevieve will provide last year's letter to new chair

Discussion Items

Top issues/tasks for LSAT/Advisory Team for 15-16

What do you want to achieve, address, work on as part of the LSAT?

ACTION: All to send these ideas to Beth Bacon by July 17.

Communications Initiative

Ways to get information to the school community: website, calendar, Facebook, Twitter, Weekend Wrap-Up, Hill Rag. We are creating a single email address that you can send information and then the various leads for each communication method can divvy up how to share information with greater community.

The more ways we can get information out, the more likely we'll reach each person.

3 Big Ideas:

-As we consider parental involvement, how can we best get parents involved and help them be informed? How can we help parents feel more connected and have more of a voice? Is there a way we can open up and make more visible the work done in the LSAT?

-How can we have John be more accessible to the community? There are things that parents want to talk to John about.

Is there a way that parents can have access to more information about Specials?

-Why are certain things being done and what is the thought behind it?

Parents want access to other parents. Should we have a listserve? Some expressed concern, as examples from other schools have quickly gotten dysfunctional. Underlying this idea is that parents want to be connected to the school and other parents.

If parents want to feel more connected: How can teachers, principal make parents feel connected? How can I (parent) be more connected?

The website could be improved: functional calendar, and better information. How can we creatively feature teachers and their voice with videos and text of teacher interviews.

Calendar Management

It would be great if we had a functional calendar on the website. There is currently a Google calendar for internal use.

5th Grade/Feeder Patterns

What will 5th grade look like?

Torey Potter sent a survey to current 4th grade students about plans for 5th/middle school. There was 90% response rate. 0 families said they were planning to send their child to Elliot Hine.

At a recent DC3 meeting for LSAT members they were talking about issue of 5th grade students leaving to charters. How could we make our 5th grade really fantastic and a draw for families to stay?

65% of last year's 3rd grade and 55% of the 2nd grade is in bounds for Stuart Hobson (as per SY14-15 Directory)

Modernization

Bill Buchman is looking over new Facility Analysis introduced by the DC Council Education Committee in the FY16 Budget. The document quantifies and ranks needs of DCPS school facilities and intends to serve as a mechanism for determining funding priorities for the 6 year Capital Improvement Plan (CIP). The Facility Analysis contains output errors, and the necessary data correction would place SWS 19th overall rather than 28th as currently stands. Inconsistencies with the data inputs also impact utilization rankings, including stated Goding listed capacity (450) vs. programming capacity (350). We may be able to argue for the need for modernization based on the facility conditions.

ACTION: Bill is meeting next week with Cm Grosso Policy Director Mike Schaffer to do a deeper dive into the Facility Assessment and discuss concerns.

LSAT Chair Election

Dave Stevenson would like to be chair. No other candidates. Dave Stevenson was unanimously elected chair of LSAT.

ACTION: Dave to schedule next meeting (possibly Monday, August 3 – first Monday of the month)