

Ludlow Taylor LSAT Meeting

Date: 1/25/24
Virtual/Zoom

Time: 6:00 pm

Location:

In Attendance: Penelope Miller (Principal); Leslie Jackson (3rd grade teacher & WTU building rep); Heather Martin (parent rep); Caleb Ward (Parent rep); Sandy Watson (Assistant Principal); Rodney Parker (2nd grade teacher & teacher rep); Audriana Henderson (ECE CES & teacher rep) Jordan Baugh (parent rep); Cate Brandon (parent rep & chair); Elisabeth Golub (4th grade teacher, teacher rep, secretary) Up to 20 other teachers & community members.

Planned Agenda

- Budget Update
- Staffing Updates
- Testing Data
- Building Renovation Update

Meeting Notes (**action items in red**)

Budget

- Began the meeting with a discussion of the budget. The chair shared that we're not sure exactly when the budget will be released. We do have a community survey from last year for teachers & families to weigh in on priorities. **Caleb & Jordan (parent reps) will refresh the survey to get out to parent & teachers.**
- The Central Office specialist for our cluster, **Ja-Naia Adams**, reached out to say that she could participate in the next LSAT meeting scheduled for February 8th. The chair asked members if there are topics we want to discuss. Principal Miller shared that she anticipates there will be cuts, but she doesn't know what that will look like. Any guidance that Ms. Adams can give us, any best practices, would be helpful.
- There was a question about how enrollment affects our budget. Principal Miller explained that its complicated, though projected enrollment plays a part (Projected enrollment is not the same as actual enrollment; e.g. LT's projected enrollment for the school year was 440 and our current enrollment is more like 490. Our projection for next year is 473). The school budget doesn't usually look different unless you hit around 15 students over projection. When you hit more than 30 students over the projections, there's a possibility of adding more teacher positions.

- Chair specified that as principal Dr. Miller will propose allocations and have the final say on the budget, but we (LSAT) weigh in.
- It turned out that Janaia Adams had joined the call. Ms. Adams shared that she isn't sure when the budget will drop. There was a webinar a week and a half ago that she can share with us to share with the community. There may be another webinar next week, but she is waiting for some of her community partners to finalize the date. LSAT chair already shared the webinar slides with members. **LSAT can send out the budget webinar slides when we share the community survey.**
- Dr Miller gave some additional information about the budget process. She explained even if our student numbers go up, we don't know yet if that translates into more teachers. Certain positions locked in based on student projections (e.g. Principal, special education teachers, early childhood teachers, ECE aides, school psychologist, librarian). Other positions are up to the school's discretion. We try to maintain the current staffing model as much as possible, but if we must make changes, the community survey results can help.

Staffing Updates

- Dr. Miller shared that we now have a math interventionist. She was placed with us by Central Office. Ms. Broom, our Math Coach, has been working with her and they are getting trained on our intervention program. She is full time.
- Next, Dr. Miller shared an update about educational aides. Ms. Bowlding has joined as a new ECE aide. Ms. Mobley is also back (as an ECE aide) from parental leave. We are still technically looking for an aide for Kindergarten. Right now we have a long-term sub placed in Kindergarten, and admin is trying to talk the sub into taking the full-time position.
- Dr. Miller gave an update about CES classrooms. This week the 3-5 CES teacher resigned, leaving two CES teacher vacancies (K-2 teaching position was previously open). Dr. Miller stated that the administration was working with educational aides to support students. Ms. Henderson (the ECE CES teacher) and Ms. Joseph (3rd grade inclusion teacher) will develop lessons while the aides will administer them to meet students' IEP goals.
- The parent of one of the 2nd-grade CES students asked to speak. She shared that in the past 26 months, 4 teachers quit in the middle of the school year from her child's classroom. This is a "catastrophe," a very serious problem for

our most vulnerable students. The parent shared that she has had no communication from the school that the 3-5 CES teacher quit (this classroom had absorbed most students from the K-2 classroom). She emphasized that we need to find out what the problem is with teacher turnover in these classrooms and try to fix it.

- Dr. Miller responded to the parent's comments, saying that "nothing is OK about this." Not what our students deserve, and she (Dr. Miller) is very concerned. Part of her role is to figure out what we can put in place in the meantime for affected students. Dr. Miller explained that the school is asking downtown for resumes.
- The parent responded by providing more detail about the impact of the teacher turnover in the CES classrooms on her child. She described periods of complete school refusal, stomachaches, her child being too shy to go to school. In her view, DCPS central office is not providing an adequate solution. She shared that families may be offered tutoring services to compensate for interruptions in their child's education, but there are constraints placed on how they are able to redeem these services. This parent stated, "My son deserves the free and appropriate education he is entitled to."
- Dr. Miller said that she did write a letter to the parents of affected CES students, but that it may not have gone to all the appropriate families. **Dr. Miller will make sure that all families receive this letter.**
- Dr. Miller spoke about the plan for the CES classrooms going forward. She stated that the school is thinking about what we can put in place to set up future hires for success. She spoke about the need to vet prospective teachers, since in the hiring pool there is no differentiation between candidates applying to be self-contained teachers or inclusion teachers.
- Question from a parent rep: Is there more that we need from DCPS on this issue? Are there other things that we need DCPS to be doing? Are there other ways that parents can support, for example by sharing postings for open positions? **Dr. Miller will start to include information about open positions in the parent bulletin.**
- Another question from a parent rep: Is the district able to place long term subs the affected classrooms? Dr. Miller explained that it's just a very

challenging position to fill. Many (most?) substitutes are not cut out to work in these classrooms.

- Dr. Miller shared that our school librarian, Mrs. O, is back. Mr. G, who had been the long-term sub in the Library special, is now available to sub in other classrooms.

Math Testing Data

- Dr. Miller shared data summarizing Middle of the Year (MOY) I-Ready testing data. She noted that overall we've made significant progress. One of the things we are most interested in is the darker green area on the graphs. This is an indicator of students most likely to be proficient/on grade level at the end of the school year.
- Dr. Miller discussed grade-level data in more detail. Grade level progress K & 1 was pretty solid. At those grade bands, it's not possible for students to be 2 levels behind. There are more students below grade-level in upper grades. However, we are seeing some good movement in moving students from farthest behind in the upper grades. Still, we need to focus on building the number of students in the dark green. For example, 4th grade is piloting a new math curriculum, and we will see if that leads to more academic growth. Dr. Miller shared that she and Ms. Broom are also looking at increasing the time on task for the I-Ready independent lessons (e.g. students working on I-Ready lessons for 30-40 minutes/week and passing three lessons/week). This can really help w students farthest behind.
- Question from the Chair: can Principal Miller speak about a trend that came through in the data shared with the LSAT ahead of the meeting (this data was not shared in the public meeting as it included classroom-level responses), which seemed to suggest that LT students didn't perform as well, on average, on this assessment.
- Dr. Miller replied that she thinks she knows what the question is referring to. She said that one of the things that shows up on the new OSSE report card for LT is that we do better moving students who are significantly behind grade level than we do moving students who are on grade level to above grade level. This shows up especially in our Math PARCC scores. **Dr. Miller will share this data from the OSSE report card with teachers.**

Almost at time

- Next LSAT meeting will focus on budget, but **Dr. Miller will share the I-Ready MOY I-Ready data with LSAT as it becomes available.**

Building Renovation

- Dr. Miller shared a quick update on the building renovation. The most recent information was shared in the last parent update. No specs yet. Administration has a meeting next week that will hopefully yield a better timeline.
- PTO president shared that Charles Allen (Ward 6 council member, LT parent) reached out to her after the last update came out. He said he is going to ask DCPS to work more closely with the school (e.g., listen to request for a media center to be part of the redesign).
- A parent rep asked if any of the teachers on the call had anything else on their minds they would like to share. None did.
- Dr. Miller shared that the school is still looking for parent volunteers to join the PRIDE committee (which is working on improving student behavior, and creating student and teacher handbooks). The PRIDE committee will be presenting at the upcoming PTO meeting. Some parents have already joined, but we are looking for more diversity of perspectives. **Chair will circulate the slides about budgeting on the parent listserv.**

Meeting adjourned. Next meeting scheduled for Thursday, 2/8 (moved to Tuesday, 2/13 based on availability)