



Capitol Hill Cluster School  
*Where Every Child Achieves*

**LSAT Minutes  
July 12, 2017  
Peabody Elementary**

Attendees: Allyson Kitchel (Watkins rep); Nikeysha Jackson (Watkins AP); Ashley Croft (Watkins AP); Katie Moxley (Watkins rep); Valerie Jablow (parent); Peter MacPherson (former Cluster parent); Nikki D'Angelo Petty (DCPS); Samah Norquist (Watkins rep); Lona Valmoro (PTA rep); Cristopher Comeforo (SH Principal); Elena Bell (Watkins/Peabody Principal); Beth Hayden (PTA President); Nakisha Winston (SH rep); Ann Brogioli (Watkins rep – by phone).

New Co-Chairs Elected for 2017-2018

Allyson Kitchel and Ebon McPherson (uncontested election)

Building Conditions at Stuart Hobson

- Report from Peter MacPherson, former Cluster PTA President, who has historic perspective.
- SH renovation never involved a roof replacement.
- Water has been leaking through the walls in the auditorium. Repairs have been done about 5 times in the last 10 years, DGS/DCPS has studied but has never followed through.
- Damage is significant enough that in Peter's view, auditorium may reach a point soon where it is not usable. Water damage responsible for non-functioning audio system.
- Additional issues also include crumbling front steps, spotlights that are not installed, smart boards not connected, and carpets that are starting to fray.
- Last week, parents met with DCPS Facilities team who said they wanted to continue to study the auditorium.
- Peter recommending that we do a full court press with the Chancellor and the Deputy Mayor for Education to push for repairs.
- Peter agreed to draft a sample letter that LSAT can push to community and ask for parental advocacy support.
- Strongly urges Watkins community to relentlessly push for completion of Watkins punch list items – once contractor leaves the job it is nearly impossible to get anyone out to make further repairs.

Update from Principal Comeforo

- Enrollment at SH – 87 percent enrolled, 6<sup>th</sup> grade is at capacity.
- Two math teachers and ½ time psychologist left to hire.
- DCPS added three instructional aides but we are leaving one position unfilled so that Comeforo can use the money to pay for teachers to stay after school. (No objection posed by LSAT membership.)
- Presented a draft 100-Day Entry Plan with the goal to publish by the end of this week.
- After school programming is being actively worked on but hasn't been solidified yet.



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- Deanwood Meet and Greet – about 12 families attended.
- Samah urged him to include Watkins 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> grade families in his outreach.
- Nakisha asked about student scheduling– communications forthcoming, possible event for parents to be scheduled.

### Update from Principal Bell

- Enrollment – Peabody at 92% and Watkins at 93%
- We are going to open the lottery and revisit the wait list. Bell is contacting Emerald (at DCPS) to talk about that process next week, specifically for 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>.
- Reviewed Peabody vacancies which are all filled except for one custodial staff member.
- Reviewed Watkins vacancies. Spanish teacher was terminated. Position was offered to a new person and being processed.
- Library position was offered to Ms. Bloom’s protégé and being processed.
- Aides -- Henderson, Harris, and Cockerham will return.
- Rothwell will not return as result of budget cuts. Coach K is “pending” and Bell would like to hire him as a staff member (position TBD).
- Davis (5<sup>th</sup> Grade) is still on maternity leave through September.
- Bell has not finalized which grades teachers are teaching this year.
- Comprehensive School Plan is currently in draft form.
- Comprehensive School Plans are usually due in September, presented at LSAT in October.
- Meet with COS for the Chancellor – will be a ribbon cutting at Watkins. Bell requested the week after school starts, trying to coordinate schedules with the Mayor, Chancellor, and Council Members.

### Nikki Petty

- DCPS Office of Family Engagement with Wards 5 and 6
- Gave overview of her position – primary role is to engage with communities, including LSATs and PTAs

### Administrative Matters

Allyson will send draft meeting schedule to all LSAT members for final review. Meetings may relocate to the NE Library so that we don’t interfere with custodial staff.

### Structure of LSAT Meetings

- Question Posed -- should we change the structure so that we can have parents and observers be able to speak and engage throughout the meeting?
- Agreed to rethink the structure -- suggested listing times allotted for each topic, observers signing up to comment on agenda topics, etc.



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### School Communication

- Allyson asked about PTA work regarding school communications. LSAT wants to support and make sure community knows who we are/how we can support families. Group brainstormed ways to do this.
- Beth reported that we have several entities working on communications including Alison Kaufman.
- Bell reported on recent communications survey. 112 parents responded. Three particular parent needs stand out: advance notice of school activities, at least two weeks in advance for those not on the calendar; accurate information; and consistent communication – Paw Print, across grades, etc. Working on how communication can be improved, collaborating with Family Engagement Lab. Focus on grade level communications.
- Samah requested more communication about curriculum blocks.
- How to solve for the gap – the parents who don't receive any information through list serve, Blackboard, etc.
- Use bulletin boards to help families know who the LSAT reps are.
- PTA revamping Cluster website.

Meeting concluded at approximately 7:45pm.