

**Alice Deal Middle School
ADCA General Meeting (via Zoom)
Minutes of December 15, 2021
6:30-8:00 p.m.**

Co-President Shannon Behm called the meeting to order at 6:34 pm.

Approval of General Meeting Minutes -- Minutes from September 21, 2021 were reviewed. Tara Cooksey moved to approve and Jen Werth seconded. All attendees voted to approve with no abstentions.

Principal's Report - Principal Neal introduced Joy Monkou, 8th Grade Counselor, who presented on the application process for selective DC high schools. Ms. Monkou shared the timeline and key resources, including the myschooldc.org website. She addressed questions about teacher recommendations and transcript requests, and provided additional information in the chat.

Principal Neal's report focused on how Deal is supporting students' academic, social and emotional needs and at the same time, prioritizing COVID safety. She noted a request to the ADCA for additional resources to reacclimate students to the social structures of school. Ms. Neal reported that Deal will be hosting open houses for feeder elementary schools and next year's enrollment is projected to be about the same as this year – 1409. She also announced a few new staff and teacher hires. In closing, she expressed appreciation to parents for their ongoing support at such a difficult time for students. Q&A focused on the lack of substitute teachers (a national problem) and continued pandemic-related challenges as well restroom accessibility at the end of the school day (they've been locked due to the "devious licks" vandalism trend on Tik Tok).

LSAT Report -- ADCA co-president Keri Sikich described the LSAT's role as an advisory body to assist the Principal on school-related matters and advocate for resources. She reported that the LSAT is currently working with the DC Council to address a budget model that does not meet larger schools' needs. She added that securing substitute teachers is a major challenge across DCPS and additional Covid-related demands have left schools even more understaffed.

Anti-Bias Anti Racism (ABAR) Initiative - Ms. Sikitch introduced Judy Morrison and Jordan Bookey, co-chairs of this new ADCA committee. Ms. Morrison reported on ABAR's first event, a successful family meetup at Deal where diverse families socialized in-person outdoors. She invited ideas and participation as ABAR plans new activities to engage families of different backgrounds and perspectives and celebrate the uniqueness of the Deal community.

Treasurer's Report -- Astrid Ruggeri and John Bernards, co-treasurers, reported on ADCA's accounts as of 11/30/21 (\$108K in total). They stated the ADCA is in good financial health; the fall fundraising appeal is on target for net income and may exceed it, with donations still coming in along with company matches. The Holiday Greens Sale may also be above the projected income. Major recent expenses include back to school supplies, Covid-related items, athletic uniforms, professional development, software licenses and equipment.

What's New/ADCA Updates -- Co-presidents Sikich and Behm reported on recent and upcoming events. They recognized the hard work of the Greens Sale team and the Deal Give Back Canned Food Drive team, which organized the collection in partnership with nearby St. Paul's Church. There was strong support from the Deal community for both these events, and for the Theater Program's One-Act Plays with in-person performances. They also highlighted the upcoming fall sports teams celebration and awards program (Dec 21), the Shakespeare "Mashup" in Feb; and popular author series, which has two more programs this year. They also reminded parents that volunteers are needed for the March auction and the spring mulch sale.

Guest Speaker: Phyllis Fagell, author of *Middle School Matters* gave a presentation on building resilience and confidence in middle schoolers in the midst of a pandemic and took questions from audience members.

The meeting adjourned at 8:15 pm.

Minutes approved on: