

Alice Deal Middle School LSAT
January 12, 2023 @ 730a, by zoom
Minutes taken by Patricia Balestra

<https://jh.zoom.us/j/97053245339?pwd=ZTJ3V0F6OE93WjJPdVdRVUtxTjRoUT09>

Attendees:

Principal Diedre Neal

Parents:

Michael Dannenberg

Josh Hertzberg

Elizabeth Stuart (chair)

[absent] April York

[absent] Amanda Provost (ADCA)

Faculty/staff representatives:

Adam Kirschenbaum

Patricia Balestra

Britney Cuffee

Ebonee Dillard

Stacey Gathers

Sandi Baer

[absent?] Patrick Rottman

Michael Donaldson (WTU)

[absent?] Raymond Cummings

[absent?] Nzingha Bamayangay-Massaquoi

Guest: Jennifer Vargas, Behavioral Health @Deal (8th grade)

Guest: Hilary Katz, Social Worker for 7th grade

Guest: Elias Benda, staff for councilmember Frumin, joined at 8am

Meeting called to order at 7:31 am

- I. Welcome and call to order (Liz)
 - A. Note re open meetings act – recordings of meetings, and roll call votes
 1. Meetings should be recorded and made available to the public.
 2. Meeting recorded; Liz will explore how to post
- II. Principal's Report (Principal Neal)
 - A. Enrollment projections comments submitted
 1. Recruitment season: At Bancroft last night, students, parents, and staff attended.
Virtual meetings through Feb. 21

In person open houses happening on Saturdays.

Dates are set for RISE, popsicles with the principal, 6th grade orientation, 6th grade BBQ
Push for early enrollment

Teachers are set to teach in July SMILE (4 weeks), SMAC (4 weeks), ELAVATE (4 weeks)
Question: plan for World Language support? (Donaldson) - Dept. needs to check on availability of teachers for August dates. (Two Spanish teachers are committed to teaching) (So far, no French teachers have committed.)

Is money available for a 4 week program? No.

Money is available for previous programs. Not yet secured for WL.

There are more admin premium funds available this year, which does give more flexibility.

Need to land the dates for WL program and then possible fundraising to support summer programming; Principal Neal will connect with ADCA for LSAT/ADCA partnership on fundraising.

III. Update on summer program planning for 2024 (Principal Neal)

Elias Benda from Councilmember Frumin's office joining at 8am

Mr. Frumin will join March meeting of Ward 3 EdNet

Reiterate to Mr. Frumin that budget stability is vital.

Last year's proposed budget saw significant cuts.

Process last year to decrease Central funding and return this money to the schools.

Mr. Frumin is going to release a budget letter to the Mayor. Priority for this year is to maintain fully-funded schools.

Expecting budgets in February.

School-based behavioral health is a priority.

Councilmember Frumin budget listening session on Jan. 20th: 10-11:30 am. Virtual. Link will be emailed to LSAT to circulate.

IV. Budget priorities for Deal

- A. Student wellness needs [joined by Ms. Taylor (school psychologist) and Ms. Vargas (school social worker)]

Mr. Donaldson reached out to teachers about student behavior/climate

New deans and behavior techs have been helpful.

Larger school = limited support

This year we have a psychologist on staff. Very demanding job for one person at a school this large – largest caseload in the district. Need to make sure we can make the job feasible to help retain her. Do need to clarify the role of the social workers and psychologists and use them most efficiently and effectively.

Ms. Vargas: works with 8th graders. School psychologist attends all meetings, evaluations, at risk support services. Number of evaluations is extremely high.

Social workers carry a caseload and provide behavior support for students with 504 and IEP plans, as well as any student in need.

Psychologists do not have specific students but carry a high caseload.

One social worker per grade, one psychologist for the whole school. Capacity to do all of the work well is very limited.

One ask: additional school counselor, social worker. (specific to a 504 caseload, for example). There are too many responsibilities given to each person on the mental health team. Two approaches: only respond to crises or create support for a whole school.

Where do we want Deal to be in regards to the wellness of the overall school population.

Mr. Donaldson: in the last 2-3 years, we have lost all 3 longtime counselors, 2 longtime social workers, and the only psychologist we've had for years. Major part of this was the workload.

How we spend non-personnel money, including the mental health supports positions is a school-based decision. Mental health professionals is a school-based decision.

Structure for educational coaches is working well this year. Currently 2 coaches for ELA (only one in the building), 3 coaches for math.

Mr. Donaldson: psychologist is an L2 position. At one point, Deal had 2 psychologists.

Need to push DC Council for budget stability. And DCPS must follow the Schools First and Budgeting Act.

Last year DCPS chose *not* to cut from Central Staff before cutting from schools.

There are also current challenges with some of the budgeted funds not yet coming through to the School account.

V. Reports

A. W3EdNet Report (Liz)

***Tuesday, January 9 at 7pm via Zoom:* Our January meeting will focus again on the District's Boundary and Student Assignment Process**

(<https://dme.dc.gov/boundaries2023>). We will welcome back Jen Comey and Rebecca Lee from the Deputy Mayor for Education's office, as well as Anna Johnson, who is a Ward 3 parent on the advisory committee. We will hear from each of them on the proposed changes to boundaries and policies and have an opportunity to ask questions and share our own views. [Register in advance for this meeting here to get a Zoom link.](#)

Tuesday, February 13 at 7pm via Zoom: **At our February meeting, we will host Council Chair Phil Mendelson.** The Council Chair will update us on education-related matters that the council has been discussing, as well as share his vision for education in the city, as chair of the committee of the whole, which is responsible for education issues. We will then take questions from the audience. [Register in advance for this meeting here to get a Zoom link.](#)

The rest of our meeting dates for the year are as follows, all at 7pm: March 12, April 9, May 14, and June 11.

B. ADCA Report (Ms. Provost): No report

C. WTU Report (Mr. Donaldson)

Over 100 days without a contract.

Looking for support from community. This affects our budget stability.

Community safety is forefront. Union has a survey out for Safe Schools; more Safe Passage personnel needs to be fully funded.

D. SIT update (Principal Neal, Mr. Hertzberg)

a. Bathroom update / coordination with DCPS

Plan was a trough sink. We want a wall, at best. So kids are separate. We got a wall and two sinks. This is an elementary model and a mistake was made.

Principal Neal following up on the dimensions of the half lockers (they look wide) and the turf material.

DCPS is revisiting their secondary school grading policy. A survey has been circulated to teachers. Survey should be circulated out to parents.

E. Student behavior management committee (Mr. Donaldson)

VP of Teachers Union joined

Deal is one of few schools that has a student behavior management committee.

Next meeting will address physical altercations between students. How we can minimize impact after event.

V. Updates / initiatives [if time allows]

A. Green Ribbon school designation process (April York)

Proposal has been submitted! With thanks to April York for spearheading.

B. Blue Ribbon school designation process (Michael Dannenberg) - No update

V. New/Other business : None

Meeting adjourned at 8:31

Next meeting: Friday February 2, 7:30am

Future agenda items:

- Supports for Tier 1, 2, and 3 supports for world language