

Alice Deal Middle School LSAT
November 2, 2023 @ 730a, by zoom
Minutes taken by Patricia Balestra and Liz Stuart

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

Attendees:

Principal Diedre Neal

Parents:

Michael Dannenberg

Josh Hertzberg

Elizabeth Stuart (chair)

April York

Amanda Provost (ADCA)

Faculty/staff representatives:

Adam Kirschenbaum

Patricia Balestra

Britney Cuffee

Ebonee Dillard

Stacey Gathers

Sandi Baer

Patrick Rottman

Michael Donaldson (WTU)

Raymond Cummings

Unable to make it:

Nzingha Bamayangay-Massaquoi

Meeting called to order at 8:32 am

I. Welcome and call to order (Liz)

II. Principal's Report (Principal Neal)

A. Updates re CSP:

1. MLL all level 1-2 students are engaged in evidence-based daily literacy system, including with rotation stations. Teachers will be in a training on it tomorrow.
2. Math - iReady sprint on T/Th after school until 4:30 is up and running. 80 students who were invited are participating. Also inviting students who have not finished their iReady lessons. Support classes are going well.

Final stages of finalizing the contract for additional high-Impact tutoring for MLL students.

3. ELA - strategies: unit plan adjustments are going well. DCPS went from 4 units to 3 units, with one fewer anchor text. Deal supplementing with an extra text. "Animal Farm" has been added for 7th grade.
4. Weekly data meetings continue. Reading Plus / homework club starting next week.
5. Mr. Donaldson - teachers across the district advocated for 3 units so that more time could be spent on explicit writing instruction.
 - a) Mr. Rottman: Deal did not feel that we had the same pacing issue as other schools around the city. No additional text yet for 8th grade; waiting to see how the curriculum goes before spring.
6. Michael Dannenberg: breakdown of scores - what about Black and Hispanic students' PARCC scores? What percentage are scoring 4-5 on PARCC? Summary of PARCC scores from last spring:
 - a) Overall 78% of school scored 4 or 5 on ELA; 64% on math. Compared to previous year some nice growth across the school, and lessening of gaps. Full details presented at ADCA meeting earlier this fall. Summary here.
 - b) Across racial groups
 - (1) White: 93% 4 or 5 on ELA; 84% on math
 - (2) Black: 61% 4 or 5 on ELA; 34% on math
 - (3) Hispanic: 57% 4 or 5 on ELA; 40% on math
 - (4) Asian: 80% 4 or 5 on ELA; 78% on math
 - c) Multi language learners: 14% 4 or 5 on ELA; 12% on math
 - d) Economically disadvantaged: 42% 4 or 5 on ELA; 49% on math
7. Current plan is to operate all 3 summer programs next summer: SMAC, SMILE, ELEVATE.
 - a) Mr. Donaldson: World language team would like to propose a summer language program for students struggling in world language. Will send details.
 - b) [December meeting will discuss summer instruction in more detail.]
8. Additional discussion of multi language learners and some of their struggles, e.g., not being able to understand assessments in other classes, such as science. Makes it hard for them to integrate and learn all subjects. Need for more resources from the city to help support them, and better coordination of what is already available for these families.

III. Enrollment projections (Liz/Principal Neal)

- A. Will receive initial numbers from DCPS 11/6; comments due by 11/21
- B. DCPS is switching to a new online enrollment platform; sentiment from family focus group is that it is promising.

- C. Trend is that we are growing. 6th grade class is nearing 500 again. We will check with feeder schools. We will likely be at 1500 again soon.
- D. LSAT will monitor the numbers that come in and potentially convene an extra meeting in November to discuss. Will need to also monitor subgroups, such as at-risk and MLLs.

IV. Updates / initiatives [discussion pushed to the future given time constraints]

- A. Green Ribbon school designation process (April York)
- B. Blue Ribbon school designation process (Michael Dannenberg)

V. Reports

- A. W3EdNet Report (Liz) : meeting tonight about boundary review process
- B. ADCA Report (Amanda) : ½ way to fundraising goal. ½ way through campaign. On track. Participation is disappointing though. Fundraising fatigue, trying to avoid a 2nd campaign later in the year. Michael Dannenberg: give report on students that benefited from \$ for SMILE, SMAC last year. Share some data. Vary the messaging.
- C. WTU Report (Mr. Donaldson) : DCPS not coming to the table for negotiations; lack of a contract disrupts operations and leads to unnecessary instability. (Contract expired September 30).
- D. SIT update (Josh) [Skipped due to time constraints]
- E. Student behavior management committee (Mr. Donaldson) : Met last week. Trends: Groups with behavioral challenges match those with lower test scores. Many infractions are happening outside of the classroom. Working to make sure that all students are in class. No students, especially black or hispanic, should be roaming the halls – need to address the confidence issue so that students stay in class. Waiting on disciplinary responses from Ms. Neal to learn about how Deal is currently responding to behavior infractions and ensure equity in the response.
- F. SCAC met with admin last Friday. 8th grade MLL support for science classes. Support for WL, as discussed at last meeting. Would be good to have a bridge program for between 6-7 grades. Culture based class who need reading support.

V. New/Other business

- A. DCPS budget hearing testimony (Liz; 11/14)
 - a. Themes to highlight: Need for supports for MLL students, year to year uncertainty (need for stable budgets) and the need for an on-time teacher contract, large school (unintended consequences of how DCPS does their budgeting)
 - b. Last year's testimony:
<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1MdERcStZZIQGOBcf8B-EczSxnG3XoFXM71iXPBbglPE/edit>

Meeting adjourned at 8:10 am.

Next meeting: Friday December 1, 7:30am [Note: Liz needs to get off at 8am for a work interview]

Future agenda items:

- Summer programming, including data from last summer and how kids did
- Supports for Tier 1, 2, and 3 supports for world language