

SHEPHERD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Minutes of Local School Advisory Team meeting of FEBRUARY 12, 2013

Present: Sherilyn Pruitt, chair; Mark Pattison, secretary; Toby Susse, PTA representative; Nancy Ulba, teacher representative; Carl Bergman, community representative; plus principal Jamie Miles.

Minutes of the January meeting were approved.

There was conversation about filling current and future vacancies for Spanish, art and music teachers.

Follow-Up/Follow-Through (FUFT)

Get Caught Reading: There are two additional Wednesday readers coming in.

TV Turnoff: Mark summarized his email to the LSAT about how the parent who was going to decorate the billboards had undergone knee surgery.

Safe Routes/Earth Day/Bike Rodeo: The bike rodeo will be folded into an Earth Day event Saturday, April 20, co-sponsored by the LSAT and the PTA. Sherilyn said she would serve on the planning committee for the event.

Crossing Guard/Traffic: The effort to move the crossing guard may be moot once the school renovations take place over the summer, with plans calling for an atrium/entrance between the library and the original school. The principal has received contradictory emails as to where the guard should currently be assigned. The possibility of a car pull-off lane did not get a lot of favor; the principal said she may work to get the one block of 14th Street next to the school one-way southbound. It was noted that parents, while not perfect, are getting better with traffic. But there are still non-school motorists who get caught up in the clogged street. Parents Toni and Ralph Waymer and Toby are setting out cones at 14th and Jonquil in the morning to stop parents from parking in the crosswalk.

Community Engagement with Shepherd Park Citizens Association: Carl has introduced himself to SPCA president Tim Shuy and will make the request for use of SPCA's mailing labels. It may be possible that in-boundary parents Yasmin Lewis-White or Dionna Glover may be able to be the school's representative to the SPCA.

Boundary redrawing: Ward 4 Councilmember Muriel Bowser to lead off at a PTA town hall meeting Feb. 20. The neighborhood will be invited.

Gala: Toby said there are five parents leading specific portions of the Gala effort. The next meeting of the committee would be Feb. 13. The event will be at Wilson High

School on Saturday, May 18. The theme of the event is “Feria de Sevilla” (Seville Fair). There will be a dinner buffet and drinks.

Fundraising: The PTA will sponsor a book fair March 23, at Politics & Prose. Mark to try to get a family dinner night that evening at Comet Ping Pong on the same block.

Community engagement: Carl (or Mark) will talk to Loretta Neumann of the Takoma Theatre Conservancy about bring more arts-oriented fare to the school. Mark also summarized an earlier FUFT email about Marianne Scott and the D.C. Council on the Arts and Humanities; while the organization has a production in the planning stages, it’s targeted for an older age group, so Mark forwarded information to the Shepherd Park Library for its information.

Budget

The principal said there will be a one-month turnaround on the budget -- a bit more leisurely than the one-week turnarounds of past years. Now, principals cannot petition to not have required positions; librarians and language, though, are still on the fence for elementary schools. Shepherd may expend by one or two classrooms, Pre-K and kindergarten are slated to get more money. However, we don’t appear to get money from a separate bucket for 3-year-old preschool since we’re not a Title I school. The waiting list is 100 at the pre-K and kindergarten levels – a justification for expanding. Wait lists are holding steady for first and second grade. Even if we don’t get the money in the approved budget, if we have the students on hand, then we’ll get the personnel to educate those students – as what happened his school year when a third second-grade classroom was started several weeks into the school year.

New Business

Dan Nathan, who has run the Shepherd-TI tutoring program since its inception, has been invited to speak at the next LSAT meeting.

Mark asked the principal to use the LSAT Google group to describe what goes into the hiring of new music and art teachers, and to update the LSAT on the search for a new Spanish teacher.

The next scheduled meeting date is TUESDAY, MARCH 12, at 4 p.m. at the school. It may be necessary, though, to meet sooner to deliberate on budget issues.

Respectfully submitted,
Mark Pattison, secretary
Shepherd Elementary LSAT