

SHEPHERD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Minutes of Local School Advisory Team meeting of APRIL 9, 2014

Present: Kesha Pendergrast (parent representative), chair; Mark Pattison (parent representative), secretary; parent representative: Keith White; teacher representative: Robin George; Washington Teachers Union representative: Tia Holt; PTA representative: Sherilyn Pruitt (via phone); community representative: Carl Bergman; plus Jamie Miles, principal, and Angel Hunter, principal intern.

Absent: Kamilah Martin-Proctor, parent representative; Elizabeth Guldin, Renee Hamer, Nicole Pethtel, teacher representatives.

Minutes: Pattison moved, Bergman seconded approval of the March meeting minutes. Motion carried.

Bike Rodeo: A list of items submitted by Shepherd parent Jim Elliott as being needed for the April 26 Bike Rodeo was discussed. One was 3-6 parent volunteers: Pendergrast said she'd volunteer. Flyers and brochures can be reproduced at the school, but advance notice must be given if colored paper is wanted. Two tables can be furnished by the school. The PTA will pay for refreshments; and existing Costco gift certificates may be able to pay for them.

Budget Review: The budget, after adjustments following the March LSAT meeting, was submitted to and approved by D.C. Public Schools. The 2014-15 budget includes full-time equivalents for all specials: music, art, physical education and language. There was no significant money left over from reallocation except for possible non-personnel spending. Could the PTA help raise money for personnel? It was tried in 2008-09, but those two workers were living week to week on what donations the PTA could make until it ran out of money. An aide, for instance, would cost about \$35,000.

Boundary review: Shepherd is not affected in boundary changing. The feeder patterns not addressed – the elephant in the room. There will be a meeting April 24 at Coolidge High school to discuss the three options DCPS is considering on feeder patterns. The option of a lottery system for every high school was considered a non-starter.

Shepherd enrollment: The enrollment lottery resulted in a waiting list totaling 394 children whose families want them at Shepherd but cannot get in at present. In the new pre-K/3 class, there are 139 on the waiting list, including seven children who live in-boundary but for which there is no room, and 14 with siblings already at Shepherd but for which there is no room. The other grades break down as follows: 71 in pre-K/4, 48 in kindergarten (with three classrooms projected for 2014-15), 42 for first grade, 35 for second grade, 28 for third grade, 18 for fourth grade and seven for fifth grade. The possibility of a second pre-K/3 class is extremely slight. Although the principal correctly

anticipated the desire for enrollment and secured a commitment from DCPS that funding would be there should an additional pre-K/3 classroom be available, there may not be sufficient space inside the school until after ongoing renovations are completed.

Renovations: The money is there for continued renovations, but the allocation has not yet been made that would allow work to resume. Architects are redesigning the atrium interior and former interior tot lot to allow for additional classroom space; a previous design calling for an art room atop the first-floor classrooms adjoining the auditorium had to be scrapped as the structure could not support the additional construction. The city's draft budget for FY 2015, which starts Oct. 1, has \$8.1 million allocated for Shepherd.

“Walking Field Trip”: Teachers are tracking those children whose parents have not yet signed Walking Field Trip permission slips that would allow for those students to use Shepherd Field.

Igniting Creative Energy Contest: There were no entries submitted by Shepherd students. It was suggested that groundwork be laid before the school year begins to try again. Lego robotics, done at Shepherd through 2008 but discarded after the driving-force parent left the school, could be another avenue.

Extracurricular activities: A request was made to have an online schedule of extracurricular activities to avoid conflicts. The possibility of doing some extracurricular activities before school was also raised. This item and the previous item illustrated the need for the FUFT item on having meetings with parents the day before the school year begins to familiarize them with the school.

Cultural Arts Night: This event will not be held this year.

Talent show: The possibility was raised that a talent show would be held, but dates and times were up in the air.

Principal Sundaes: This FUFT item is likewise up in the air.

The meeting was adjourned.

The next LSAT meeting will be held on **WEDNESDAY, MAY 14**, at 4 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Mark Pattison, secretary
Shepherd Elementary LSAT