

## **SHEPHERD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

### **Minutes of Local School Advisory Team meeting of MAY 14, 2013**

**Present:** Sherilyn Pruitt, chair (parent representative), Mark Pattison, secretary (parent representative); parent representative: Kesha Pendergrast; teacher representatives: Tia Holt, Joele Michaud, Nancy Ulba; staff representative: Robyn Brooks; PTA representative: Toby Susse (albeit briefly); community representative Carl Bergman; plus principal Jamie Miles (albeit briefly). Lisa Connor was traveling; Valena Valentine-Nelson was absent.

Toby briefly pitched the May 18 gala, with its auction prizes and activities.

Mark pitched the June 1 Rachel Swarns book-author appearance at the Shepherd Park Library sponsored by the Friends of the Library.

**Minutes:** Pattison moved, Michaud seconded, approving the April meeting minutes. Motion carried.

### **Follow-Up/Follow-Through**

**Library:** No library interns will be coming from Catholic University. It is possible that Councilmember Catania will put in extra money in the school budget to hire full-time librarians at each school.

**Cultural Arts Night:** Still set for Friday, May 24, at 6:30 p.m. Confirmed performers are now Bab Rasti, pianist Loretta Neumann, storyteller and author Carolivia Herron, and possibly the Princess Mhoon Dance Institute. Ms. Valentine-Nelson to check on the availability of Dick Gregory's daughter, a dancer. Kesha checked on some suggestions made by Mr. Giles, and will get with him again to see whether talented students might be willing to perform. Outreach has also been made to Lowell School, and will be made to Congregation Tifereth Israel's Lifelong Learning resource, and Northminster Presbyterian Church. Baba Rasti to emcee, introduce the acts, perform between acts and close the show. Mark to plug the event at the Shepherd Park Citizens Association meeting. Programs can be printed at the school office. Contact will be made with Mrs. Miles and Mr. Velez on the availability of microphones. Dancers can use the hallway to prepare for their performance. Ushers will be needed to distribute programs.

**Artistic rendition of student progress:** Deferred until June.

**“Principal sundae”:** This will be dependent on the current round of DIBELS and TRC testing being conducted through June 12. If these tests show 90 percent proficient and advanced, then the principal will be made into a sundae. Test results could be compiled by June 14.

**Dan Nathan, Shepherd-TI tutoring program:** He was in New York and unavailable.

**Grant funding:** Deferred until June.

### **Year in Review**

There was an evaluation of LSAT activities along the LSAT's three chosen priority areas: community engagement, academic enrichment, and culture and climate, with particular note given to the "Get Caught Reading" campaign, the finding of volunteer librarians (who will return to Shepherd next year), and school participation in the Spelling Bee, the schoolwide science fair, the GeoPlunge competition, STEM Night featuring Mad Science, and the upcoming May 18 Citywide Science Fair at Takoma Education Campus. It was judged that FUFT (Follow-Up/Follow-Through) was preferable to subcommittees.

There were several other highlights during the school year, including the institution of the Safety Patrol (although there is one parent scofflaw who habitually disregards no-parking signs), the TV-Video Game Turnoff Club, a permanent crossing guard, the Get Caught Reading campaign, community engagement with the Shepherd Park Citizens Association, getting some justice in 2013-14 budget funding for the school, the combined Earth Day beautification event and bike rodeo, and the upcoming Cultural Arts Night.

**Next Year's Work:** Could Shepherd spearhead a "Posse of PTAs" or a "League of LSATs" to advocate for fairer school funding throughout the system? And, on traffic issues, we should get the crossing guard where we need it most, and to have more polite and respectful drop-off and pickup.

**New Business:** Mark brought up the issue of remarks during the recent Awards Day that some students who were judged proficient in reading and/or math "just made it" or "just squeaked by," and phrases to that effect. While it is laudable to recognize those students who score 100 percent on such tests, "proficient" should be "proficient" without any qualifiers, especially those that seem to give lefthanded compliments to students.

The next LSAT meeting will be held **TUESDAY, JUNE 18**, at **4 p.m.** at the school. It will be a combined meeting for both the current and future LSAT members.

Respectfully submitted,  
Mark Pattison, secretary  
Shepherd Elementary LSAT