

SHEPHERD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Minutes from Local School Advisory Team meeting of JUNE 18, 2013

Present: Sherilyn Pruitt (current parent representative), chair; Mark Pattison (current parent representative), secretary; Elizabeth Guldin, Nicole Pethtel, Renee Hamer, incoming teacher representatives; Tia Holt, Nancy Ulba, Joele Michaud, current teacher representatives; Robyn Brooks, current staff representative; Kesha Pendergrast (via phone), current parent representative; plus Jamie Miles, principal.

May meeting minutes: Pattison moved, Ulba seconded approving the May meeting minutes. Motion carried.

Year in Review

Cultural Arts Night: Held May 24 – the Friday before the Memorial Day weekend. Attendance was not so great because of the timing, but the community was invited, and the pianists and storytellers who performed were of high quality.

Committee Structure: It was discarded to avoid the need for extra meetings with spotty attendance; the only one preserved was Academic Enrichment, as teachers felt a need to preserve and maintain that.

FUFT (Follow-Up/Follow-Through): FUFT was explained. The new Google Groups listserv served as a touchstone as individual LSAT members took responsibility to get things done and often reported to the LSAT between meetings on the listserv the status of initiatives. Three things the LSAT sponsored this were the TV/Video Game Turnoff Club, the Bicycle Rodeo and Cultural Arts Night.

The “Working Systemically in Action” guide (available to incoming members) was a help To engage the community, it takes a longtime – two years at least. It requires reaching out to all parts of the community.

LSAT 2012-13 Interests

The incoming LSAT must identify central themes for its mission.

Community Engagement: The Cultural Arts Night was open to the community to connect the community to the school. ... No student performers could be found to perform at the January Shepherd Park Citizens Association potluck. ... Community member Carl Bergman served as the LSAT’s liaison to the SPCA; it may be Victor and Dionna Glover next year, provided they’re staying in the neighborhood. ... Principal Miles wrote a column for the Shepherd Park News to keep the community updated on school happenings. ... Carl Bergman also got retired librarians to volunteer in our school library on twice-weekly basis.

Reflections

Among the reflections offered by current members on the year's activities were these:

The LSAT was very focused this year. It took on three or four big things and moved them forward.

Mailing the Mustang quarterly or twice a year could help engage the community.

Meeting with the Early Readers who live in the community could be a help to the LSAT's work.

I liked FUFT.

We should add "Safety" as a concern, more than just the Safety Patrol, and have something happen.

Liked the monthly meetings and the momentum with ideas flowing regularly.

Need to focus on parent engagement. If pre-K parents aren't engaged (and they weren't as much this year), you'll lose them as their kids grow older. If you don't get parents their first year here, you're in trouble.

The LSAT got a lot accomplished, but wanted more parent involvement. Do something pre-enrollment?

Being able to see what we accomplished was great -- have a positive impact on the school and the community.

There was negative feelings coming out of the budget discussions -- there's never enough money -- but the principal went to bat and got a lot of it back. (The principal has a standing appointment in July to assemble and sign a memorandum of agreement which is meant to have Shepherd avoid the annual budgetary battles.)

LSAT 2013-14 Officers

Kesha Pendergrast accepted a nomination as chair, but indicated she preferred to be a co-chair with another LSAT member.

Mark Pattison was asked to serve as secretary.

Next meeting: It will be a lunch meeting, at 11 a.m. Monday, July 29, tentatively set for Takoma Education Campus, 7010 Piney Branch Rd. NW.

Respectfully submitted,
Mark Pattison, secretary
Shepherd Elementary LSAT