

SHEPHERD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Minutes from Local School Advisory Team meeting of August 24, 2011 2:00 – 4:00 pm

Present: Jennifer Pauk, Sherilyn Pruitt, Steven King, Nancy Ulba, Lisa Connor, Jamie Miles, JT Taransky, Robin Brooks, Joelle Michaud, Valena Valentine, Patrick Grobbel, Mary Thomas

The meeting opened at 4:00 pm. Minutes from the July meeting were reviewed and approved.

Dates were chosen for upcoming LSAT meetings, 4-6 pm, Ms. Miles will respond about her availability and if necessary meeting dates will be changed: Oct 19, Nov 16, Jan 18, Feb 15, April 18, May 16, elections will be held end of May and June 6 is last meeting with new members.

Discussion of LSAT vacancies/new members:

Due to the departure of Mr. Valera there was a teacher vacancy on the LSAT. Ms. Valeria Valentine volunteered and has been named as the new teacher representation.

David George, LSAT member and new LSAT chair has left Shepherd. Lisa offered to post a call for nominations in the Mustang and the list serve and an election will be held at the Back To School Night. Jennifer will collect names of nominees and JT offered to watch over the ballot box during the evening. Once a new member is elected the LSAT will select chair/co-chair at the next meeting.

Discussion of comprehensive school plan: Ms. Miles presented information from the school data review (attached). SES did not meet AYP last year and is in Year 1 Needs Improvement status. She outlined steps the school would be taking. The group discussed meaning and possible reasons for not meeting AYP. Many DCPS schools did not meet AYP. A requirement for schools in this category is a School-Parent Compact. Ms. Miles referred to examples of this and will send out a draft compact for SES to LSAT members for comment. The compact will be given to parents at Back To School Night.

Discussion of LSAT focus/agenda for this school year:

JT suggested focus on community outreach as only 33% of the children in the neighborhood attend SES. She suggested running a survey of the neighborhood about this topic. Sherilyn supported need for greater community integration and engagement. Career day is an opportunity to engage neighborhood. Patrick commented that SES has been a majority out of boundary school for quite a while. Jennifer indicated that school choice has made this a city-wide issue and also referred to information presented in prior meeting by Ms. Miles that attrition was not as great as it may be perceived. From this discussion two areas to focus were identified:

- Retention and recruitment: Ideas included focusing on students who have graduated from SES and who are doing well in other schools (middle, high, college). This might start to change the internal impression of parents and reassure them that SES is competitive with other recognized schools in DCPS.

- Outreach and Community Engagement: Sherilyn, JT and Patrick agreed to further explore this issue and develop activities in this area.
- Traffic issues: It was agreed this would be a focus of LSAT and that increased advocacy by parents would be necessary to make a change. Lisa Connor offered to put together a petition with the main potential solutions to be circulated at the Back To School Night, where this issue would be raised with parents. Jennifer requested increased attention to the issue – in addition to in the Mustang a separate flyer for all parents. The safety patrol is going to form with support from Steven King. Additional volunteers are needed at key times in the morning and dismissal. Sherilyn agreed to contact Muriel Bowser’s office to engage her in the issue and to invite her to Back To School Night to hear concerns about the issue.
- TV TO: Jennifer and Sherilyn agreed to have materials ready for dissemination by Back To School Night.

The meeting was adjourned at 6 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Jennifer Pauk, secretary, Shepherd Elementary LSAT