

SHEPHERD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Minutes of Local School Advisory Team meeting of NOVEMBER 18, 2013

Present: Kesha Pendergrast (parent representative), chair; Mark Pattison (parent representative), secretary; Carl Bergman, community representative; Tia Holt, Washington Teachers Union representative; Renee Hamer, teacher representative; Keith White, parent representative; Sherilyn Pruitt (via conference call), PTA president; plus Jamie Miles, principal.

Absent: Elizabeth Guldin, Nicole Pethtel, Robin George, teacher representatives; Kamilah Martin-Proctor, parent representative; Robyn Brooks, paraprofessional representative.

Minutes: Pattison moved, Bergman seconded approving the minutes of both the Oct. 8 and Oct. 24 LSAT meetings. **Motion carried.**

Follow-Up/Follow-Through Review

There were 39 items the LSAT said it would do in its review. The first five items on that list are complete. ... The "Principal Sundae" announcement will be made before winter break as an incentive. ... The TV-Video Game Turnoff Club has a dozen students so far; photos of them will be taken for posting on a bulletin board. ... Fitness Fridays haven't drawn the turnout needed, and will be changed to Healthy Thursdays, a boot camp-style program (at least for now), with an earlier start than 7 p.m.; suggested starting times were 6:45, 6:30 and 6 p.m., while parents are still at Shepherd. Perhaps a boom box in the gym can attract students and parents if the exercise switches to line dancing to get warmed up. ... The 90/80/90/90 goals receive regular publication in the Mustang. ... LSAT representatives were on hand to help with Fall Fest. ... The Mathletes Club has started, headed by parents Aeva Doomes and Alesha Dominique. Shepherd is still looking for other schools willing to do the Singapore Math program; they need not be in D.C. the principal will follow up.

Parental Welcome: Keith's draft was reviewed. He was asked to add citations or source material in the welcome message. The message will be distributed in January. Shepherd will ask parents for 10 hours of volunteer time between now and the end of the school year; had this been available at the start of school, the amount requested would have been 20. The request for volunteer hours will be part of the message. There is still time for additional feedback.

In-Car Games With Kids: Mark's web searching proved fruitless. He relied on memory and past practice to develop his list. We will use the PTA listserv to ask parents what methods they use to reinforce and promote learning in their children as they drive to and from school, with results published in the Mustang. A "game of the week" could emerge from this. There are 40 students in carpool. We can give flyers to Mr. Burgess to distribute to parents in the carpool land.

Communication Plan: Kesha developed a communication plan, using the calendar of events listed on the website, including how upcoming events can be communicated, the intended audience, It was determined that the purpose behind each event be including when promoting them. An example would be the Loose Change Collection, and how it fits in so well with the International Baccalaureate trait of Caring.

Healthy Thursday: The earlier start was favored. Questions were asked as to whether Zumba, yoga, line dancing or hand dancing would be part of future sessions.

LSAT meetings: They are promoted in the Mustang, inviting parents to attend. Teachers are generally aware of the meetings, too.

Family Dinner Nights: These are promoted in both the PTA and Shepherd Park neighborhood listserv. The example is the Dec. 16 Family Dinner Night at Ledo Pizza. Volunteers to put Family Dinner Nights elsewhere. Kamilah had talked about using community and store bulletin boards; could this be done here?

Student Residences: A preliminary zip code breakdown shows 31 students living in 20011, the most of any zip code. Next is 20012, where Shepherd is located, with 26 students. Details will be sent to the full LSAT. This information can be useful in targeting neighborhood social events, and mega play dates.

Community Involvement: Mark Pattison said he had made no overtures to leaders in the Shepherd Park Citizens Association about whether the school could get four pages in the SPCA's newsletter, sharing the cost of printing and postage. He said he will do so right away.

PTA: The LSAT will be part of the PTA agenda. Kesha Pendergrast to speak for the LSAT. Also at the meeting, Dr. Michael Wallace will take about Jazz Night. Parents Folami Jenkins and Eve Lotter are on the committee with Wallace, a former shepherd parent.

Gala: Two co-chairs have been identified; no date has been set. Volunteers will be sought at the PTA meeting. Room parents will be reminded to remind their parents about the Nov. 20 meeting.

Energy Savers for Kids: Keith White wants Shepherd to move quickly on this because of time considerations. It's on the LSAT's FUFT list at #21.

Science Fair: Two Shepherd Park neighbors offered their services to students who need a little extra help with their projects. Help will continue to be sought. It was stressed again to communicate the purpose of every curricular and extracurricular activity.

Priorities List: Mark Pattison presented his work on a list of school, PTA, LSAT and parent-driven activities, running 10 pages. There was discussion on the elements of the list. It was decided that the event or initiative sponsors are the ones to best determine how to sustain an event or whether to cast it aside based on the changing needs of the school and its students, and the interests and skills of parents and staff.

The meeting was adjourned. The next meeting will be held **TUESDAY, DEC. 10**, at 4 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Mark Pattison, LSAT secretary