

SHEPHERD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Minutes of Local School Restructuring Team meeting of NOVEMBER 9, 2010

Present: Marcie Bane (chair), Mark Pattison (secretary), Charisse Brossard, Marcus Hall, Jennifer Pauk (parent representatives), Lashahn Booth, Steven King, Joele Michaud (teacher representatives), Robyn Brooks (staff representative), Don Squires (community representative). Also, Jamie Miles, principal.

Unable to attend: Timothy Leonard, Mary Thomas (teacher representatives), Clay White (community representative).

Minutes: Minutes were approved with a couple of minor spelling changes.

Comprehensive School Plan: Shepherd Elementary did not miss its deadlines, and D.C. Public Schools missed its own deadline. However, the draft plan has been submitted and DCPS has already given feedback on it. The principal will meet with the superintendent on it. Any notes or updates will be included in a revision. There was talk about including a number of students to proficient and advanced levels in reading and math, particularly fourth and fifth graders; these numbers will be revisited. It was noted that this could be a perfect opportunity for parents to volunteer and add to the enrichment. The school and its teachers may be able to identify students who can move up a level.

After-school Programming: Pauk is working with new aftercare coordinator June Confer. Paul said the programming is active. Pauk said she wants to use the Mustang, the listserv and the website to explain and promote aftercare. Miles she is entertaining a new proposal from Springboard, which quoted a high price last summer for aftercare services. Springboard will start in January at Oyster-Adams School, its first D.C. public school. It is possible that Springboard can offer an a la care plan for enrichment options, yet also offer a core of after-school opportunities. Nov. 18 was discussed as a possible date for a Springboard visit to Shepherd, but this date was not clear.

Afternoon Academy: Miles outlined some of the components of a thrice-weekly Afternoon Academy program that would target 60 students in grades 3-5 for a 13-week stretch from January through March; in addition, March will be used as a “blitz” month for students that the school believes can move up from basic to proficient, or from proficient to advanced. The PTA has been sent a copy of the outline so it can determine its funding ability. It may be necessary to sift funds to pay for the Afternoon Academy from, say, cleaning supplies -- in which case it may be necessary for parents in each classroom to pay for those supplies. The possibility of DCPS to at least partially fund this initiative, on the theory that the school would be seen as “downward” if it failed to meet AYP two years in a row was broached.

International Baccalaureate Coordinator and Teacher Development: The question arose where teachers have had enough IB training. Some of the necessary changes are in mindset and philosophy. But the fact remains that IB is a process and that no teacher will ever be “done.” Sandra Hart, the new IB coordinator, has offered helps and some growth is evident; teachers seem to be getting the hang of it, and this was validated by the IB site visit team earlier in the

week. One weak area may be in communicating with parents. Photocopies of a magnet with IB principles and of a brochure with IB explanations were distributed; these were in the possession of the site visit team and could be modified to fit Shepherd's circumstances. This, and perhaps an IB-themed ice cream social could be good helps for parents; the question remains how this gets funded. The site visit team talked of their positive experiences with IB at schools with a majority of ESL students and of free/reduced-price lunch students. Hall, Pattison and Bane volunteered to be part of an IB task force from the LSRT.

TV Turn-Off: It was asked whether there had been enough buy-in yet. The Mustang and the PTA listserv were seen as ways to cultivate more interest. It was suggested that TV Turn-Off could be a New Year's resolution. Here also, an ice cream social was suggested as a way to stir interest. Brossard will assist Pauk in the initiative.

Family Mentor Update: Only four parents signed up to be mentors so the idea was quietly scrapped. An "adopt-a-class" idea was considered but not advanced.

Enrichment/Recognition/Motivation: A question was raised about whether there was an overall approach to awards for students. There has/had been Terrific Kid, and now there is a monthly IB ceremony. There is also Awards Day at the end of the year. The principal said she is adamant that every student get a chance to walk across the stage on Awards Day, but not every student can be recognized at every event. There is a "Mustang Bucks" program that started in November tied to behavior with 14 "bucks" needed to enter the "store." (This is different from the fourth grade "snack store" field trip fundraiser.)

IB PR Plan: It could help to put in something for parents about the subject.

Long Term Goals: It was asked whether the LSRT needs or has long-term goals. The comprehensive school plan may suffice; Miles will get the revised version back to LSRT members prior to the next meeting.

Mice: Mice have been spotted in recent weeks. They must be killed inside the building. It is possible that some work to keep mice from entering can be done during the Nov. 13 work day.

Outdoor Sign: Nobody has seen the sign lighted up in at least a dozen years. Does it still light up? Does it need repair? Does someone know where the switch is?

Social With Teachers: The possibility of a New Year kickoff social with teachers was raised, although responsibility to carry it out was not assigned.

The meeting was adjourned.

The next meeting of the LSRT will take place on TUESDAY, JANUARY 11, at 3:45 P.M. in the school library.

Respectfully submitted,
Mark Pattison, secretary
Shepherd Elementary LSRT