



Murch LSAT Committee Meeting Minutes 11/18/24

Attendees: Mr. Cebrzynski, Mr. Hawkins, Lauren Miller, Sam Fisk, Emily Blake, Tara Souza, Dr. Eugene Branch, Allen Travitz, Stephanie Kay, Mr. Pyle, Christina Esche, Kassi Chappell, Dena Kahn, Sarah Krauss, Rebecca, Nora Charles

Meeting began at 5:49 pm

- Mr. Hawkins lead the committee through the enrollment projection of 671 students for the SY 25-26.
 - Higher numbers in grades 3-5 rather than earlier grades
 - This year is the first year in many that Murch has taken preK students oW the lottery.
- SPED: a longer portion of the conversation with both Mr. Hawkins and Mr. Fisk was centered on SPED and ELL students and factors contributing to those pieces of the projected enrollment.
 - Across the board all program are at or near capacity.
 - An influx of ELL students could aWect projections
 - There are many challenges in meeting the needs of SPED students and also the teachers when working with SPED students.
 - Advocacy is needed regarding how SPED needs are met through DCPS particularly with regard to self-contained classrooms.
 - The DC Council held an Open Hearing on the Oversight of Special Education and the new bill proposed by Councilwoman Christina Henderson.
 - Ms. Hairston is testifying at that hearing.
 - Caseloads for SPED managers are regulated by number of students and not the number of hours of intervention needed per student and this is a major factor that complicates meeting students and teacher needs. Case managers are overwhelmed with the hours needed.
- At Risk: Another larger segment of discussion was dedicated to understanding the nature and needs of the at-risk student population at Murch. Ms. Miller and Mr. Fisk led this discussion.
 - The At-Risk population is defined primarily by kids qualifying for free or reduced lunch and/or experiencing homelessness or in foster care.
 - Murch has approximately 12% at-risk population.



- Ms. Miller runs several programs and connects with families, most successfully by phone, to provide support for meals, attendance, childcare, clothing, and participation in the school community.
- Of primary importance is before and after and days oW childcare opportunities which are diWicult to come by and diWicult to pay for.

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- Room parents may play a critical role in connecting with at-risk families who feel alienated from the greater Murch community and opportunities for their children.
- Faculty Survey: Ms. Souza shared results from a recent survey of the faculty as to what additional staW would be most helpful.
 - Additional resource teachers were at the top of the priority list. Resource teachers who may cover health, STEAM, performance arts, Yoga or a number of other possibilities would provide more flexibility in the daily schedule and create smaller resource class sizes and higher quality experience. The importance of all students but perhaps especially students in SPED or at-risk students for having opportunity to connect with resource subjects is important.
 - Another EL teacher and a behavior support specialist were also responses to the survey.
- Nora Charles, Representative from Councilman Frumin's oWice
 - Ms. Charles introduced herself to the committee stating she is our advocate and to feel free to contact her. (ncharles@dccouncil.gov)
 - She spoke about a working group on weighting SPED students with higher number of IEP hours heavier
 - Spoke about FT equivalent staW reduction
 - Frumin: No more money our of Ward 3, fund all schools properly
 - Frumin has put forth Universal Out of School Time Initiative with a hearing on Thursday, Nov 21 at 10:30 am
- Enrollment Projections: Mr. C will make final adjustments and post to Basecamp with rationale by Thursday, Nov 21 with the LSAT committee comments to be submitted by 11 pm that night.
- Student and Family Engagement



- Kassi and Dena have agreed to work to create stakeholder surveys over the next few months.
- Personal phone calls are best method to access families we most need to hear from. Room parents may be able to help.
- Final items:
 - Minutes are being posted in the Teacher's Lounge
 - Seeking volunteer to get the flyers out
 - Need a representative from LSAT to attend HAS meetings

Emily will reach out to the DCPS Budget team to schedule a meeting

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Emily announced our Survey Subcommittee where Dena and Kassi will lead in the creation and execution of our stakeholder survey, which will be sent out in January.

Emily gave an update and some reminders of the next to dos to take place for the group:

- LSAT Meeting with Teachers- will work with Mr.C and Mr. Hawkins for some dates in January for the LSAT to meet with teachers in the AM
- In Person Meetings- we will start a rotating schedule of in person/hybrid meetings in the new year
- LSAT Flyer and Communications- we will be placing information in the friday folders before the winter break for our community
- LSAT HSA Representative Needed- if anyone was able to attend the HSA meeting to please let me know

Adjourned at 7:26pm