



Murch LSAT Committee Meeting Minutes 1/13/25



Attendees: Mr. Cebrzynski, Mr. Hawkins, Sam Fisk, Emily Blake, Allen Travitz, Christina Esche, Tara Souza, Dr. Branch, Ms. Kay, Kassi Chappell, Dena Kahn, Sarah Krauss, Julie Kohler, Julia Simon, Allison Fitzsimmons, ANC 3F Vice Chair Claudette David (ANC 3F04)

Meeting began at 5:45 pm

- ANC 3F Vice Chair Claudette David was introduced and welcomed. Ms. David has had Murch within her ANC district since 2023. She is the outgoing Vice Chair.
 - Much of the discussion with Commissioner David focused on the shortage of crossing guards in DC and Murch's/Deal's need for a guard at the corner of Davenport and Reno, a very busy intersection. The former guard is now at Eaton and Mr. C has been submitting urgent requests for a guard there since early on in the year.
 - DC is having trouble recruiting and retaining crossing guards around the city.
- Principal Cebrzynski provided an update re projected enrollment for SY25-26
 - Mr. C asked for additional 8 students above the DCPS projection and DCPS rejected all of them. The projection for SY25-26 remains 672
 - 672 is an increase of 10 students over this year.
 - Re Budget, the goal is to maintain and increase. If the budget cannot be increased, decisions will have to be made because inflation and other set costs such as salaries will increase even if budget does not.
 - To remember when working with the budget:
 - Tier 1 positions are fixed, non-negotiable positions and salaries.
 - Tier 2 positions are flexible. This means the positions can be eliminated. However, the responsibilities of Tier 2 positions would have to be covered by someone else.
 - Tier 3 positions are flexible in position and responsibilities.
 - Emily will be posting resources for budget conversations on Basecamp.
 - DCPS was invited to our meeting to discuss enrollment and budget and they declined.
 - Mr. C reminded the committee to prepare to be flexible with meetings and timelines. There are typically lots of delays and then all the information comes out close to deadline for making decisions.
 - For SY 24-25, at the time of the audit, Murch had 658 students enrolled and the projected enrollment was 661.
 - Commissioner David asked if the ANCs are needed or if the Council needs to be engaged. Mr. C replied that many years we have to engage the Council to request budget adjustments. They will continue that conversation offline.



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- Vice Principal Hawkins gave an update on MOY testing results.
 - Only have 5th grade ELA results in at time of meeting and results look great.
 - 9% of 5th grade students are very below level
 - 9% of 5th grade students are slightly below level
 - 75% of students are on or above grade level
 - BOY results were 20% very below, 12% slightly below, and 67% on or above
- Ms. Souza shared the survey that she sent out to teachers to gain their perspective of what additional staff or staffing changes may be needed. Only 3 responses had been submitted at the time of the meeting. An in-person LSAT meeting with the teachers will take place on Friday, January 31 and more information should be ascertained then.
 - Edits to the survey will be made to make sure that non-optional budget items are not listed among the areas of possible change.
 - Some of the non-optional positions are the Instructional Coaches (IC).
 - Questions followed regarding ICs and how many are required, how is that determined, how are they used, etc...
 - Mr. C will post clarifying information re this position.
- Kassi Chappell and Dena Kahn presented what they had for the survey to go out to families.
 - At the time of the meeting, the survey was not ready for wide sharing.
 - The purpose of the survey was clarified to be collection information to “help guide the LSAT when we have to make budget decisions.”
 - Messaging in the survey is important and we should be careful not to create the perception that budgeting is a democratic process or that there will be any kind of increase in budget to work with.
 - The flexible portion of the budget is quite small.
 - The survey is a good opportunity for getting a sense of community wishes for when the budget allows for changes to staffing or extracurricular programming.
 - The survey has since been redrafted based on the CSP goals and posted on Basecamp for LSAT comment.
 - Dena and Kassi will meet with Mr. C before sending out the final survey.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:10 pm

NEXT MEETING IS 8-8:30 AM on Friday, January 31 in-person at school with the staff