

Ludlow Taylor LSAT Meeting

Date: 4/11/24

Time: 7:00 pm

Location:

Virtual/Zoom

In Attendance: Penelope Miller (Principal); Heather Martin (parent rep); Sandy Watson (Assistant Principal); Rodney Parker (2nd grade teacher & teacher rep); Audriana Henderson (ECE CES & teacher rep); Cate Brandon (parent rep & chair); Elisabeth Golub (4th grade teacher, teacher rep, secretary); Yakeema Blackstone (Pre-K 3 teacher, teacher rep); Caleb Ward (parent rep); Jordan Baugh (parent rep). Up to 16 other teachers & community members.

Planned Agenda

- Staffing Updates
- Lottery/Waitlist plan
- DEI initiative

Meeting Notes (**action items in red**)

Minutes from last meeting approved.

Staffing Updates:

- Dr. Miller shared that the school is still looking for 2 special education teachers for the self-contained CES classrooms. They've received some resumes, but applicants didn't have desired experience in self-contained classrooms. They are also still looking for one educational aide. The DCPS teacher pool has opened up for next year.
- Dr. Miller also spoke about the anticipated vacancies for next school year. In addition to the two CES teachers & educational aide, they are also hiring for a Special Educational Teacher Lead (TLI). This position would be 1/2 time teaching & 1/2 time coordinating. They are will also be hiring a Director of Logistics & Operations.
- There was a question from a parent to further describe the Special Education TLI position. Dr. Miller explained that in the budget for the next school year LT didn't receive a 4th special education teacher. As a result, the school created this position from the budget funds. This teacher will help with coordinating for the sped department (e.g. keeping the calendar up-to-date, sitting in on IEP meetings). This teacher will have a caseload providing inclusion services, but smaller than what a full-time education teacher has.

- There was a follow up question about communication to families of students in the two CES classrooms without teachers. Dr. Miller shared that AP Watson has sent out something to families, and there is a plan that admin is working on with central office to provide information to families.
- AP Watson provided more information. She stated that the school is working w central office partners right now as well as some teachers on a plan for educational services. Central office staff will be training educational aides currently working with these CES students during spring break on delivering some services. This plan will be put into place the week students return from Spring Break (week of 4/22) and should be up and running the following week (week of 4/29).
- In response to a question about whether the aides were aware of their role in this plan (e.g. that they would be participating in training over Spring Break). AP Watson stated that she shared that information with them today (4/11).
- AP Watson specified that this plan has not been communicated to families because it's not yet in place. **AP Watson will send an update to families either Friday 4/12 or over the weekend.**
- There was a question about whether the school knows how many CES students will be returning for next school year. Dr. Miller explained that self-contained classroom placement & determination of services come through central office. AP Watson explained that Central Office shared some information about this today. All the students that are currently in CES class are slated to come back. However, this doesn't mean that parents are bringing them back. Those letters will be sent out from Central Office next week & the week after, along with ESY letters & transportation.
- There was a question about whether Central Office will be offering additional educational services to CES students to make up for lost instructional time due to the teacher vacancies. AP Watson said that she thought this would be coming. She recommended waiting through the week of April 22nd. **AP Watson will let LSAT & the LT parent community know if there's any way they can support.**

Lottery:

- Dr. Miller shared an update on the lottery (see slides). Enrollment projection is 479 students, down from the original projection of 495 students. Grade level projections for next year are available. Any lottery seats that the school makes available must be filled (if there is demand). In sharing the grade-level lottery seat numbers, Dr. Miller explained that in some cases, the lottery numbers we proposed to DCPS are the ones that have been made available. In other cases, the school has more lottery seats for next school year than were proposed. For example, for 5th grade, Dr. Miller had proposed offering 0 lottery seats, but DCPS said the school had to offer 6. So far, none of those seats has been accepted.
- There was a question about whether there would be any possibility of a new teacher if enrollment is above a certain threshold. Dr. Miller explained that the magic number for getting a new teacher is 13 students (across the whole school, not just one grade level). We would get another ET-15 (though not immediately).
- The LSAT Chair provided some additional context for the discussion of the fifth-grade class sizes. She explained LSAT spent a lot of time on the budget to keep the 5th grade classes the small and to preserve as many positions as possible, including coaching positions that work across multiple grades.
- Dr. Miller responded to a few additional questions about the lottery to wrap up this portion of the meeting. The school would need to accept any additional 5th grade inbound students who register for next year. Admin is NOT seeking add any 5th grade students above the 6 lottery slots. By means of comparison, 13 lottery slots were opened up for fifth grade last year.

DEI:

- Dr. Miller shared some information and thoughts about the proposed DEI committee, including some resources from an EdWeek article. Some questions to consider in forming this committee could be: What are the goals? How do we share out the work? Who do we invite? The timeline would be for the work of this committee to start next school year.
- There was a parent question about how the school could capture the perspective of folks who may not be inclined to fill out a survey. Dr. Miller replied that this was something to think about.

- A teacher shared her perspective that it would be good to start an internal dialogue among staff before opening this effort up to the broader LT community.
- A parent shared the perspective that, given the school's handling of the teacher shortages in the CES classrooms, "how will this committee be able to do something and make some change?" She pointed out that if we are talking about equity, there has not been equity for these students, since they are not receiving the educational services they are legally entitled to and haven't been for some time.
- A teacher asked if admin has reached out Empower Ed & Restorative DC, two orgs the school is currently working with, for support & guidance. **Dr. Miller shared she has a call scheduled with these partners tomorrow (4/12) and she would ask.**

At time, meeting adjourned.