



ELIOT-HINE MIDDLE SCHOOL LOCAL SCHOOL ADVISORY TEAM

1830 Constitution Avenue NE, Washington, DC 20002 • (202) 939-5380 • eliothinemiddleschool.org

Meeting Minutes—DRAFT

January 12, 2022, 4:55 pm via Microsoft Teams

School Leadership Present: Marlene Magrino, Suriya Douglas, Donya Wright

LSAT Members Present: Mandrell Birks, Sherri Anna Brown, Narissa Cooper, Michael Edgerton, Barbara Hammond-Awitta, Jean Kohanek, Evette Lang, Ophelia Morgan, Sasha Silverman, Brittney Slaughter, Latashsa Williams-Tolson, Bradley Winans

LSAT Members Absent: Paliden Blankney, Marlen Giles, Lena Heid.

Other Attendees: None.

The meeting was convened at 4:57 pm.

1. **Enrollment update.** Principal Magrino reported that our petition for an enrollment projection of 341 for the SY2022–23 school year was denied; budget will be based on the DCPS projection of 321 (Grade 6: 112, Grade 7: 129, Grade 8: 80). There was discussion on how DCPS determines their projections, and whether ward boundary changes would increase the numbers. Principal Magrino stated that the DCPS algorithm uses historical data for the school to make a projection. Eliot-Hine was over-enrolled this year, but has been highly variable in recent years due to COVID and building construction, etc. She also clarified that projections are based on elementary school feeder patterns, so ward boundaries will not affect enrollment in that way.

Principal Magrino noted that early enrollment by families that know they will be attending next year is critical to give the school stability in planning for next year in terms of staffing; we can adjust available lottery seats accordingly to offset missed projections, but it really only works if we know we have accurate enrollment for our in-bounds students.

Principal Magrino also noted that the block schedule won't shift much next year—we have asked the cluster for a few minutes per block to create our advisory period, similar to this year.

- Staffing shortages.** Bradley Winans inquired about the hiring for the three currently open positions at the school (two PE/Health positions and ELA). Principal Magrino noted that we have candidates for all three positions at various points in the interviewing/hiring process, but the challenge is getting them through the lengthy security clearance process. It will probably be mid-February at the earliest before they will be at school. Mr. Edgerton asked if there are no teachers in the hiring pool that can be accessed more quickly. Principal Magrino clarified that these candidates are drawn from the hiring pool, but the new clearances this year can only happen after offers are made by specific schools.

Noting how overextended teachers and staff are covering various vacant positions in the building, Mr. Birks inquired whether DCPS can supply central office workers to help us until these positions are filled, or if the Washington Teachers Union could supply excessed teachers temporarily. It's frustrating when schools are suffering. Principal Magrino noted that DCPS central office has been sending support, but the problem is that their staff can't be in the building unless they have had the extended security clearance, so it's the same bottleneck. We have gotten volunteers a few times a week (and will through the end of this month), which has been really helpful, but the staffing shortage is affecting all schools—the need is great everywhere.

- Determination for virtual learning.** Ms. Slaughter inquired why Eliot-Hine shifted to virtual learning on December 22. Principal Magrino stated that it was a combination of factors, not all related to COVID. We have had a significant number of staff members who have lost immediate family or needed family leave in the last month, for example. If we are seeing infection or staffing patterns, we can petition to go virtual, but the issues we are experiencing are complex and won't be solved by virtual learning for a few days.

Mr. Edgerton wondered about the criteria for going virtual. Jefferson Middle School shifted to virtual, even though their percentages of infection were not as high as other schools, so the criteria for going virtual is not evident. Also, since our students don't move in cohorts, does that make chances for spread higher? Principal Magrino noted that there has not been evidence that spread is greater in cohorts; our numbers have actually been pretty low by comparison to other schools. We're lucky to have a big building where we can spread out, and have done our work emphasizing safety.

- Budget preparation.** Principal Magrino noted that principals have not had their meeting on budget yet; this will happen in the coming weeks, and then the LSAT will only have a week or two to make determinations once the budget drops. Ms. Slaughter expanded her request from last month that we review the Vision of Excellence (VOE) descriptions ideally for all positions (to include teachers and all non-teaching staff, including stipend positions) prior to upcoming budget meetings to see the big picture.

Ms. Slaughter also wondered if there was a report on how acceleration funds have been used so far. Principal Magrino noted that we haven't used many funds yet, because our Acceleration Academy hasn't started yet (will start Tuesday). We have a partner coming in, and some staff will also be involved. Based on that we can project out expenses in the near future. In terms of additional pots of funding, Principal Magrino noted that we don't yet know if we will have Transformation School funds, which in the past have been used to fund an assistant principal, technology coordinator, behavior technician, TLI and staff training. She also noted that excursion funds do not roll over, but the school hopes to be able to use them for year end trips if COVID cooperates.

5. **Technology issues.** Mr. Birks wondered if there is any type of line item in the budget specifically to maintain technology. We have investments that need to be updated or enhanced. Principal Magrino said there may be money for that, but we need to make sure that we are getting what we need from DCPS, and then we can supplement. Mr. Birks also inquired whether there is a way to contact DGS to install additional outlets, as there is only one outlet in each classroom. Dr. Morgan stated that DGS will not do this. Ms. Lang requested that the school provide extra long extension cords, as it is incredibly challenging to accommodate charging for 1:1 devices with a single outlet in each room.

Mr. Edgerton noted that tech issues have been challenging and wondered if there are additional staff trained to supplement the technology coordinator or help when he is out. Dr. Morgan noted that there is an OCTO tech in the building two to three times a week, and that Ms. Malik has also been providing assistance.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:50 pm. The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, February 9, 2022 at 4:55 pm via Microsoft Teams but is subject to change, based on the release of SY2022–23 draft school budget.