

John Eaton Elementary School
Washington, DC

Local School Restructuring Team

MINUTES

November 13, 2007

4:00 – 6:00 p.m

Eaton Library

Attendees:

Noah Steinberg, Lisa Freda, Laura Broach, Trish Berman, Diane Magruder, Carolyn Barnhart, Joy Carroll Wallis, Mrs. Gartrell, David Shapinsky, Sue Eastman, Claudia Withers, Regina Bell

Good News and Community Concerns

- DCPS Chancellor Michelle Rhee visited last Wednesday for 30 minutes at 6 pm. She presented some information about her progress at DCPS so far and answered questions regarding, among other things, the principal selection process (see discussion below).
- We raised \$5000, the largest amount ever, for the Walk for the Homeless, sponsored by Fannie Mae. That money will be spent by the Downtown Cluster of Congregations.
- Second grade teacher Mrs. Githa Natarajan returned today from her maternity leave.
- Eaton Open house this morning – well attended

Principal's Report

Mrs. Gartrell reported that the leadership for our division has changed --- our new assistant superintendent is Francis Millett.

Community Meeting (tomorrow, Wed., 11/14)

Participants discussed the community meeting planned for tomorrow in the library. The topic of the meeting will be "Assessment and Instruction." LSRT members David Shapinsky and Sue Eastman have been working on the report that will be discussed at the meeting. Noah Steinberg and Joy Carroll Wallis have been planning the logistics.

During the discussion of the report and data that was to be presented, Ms. Eastman uncovered some potential discrepancies in the test scores for Eaton that were reported by DCPS. She and Mrs. Gartrell were going to follow up on those discrepancies.

Principal Selection Process

- We asked Chancellor Rhee about this process when she visited last week. We asked how we can keep our interim principal. Ms. Rhee responded that Eaton can keep its interim principal if we show that an overwhelming majority of community members, not just a small group, want to keep her. She pointed out that DCPS headquarters would also like to be sure that the Eaton community is fully aware of our options and the process. They are planning to build a very strong candidate pool from a nationwide principal search. When asked if there would be any obstacles to keeping our current interim principal, if we have met the criteria listed above, Chancellor Rhee indicated that there would be none.
- The HSA and LSRT has created a survey to poll the parents and teachers and plan to distribute it to the community beginning tomorrow at the Community Meeting. This survey should be a good tool to evaluate the desires of the community.
- Participants discussed the following concerns and questions:
 - What is the time line for the principal selection process? We think that around January we will be asked to make the decision.
 - When is the survey due back?; we think there should be a quick turn around.
 - We think there should be a blitz: backpack, email, etc
 - Claudia will be the liaison on this survey issue
- Participants decided to have a joint LSRT and HSA meeting, on Tuesday, December 11, to discuss the results of the survey and the process.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 6 pm.