

JOHN EATON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
Washington, DC

Local School Restructuring Committee (LSRT)
Monthly Meeting
Tuesday, March 6, 2007

Minutes

Welcome & Introductions

In attendance: Alex Wilson, Mark Boss, Carolyn Barnhart, Lucy Mallan, Diane Magruder, Noah Steinberg, Emily Blakeslee, Paul Basken, Margot Berkey, Laura Broach

Guests: Valerie Foote, Lynnea Rice, Doreen Moses, Susan Eastman

Good News & Concerns... a busy, exciting Eaton weekend awaits,

“The Last Mimzy,” a child’s fantasy film premiere will benefit John Eaton with all proceeds going to the H.S.A. The opening will be held on Sunday, March 11, 2007 at 2:00 pm at the E Street Cinema. Bring one and all, friends and family!

Eaton Day at Politics and Prose will be this Saturday and Sunday, March 10th & 11th, from 10:00 am-5:00 pm. “MENTION EATON” and a percentage of your purchase will benefit the Eaton H.S.A. Better yet... volunteer or check out the Eaton table at P&P and buy books your child’s teacher wants for the classroom. What a perfect gift from you to teacher & students.

Congratulations to Ned Bent, who is Eaton’s student representative to the DC Spelling Bee. The next level of competition will be March 21st with a taped broadcast in April.

Valerie Foote, an Eaton ELL teacher, brought an update on the status of Eaton’s English Language Learners as it impacts our 2007-2008 local school plan and budget. She detailed the current enrollment of 69 ELL students. The proposed 2007-2008 budget from DCPS for Eaton assumes an ELL population of 59 students. This has raised the issue of staffing to best serve our ELL students. We currently host 3.5 ESL teachers to serve these 69 students. A broad discussion followed that covered patterns of transience of our ELL community, accuracy of ELL testing, utilization of last year’s SDAIE initiative for serving ELL students, and the challenges of ESL staff teaching a wide variety of subjects in ELL pullouts. It was brought up that a significant number of our ELL students are from embassy staff families and have unpredictable enrollment and withdrawal timelines. It was noted that if we have more than 59 ELL students next year but lose a position at the end of this year, we will (1) have to wait to hire someone until late October leaving a service gap at the beginning of the school year, and (2) have to take whatever teacher(s) are available and may not have a guarantee that the teacher will meet our quality standards. Each time we bring in a new teacher there is an adjustment period in which that person has to build relationships with classroom teachers, get to know the school

(procedures and culture) and get to know the children. There are benefits to keeping a team of teachers in place. In the context of our new mission & vision statement, there was discussion of possible partnerships with embassies to provide additional services and benefits to all Eaton students. Margot Berkey pointed out that the enrollment projection of 411 for all Eaton students in SY2007-08 is less than what we expect. Likewise, the projection of 59 ELL is lower than what we might typically expect. If numbers can be adjusted, then we should also have funding to preserve three ESL teaching positions.

2007-2008 Eaton School Budget

We are just beginning the give and take of the 2007-2008 budget negotiations. At last week's special LSRT meeting we reviewed the Eaton budget projections sent to us for SY 2007-2008 based on DCPS assumptions of a school enrollment of 411. Margot Berkey & Alex Wilson agreed to rework these numbers based on a more accurate enrollment projection of 426 students. This includes our assumption of recruiting a third kindergarten class and the hiring of a 3rd first grade teacher.

Jocelyn Drakeford reported out having just returned from Eaton's early afternoon DCPS budget review session, and gave us an update. Based on the DCPS projected enrollment of 411, Dr. Drakeford had recommended a reduction of one ELL staffing position. We learned that our budget numbers can/will be revised upward after the out of boundary enrollment process is completed in April. The out of boundary application deadline for Eaton and all schools has been extended to March 15, 2007. We will continue to encourage local families to consider Eaton. Current Eaton parents will be encouraged to let Ms. Baretto know of any plans to leave Eaton for the 07-08 SY. We will work hard to keep Eaton's current population intact, indeed to grow it by one classroom teacher for a total of 19 core classroom teachers from PreK-6th.

2007-2008 Local School Plan

The first draft of the plan was submitted to DCPS today. Ms. Drakeford informed us there were no major problems or revisions. Eaton's new mission/vision statement led off the plan. Copies will be made available in the main office and from Laura Broach, LSRT secretary.

The attached chart describes the projected growth of Eaton. It takes into account the addition of a new section of 1st grade (2007), 2nd grade (2008) and 3rd grade (2009) and the move of two sections of 6th grades to middle schools (2009).

Respectfully submitted,
Alex Wilson