

JOHN EATON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
Washington, DC

LSRT Minutes
5 September 2006

1. Welcome & Good News/Introductions

Present: Alex Wilson, Emily Blakeslee, Meghan Wren, Noah Steinberg, Laura Broach, Eileen Fitzgerald, Eileen Plumb, Diane Magruder, Susan Eastman, Linda Adams, Monica Nakamura, Camilla Carpenter, Anne Dullea, Carolyn Barnhardt, Mark Boss, Jocelyn Drakeford, Margot Berkey, and Karen McAdoo.

2. Community Concerns and Good News

Community Concerns

- ❖ Keeping Ms. Magruder on LSRT as a community representative was proposed by Eileen Plumb, seconded by Meghan Wren and unanimously approved by LSRT members.
- ❖ There are still remaining questions about whether or not the math specialist position will be filled.
- ❖ Volunteers for the Back to School Picnic are needed!

Good News

- ❖ Eaton met all Average Yearly Progress (AYP) benchmarks on DC-CAS testing in the 05-06 School Year! Congratulations to all instructional staff. Once again Eaton is among the top ten elementary schools for academic achievement in language arts and mathematics. We were one of only 25 elementary schools out of 138 to reach this mark. Eaton has been designated an "Incentive School" by NCLB and DCPS standards and will receive additional discretionary financial rewards. (In 2005 we received \$60,000 in incentive funding.)
- ❖ Laura Broach announced that it will be much easier for teachers to submit articles to the Northwest Current this year.

- ❖ Special Ed. students all met AYP on the DC-CAS!
- ❖ The paint and other improvements in the Library look wonderful.

3. Opening of School and Physical Plant

Opening of School

Principal Drakeford stated that the first week and a half of school have been very successful! The first week set a positive tone for the school year. She acknowledged that there has been confusion with arrival and dismissal policies and plans to resolve these issues in an upcoming letter to parents.

All teacher positions are filled though we are still waiting for a Kindergarten aide for Ms. Rice's class and a 1/2 time ELL teacher. The new ½ time Special Ed. Coordinator, Ms. Gloria Angall, will be at Eaton all day on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and half days on Fridays. We also have a new social worker.

The Special Ed student numbers are lower than last year (approximately 17 requiring direct services). The ELL student numbers are up (58 plus 13-14 awaiting testing). In the event this has an impact on staffing, it was suggested that if a SPED position was to be reduced to half-time then it be blended with the half-time ELL opening in order to maintain current staff. This matter will be looked into more carefully by Principal Drakeford who was in favor of being proactive about the staffing issues.

The first official count will be held on Friday, September 8. Our head count as of now is 396, though we were projected at 418. There are six students who are confirmed, but won't be at school by Friday. Office staff is working to find out where the rest of our no-shows are. It was suggested to contact wait list students if we are at risk of being below our projected number.

Physical Plant

- ❖ We have 15 outstanding work orders, some of them years old. Principal Drakeford is working to get these problems solved.
- ❖ Eaton's playground is in need of repair/replacement. There is a tunnel broken on the Pre-K playground, exposed metal that is rusting, erosion, stairwell damage, holes in the fence, and issues with the surface. Linda Adams will chair a sub committee to work on playground improvement. Camilla Carpenter & Alex Wilson volunteered for the subcommittee. Other volunteers are needed. Linda Adams will convene a meeting before the October LSRT meeting. Margot Berkey agreed to contact, Iris Rothman, an Eaton neighbor who organized the Bancroft playground improvements for input. Suggestions were made to look into grant options through KaBoom, the Cleveland Park Historical Association and other local organizations.
- ❖ There are many lights out around the exterior of the building.
- ❖ Slate roof tiles are in need of repair and are in danger of being dislodged and falling to the ground.
- ❖ The water damage on the wall in the SW stairwell cannot be repaired until the roof problems are taken care of.

4. Revision of 2006-2007 Budget

When the budget was completed, our projected number was 385 so we should not be in danger of losing a teacher due to equalization. After the budget was created, we added a third kindergarten and increased the size of our Pre-K. Our revised projected number was 420 in which case we would have been able to restore the math position. However, our current count is making that possibility look unlikely.

5. Communication Plan/Strategic Planning Update

Our goal is to keep the John Eaton community informed about LSRT actions, most importantly, the Local School Plan and

the annual school budget. Eaton's Strategic Planning & Assessment (SPA) process identified the coordination of communication among the principal, faculty, staff, H.S.A., the LSRT and the greater community as one of three priority concerns for Eaton's future. The LSRT agreed to post the monthly minutes on the Eaton ListServe and on the Eaton homepage. It was suggested that the biweekly Eaton Newsletter is the optimal forum for coordinated communication. In any month, the LSRT will submit a synopsis of the monthly LSRT meeting for one issue and a more detailed article on a particular subject for the other. A list of proposed topics for subsequent articles was distributed. All LSRT minutes, agendas, and other handouts will be kept in a binder that can be accessed by all in the Library.

6. Testing, Curriculum, and Incentive Funding

Testing

The DC-CAS test results are back and Eaton has wonderful news.....We made AYP and once again we are an incentive school! Our scores did drop in some areas and this is mostly attributed to the change in assessment tool. As of yet, the breakdown and analysis of scores has not been received. Parents expressed concern about when their children's individual results will be made available.

DCPS used to be organized into Divisions where elementary schools from different parts of the city were grouped together. Now the system has changed its organization structure into Regions where schools (PreK-12) are grouped based on geographic location. For last year's DC-CAS, we ranked 2nd in Elementary Division 2 and we would be 4th (language arts) and 5TH (mathematics) in our new Region 6 (K-12). We welcome the more competitive association.

Margot Berkey drafted an article explaining the DC-CAS test results. She provided a copy for everyone present and asked for people to review it and give her comments. The article will be printed in an upcoming John Eaton Newsletter

Principal Drakeford discussed her concern that we did not have a consistent assessment tool to create benchmarks and mark progress in reading. She has decided to purchase the Scholastic Reading Inventory (SRI) as Eaton's assessment

tool for grades 2-6. The DIBELS Reading Assessment will continue to be used in the lower grades as mandated by DCPS.

Curriculum

Teachers now report to school at 8:00 am and collaborative meetings among teachers at every grade level are taking place most mornings. The goal is to move to vertical collaborative planning by the end of the second advisory. This would allow teachers of different grade levels to meet and discuss how skills are developed throughout a student's time at John Eaton.

Parents have recently received "Standards" booklets that talk clearly about what is expected at every grade level in Language Arts, Math, Science and Social Studies. These booklets are an excellent way to support your student at home. They will also be valuable tools for parent-teacher conferences.....allowing parents to ask relevant questions about how their child is doing on the specific standards being taught.

More news on Social Studies and Science Standards should be coming soon. There is some confusion about how teachers are supposed to teach to the new standards without the appropriate materials.

Incentive Funding SY 2005-2006

We were also an Incentive School last year and because of this we received \$60,000 in extra funds. This money was used to purchase all of the new televisions that have been installed in the classrooms. There was also a new sound system installed in the multipurpose room. We are expecting 18 new computers (and software) for the computer lab to arrive soon. There have also been Smart Boards ordered for each classroom. This is BIG NEWS and we all agreed that it should be shared with the John Eaton Community. We need to begin soliciting ideas for the incentive funds we expect to receive this year.

7. New Business

- ❖ Free and Reduced Lunch forms should be sent home with the Directory forms and need to be filled out by ALL parents. If every parent completes this form it is

likely that Eaton will receive additional Title One funding to serve our students.

- ❖ Principal Drakeford addressed concerns about the Pledge to the Flag, the new dress code, and the No Peanut Zone in the lunchroom. She will be sending a letter explaining the new policies and procedures by the end of the week.

- ❖ Chinese Language Plan: Two Chinese Language teachers have been identified, one will be serving at Eaton and one splitting time between Deal JHS and Wilson SHS. The issuing of visas is still being coordinated between DCPS, the Chinese Embassy and HanBan-the Chinese language school in Peking. We do expect a full time teacher coming to John Eaton no later than January 2007.

The meeting adjourned at 6:10 pm.