

# JOHN EATON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Washington, DC

Local School Restructuring Team (LSRT)

Monthly Meeting

Tuesday, April 10, 2007

## Minutes

Members in Attendance: Jocelyn Drakeford, Lucy Mallan, Margot Berkey, Laura Broach, Alex Wilson, Mark Boss, Diane Magruder, Carolyn Barnhart, Noah Steinberg

Visitors in Attendance: Emily Jackson

### I. Welcome & Introductions of Guests

### II. Good News & Community Concerns

1. Discussion: filming brief snippets of LSRT meeting to post on the website
  - a. Parent Emily Jackson poses exploring the technological possibilities of taping LSRT meetings to upload onto the Eaton website to make available to a wider audience. They could be archived, password-protected, etc.
  - b. Emily Jackson is volunteering the technology and effort; can email footage of other PTA meetings to aid our decision.
  - c. We need to investigate bylaws of the LSRT that may address this.
  - d. How is taping LSRT meetings similar to or different from taping HSA meetings?
  - e. Perhaps the LSRT community meetings could be taped
  - f. One of key goals of Eaton is creating transparency so maybe this would be a good idea.
  - g. ACTION: We should discuss and vote on this at the next meeting. Perhaps Emily J. could propose 1 – 3 different options and present them at the next meeting
2. Good News:
  - a. Ned Bent (Grade 6, Fitzgerald) finished 9<sup>th</sup> at City Wide Spelling Bee, which will be aired April 21 on NBC4 in the morning.
  - b. Ghita Natarajan's DC Teacher of the Year Award Ceremony at the Omni Shoreham went very well. It was a great event: formal, elegant, good food, a good ratio of adult speeches to children's performances. There may be another school-wide event in May, sponsored by HSA for parents, students, etc.

### III. Local School Plan for School Year 2007 – 2008

#### A. Assessments

- Because we have two sets of Benchmark testing results, we can make comparisons.
- There are two areas in math that have come down in these Benchmark tests, but we don't know if it is an alignment problem or if these pieces are not being addressed in instruction. Principal Drakeford created a Data Utilization Sheet for teachers to use to determine topics to be addressed in instruction. We want see if the test is aligned with instruction.
- Can we discuss these particular declines with another school to see if they have similar drops in these areas, which might suggest a lack of alignment with standards or perhaps a problem with testing?

- Note that these Benchmark tests are new this year.
- Discussion of Everyday Math: math concepts are supposed to spiral throughout the year, and from year to year. Students are not expected to master a topic when first introduced. For example, if a first grader is exposed to simple fractions in October, he may not master them; then when he is exposed to them again in February, he may understand a bit more, and so on.
- We could be more diligent about making sure that there is vertical conversation among teachers. Principal Drakeford has plans for this type of collaboration and will address these issues in May.
- Specific DCCAS test dates not yet finalized for next week (April 17 – 20). Grades 3 – 6 will be tested on two days next week, with make-up days following. Grade 5 will have another two days of Science testing in May.
- Calendar: Note that this current testing schedule is difficult for our students who are just returning from a ten-day spring break to two consecutive four-day weeks. This unusual break in routine must be difficult for teachers and students preparing for tests.

## **B. Responsive Classroom**

- This is an important part of professional development for Local School Plan: How can we guide this for next year?
- Issue: How to meet needs of new teachers to the program and those of more experienced teachers; also want Eaton-specific guidance and someone to evaluate classrooms in action
- We've kept some of the practices, but not the culture, the core values of Responsive Classroom
- ACTION: Principal Drakeford will investigate someone to run Responsive Classroom for our Professional Development day. Contact possibilities: Cindi Gibbs at Beauvoir (Cgibbs@cathedral.org); Pat Harris was instructor in past (recommended by Diane M); Northeast Foundation for Children (responsiveclassroom.org)

## **C. Other Professional Development:**

- More collaboration at grade level
- (Note that collaboration is a key concept of Responsive Classroom)

## **D. Enrollment Projections and Strategy**

- Where we are now: DCPS sent letters out to winners of the lottery. Then they gave us a waiting list.
- Every classroom will be full in the fall.
- DCPS has mandated that our budget will not allow for a third kindergarten. We will be funded for 411 students, instead of the 426 that we projected.
- There will be 18 classrooms.
 

▪ (2) Pre-K	(2) Third Grade
▪ (2) K	(2) Fourth Grade
▪ (3) First Grade	(3) Fifth Grade
▪ (2) Second Grade	(2) Sixth Grade
- We would like to continue to pursue the idea of a third kindergarten in order to grow the school.
- If necessary, however, the third kindergarten plan could wait a couple of years.

#### **IV. Chinese Teacher**

- Eaton's Mandarin Language teacher from the Peking education agency Han Ban, Ms. Kong Rui (Rhonda), will arrive Monday, April 16, in the evening. Janelle and Joel Rynes (parents of Sophia in Mrs. Barnhart's pre-K) will be her host family and Alex Wilson will meet her at the airport. Rhonda is from Changchun in Jilin Province and has received numerous awards for her teaching. Various activities, with periods of rest, are planned for first week. A welcoming reception will be scheduled for later in the month.

#### **V. Schoolwide Spring Assembly**

- Thursday, April 12: 9:30 a.m. for grades 1 – 3 and 10:30 a.m. for grades 4 – 6.
- Principal Drakeford will talk with students about expectation for their behavior and the challenges that Spring presents for them.

#### **VI. Community Meeting**

- Thursday, April 26; supper at 6:00; meeting starts at 6:30
- Sponsored jointly by the HSA
- Topic: Roundtable Discussion: Eaton's New Code of Conduct
- Goal: Want to communicate Eaton's standards for student conduct and to give parents guidelines and expectations for students *at school*.
- Idea: It would be powerful to have statements made by students overheard by teachers – put on a poster or handout.
- ACTION: Principal Drakeford will consult Ms. Magruder and Mr. Braxton.
- ACTION: Encourage parents to come in a variety of formats: notes in backpacks, robo-calls, newsletter, listserv.