Janney Elementary School

Local School Advisory Team (LSAT)
December 11, 2024 Meeting

2024-2025 LSAT Members

Staff Representatives- Robyn Nelson (Co-Chair, WTU Representative), Danielle Singh, Nicole Ugel, Mike Barnhart, Morgan Parent, Luke Kovacs, Jason Jones (AFSCME Union Representative)

Parent Representatives- Melanie Douglass (Co-Chair), Matt Bricken, Christopher Clements, Rebecca Fertig Cohen, Maureen Perrone, William Theodore II

PTA Parent Representatives- Bethany Rose Hanna, Elizabeth McAdam

Agenda

- Admin Team Updates
- Technology Policy
- Budget Preparation / LSAT Chair Meeting Update from Monday
- Committees - 1) Budget, 2) Culture of Achievement, 3) Communications & Engagement, 4) Facilities
  - Action Items

Minutes

Our meeting begun with a thank you to those teachers and parents who submitted testimony both digitally and in-person during the public budget hearing.

Admin Team Updates

Principal Singh reported that there is still fluctuation around Janney's total enrollment which is currently at 717, as there are still some families transitioning into and out of the neighborhood. Principal Singh also reported that a 3rd grade teach is moving internationally in January. A Term teacher, Ms. Hammer, will be filling in. It was also reported that there have been issues within Janney (and DCPS as a whole) filling substitute roles. Administration is actively seeking substitutes.

Mr. Barnhardt reported that administration has worked with janney+ and the PTA to hire a part time custodian, Mr. Jesus, from 4-8. It was also reported that all students are fully compliant with the District's immunization requirements and are able to access instruction- with a few families needing their forms

translated. A Termanix representative came to the school to investigate the mouse problem and come up with potential solutions. Admin was quoted $4,000 for mouse abatement help. Admin is looking for additional services. The first priority is sealing exterior and exterior doors so the mice cannot access building from outside. Heating and AC Centrs are still finicky but overhead heaters are filling in in the winter months.

Deb, from Janney+, has advocated for and is working toward developing a stronger partnership between PTA/Janney+/LSAT. There will be a meeting tomorrow morning surrounding the role of each division for parents and interested parties.

There have been continuing requests from multiple community members to use the school's gym afterschool. Questions raised included if people could pay to use the gym space afterschool, insurance and overtime, and fair use. Ultimately it was decided that given our current resources and inability to execute use fairly we cannot provide use of the gym outside school hours at this time.

Technology Policy

PTA has raised the need for a technology policy specific to Janney. DCPS currently has a policy (Student and Staff Technology and Network Acceptable Use Policy | dcps) but there are situations and circumstances that may or may not apply to students at Janney. Smart watch policy is a grey area and phone use policy could be more clear. Staff needs parental support to tamp down on use to keep technology as a tool for education on an equal platform and to ensure that they are on the same page as parents.

Budget Prep/LSAT Charity Meeting Update

This past Monday there was a meeting for LSAT chairs in anticipation of a DCPS budget meeting and budget season. The Outlook for Ward3 was bleak as we continue to recover from last year's budget season. The expectation is that the budget will again be tight. LSAT members were urged to beginning working on priorities and figuring out our needs, wants, and nice to haves.

Committees

LSAT members split into four committees for ten minutes. Upon reconvening areas of discussion were shared.

The Achievement Committee was unattended.

The Budget Committee discussed a survey distributed to parents and teachers surrounding budget wants and needs and how to improve the survey as well as outreach.

The Communications and Engagement Committee reviewed priorities included communication for events and updating the website; discussed technology policy; and looked ahead to next year to discuss how to improve parent engagement- ideas included live talks for PreK and K on what a room parent is and how they operate.

The Facilities Committee discuss how to communicate with those reaching out to use school resources while we do not have the capacity to serve them. They plan on creating a statement that informs these parties we do not have the capacity.

Action Items

LSAT will reconvene January 8th. Ward3Ednet and LSAT Collective will meet the evening prior.