

LSRT Meeting

2/25/10

6:00 to 7:00 PM

Attendees: Lisa Freda, Mrs. Gartrell, Mercedes Lemp, Lucy Mallan, Marisa Parrella, David Shapinsky, Noah Steinberg, Lisa Woods

### **2010-2011 School Year Budget**

Eaton submitted its 2010-2011 SY budget 2/4/10. In past years, central office asks all schools to present and justify their budgets. This year only certain schools were called for the roundtable discussion; Eaton was not called for the roundtable. One change to next year's budget is lost funding for one floating aid. DCPS also changed criteria for special education and how those services are delivered in schools. For the 2010-2011 school year, we lost ½ headcount for special education and will be down to 1.5 special education teachers next year. Most of Eaton's special education students require speech and language as opposed to more severe services. Going forward, if a student with more intense special education needs were to enroll at Eaton, central office indicated they would respond appropriately and provide additional resources.

With respect to curriculum for 2010-2011, as we get closer to the end of the school year, Mrs. Gartrell will evaluate the effectiveness of content areas, such as science, math, social studies, reading, etc. and determine how the content areas contribute to the overall learning environment. As part of the evaluation process, Mrs. Gartrell will look at teacher feedback, student data (both standardized and not standardized), and talk to students and other stakeholders. Mrs. Gartrell will use grade level morning meetings as a platform to gather teacher input on what's working/not working.

The group discussed the implications of NCLB. Some of the teachers present shared their concerns that due to implications of NCLB teaching is not as pleasurable as in the past. There is less time to incorporate fun projects – i.e. build a learning activity around an interesting article from the newspaper – as teachers are under a great deal of pressure associated with preparation for the test milestone dates.

Teachers also feel pressure associated with the unknown outcomes of IMPACT, the new teacher assessment tool that was rolled out in fall 2009. Teachers explained the stress associated with knowing that a "master educator" can drop in at any time and that individual's assessment will significantly impact a teacher's performance. For testing grades, 55% of a teacher's performance evaluation is based on test scores. This is the first year using IMPACT

and the new process is creating a great deal of anxiety for some teachers. The LSRT agreed that it should explore with the Chancellor whether for Eaton, where test scores are high and teachers are doing well, whether DCPS could provide some leniency from the evaluation process. The LSRT will convey this thought to the chancellor should we deem it appropriate.

As background, Eaton test scores in the 1990s were very high (often in the 90<sup>th</sup> percentile). Scores trended lower in the 2000s (as a side note: NCLB came became law in 2000) and then bounced back again in 2006. Test scores have trended higher and Eaton stakeholders (community members, students, parents, and faculty) are vested in continued progress.

### **2009-2010 School Year Community Meeting**

As required by NCLB, the LSRT is required to hold two community meetings each school year. The first meeting was held in October 2009 where Chancellor Rhee attended the meeting and fielded questions. The LSRT is tentatively planning to hold its 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting in May 2010. The group will brainstorm ideas for the community meeting in next month's LSRT meeting. Some ideas might include breakout sessions that focus on academics, such as math, reading, social studies, etc. Teachers could discuss curriculum, teaching approach, etc. The group agreed it would be helpful to have the community meeting on a professional development day (since the meeting professional development days for the remainder of the year have been changed to snow make up days), beginning in late afternoon. The sessions should engage with the kids, perhaps have them present on topics that most interest them and why they liked learning about these topics this year. Further discussion on topics and format will be ironed out at the next meeting. The group also discussed the potential them of "Diving into Education" and tie the meeting to the world cultures.

The next LSRT meeting is scheduled for Thursday, 3/25/10 from 6:00 to 7:30.

Meeting adjourned at 7:00.

LSRT Secretary, Lisa Woods