

Alice Deal Middle School LSAT  
April 9, 2024 @ 730a, by zoom  
Minutes taken by Patricia Balestra

<https://jh.zoom.us/j/97053245339?pwd=ZTJ3V0F6OE93WjJPdVdRVUtxTjRoUT09>

Attendees:

Principal Diedre Neal

Parents:

Michael Dannenberg

Josh Hertzberg

Elizabeth Stuart (chair)

April York

Amanda Provost (ADCA)

Faculty/staff representatives:

Adam Kirschenbaum

Patricia Balestra

Britney Cuffee

[absent] Ebonee Dillard

Stacey Gathers

Sandi Baer

Patrick Rottman

Michael Donaldson (WTU)

Raymond Cummings

[absent] Nzingha Bamayangay-Massaquoi

Meeting called to order at 7:33 am

- I. Welcome and call to order (Liz)
- II. Principal's Report (Principal Neal)  
Advocacy in various ways around the budget. Mr. Donaldson spoke with Chairman Mendelson yesterday to share the position losses. Ms. Neal says we cannot open the school without the climate and culture positions filled. [Short closed discussion about specific staffing possibilities.]
- III. Budget updates (Principal Neal/Liz)  
No update on budget. Status has not changed. Council funds from last year have not yet been released.  
Mr. Donaldson: spoke with Chairman Mendelson and Bijan (Education Director). Brought up that we are gaining the most students in DCPS. Every middle school is experiencing cuts. Chairman's response: he will try to do something but Mayor and Chancellor are pushing back, using the judiciary (Schools First and Budgeting Act).

Nothing will happen until May when budget is finalized. Unfortunately, teachers will make decisions before then about leaving. Last year, we “got back” personnel and non-personnel spending. We still have not received the non-personnel money. DCPS claims we should receive our money by April 10.

IV. Update on summer program planning for 2024 (Principal Neal)

Moving forward. SMAC is filling up. Support programs take more work to get students signed up. Personal reach-outs happening.

Mr. Dannenberg: is it possible to extend the language program beyond two weeks.

Ms. Neal: this depends on teacher availability and so far, the two weeks is what teachers are available for this summer. Will use this summer to learn about what **might make sense**~~might sense~~ longer term.

V. Reports

A. 3EdNet Report (Liz)

Meeting (with DME Paul Kihn) is tonight.

B. ADCA Report (Ms. Provost)

Great Honor Roll treats

Open House is tonight

Big Deal Day on April 27th

Dealapalooza is going great!

May 17 - family dance! DJ, food, fun!

C. WTU Report (Mr. Donaldson)

Still in negotiations. Some council members have been attending negotiating sessions. This helps!

Focusing on more Safe Passage around the city. Investing more inside the schools (Culture and Climate Teams). Focus on things that help kids feel safe.

Will be releasing endorsements for at-large candidates probably on Wednesday!

D. SIT update (Principal Neal, Mr. Hertzberg)

Building is progressing. Supposed to be a lot of work happening over Spring Break.

E. Student behavior management committee (Mr. Donaldson)

Thank you to Ms. Neal and Ms. Stuart for being on the committee.

Recommendations have been put into place and are making a difference!

Concerns about post-Spring Break behavior.

Discuss for next year: no Culture and Climate personnel in the budget. We need to figure out what this looks like based on our current budget.

VI. New/Other business

A. Student dress code (Ms. York)

Ms. York has drafted proposed language for our dress code.

Principal Neal has seen the draft and is engaging with Bijan at Mr. Mendelson's office.

Ms. Neal: **Thank you** to the ADCA for the 1700 eclipse glasses! (Becca Ruiz Hertzberg!)

Meeting adjourned at 8:20 am

Future agenda items:

- Supports for Tier 1, 2, and 3 supports for world language