Woodrow Wilson High School  
Local School Advisory Team (LSAT)  
May 14, 2019

In attendance: Belle Belew, Tina Bradshaw-Smith, Patrick Cassidy, Sam Frumkin, Karen Harris, Zerline Hughes (by phone), Kimberly Martin, Karin Perkins, Susana Sitja

LSAT Chair Sam Frumkin called the meeting to order at 7:00 am.

I. Minutes

The group formally approved the minutes of the April meeting.

II. Class Rankings

The LSAT continued the discussion of class ranking that it began at its April meeting. Sam Frumkin had circulated research papers regarding pros and cons of class ranking, as well as a position paper prepared by parents at School Without Walls two years ago, when they petitioned to eliminate ranking. Currently, the only thing Wilson uses class rank for is to determine who will give the valedictory and salutatory speeches at graduation. As mentioned at the April meeting, Wilson is moving away from that practice this year, with the two graduation speakers now being selected by staff and peers.

LSAT members agreed that the principal should petition DCPS to allow Wilson to stop ranking students by GPA. Ms. Martin will prepare and submit the petition. Sam Frumkin will sign it on behalf of the LSAT.

III. Student Activity Fund (SAF) Account/Facilities Rental Income

Sam Frumkin reported that legislative efforts to enable schools to retain a majority of facilities rental income are progressing. Ms. Martin reminded the group that such legislation would not solve the entire problem, in that such revenue cannot legally go into or be spent from SAF accounts. Currently, DCPS schools lack another mechanism for this revenue. Ms. Martin suggested that the LSAT work with Matt Frumin and others to encourage the City Council to enable “O-Type Funds” or another alternative to SAF accounts.

At this time, Wilson has not committed to any new rental contracts.

IV. Athletic Field Renovation

The athletic field renovation project is beginning. It is expected to take most of the summer to complete.

V. 7-Period Schedule

Following the last LSAT meeting, the LSAT parent representatives agreed to support a return to a 7-period schedule. The teachers had already voted to support it. Ms. Martin then prepared and submitted a petition to DCPS. At this time, Ms. Martin has not received a response from DCPS. Ms. Martin indicated that if approval is not received
quickly, it will be too late to accomplish the change for next school year, as scheduling is already beginning.

VI. Remembering Members of the Wilson Community

Ms. Martin reported that a community member has started a GoFundMe to support Breon Austin’s family. A memorial service will take place after school today for Breon. The police are still actively seeking information regarding his death.

The group also acknowledged the recent passing of principal Pete Cahall, Coach Horace Fleming, and custodian Derick Davis.

VII. Crisis Communication Plans

An LSAT member asked about crisis communications from the school, and whether there are set plans to be followed when important information needs to be sent to Wilson families in a time-sensitive manner. Ms. Martin said that there are multiple vehicles for communication, and that there is a DC government publication guiding crisis management within city government agencies, including schools.

In the case of Breon Austin’s death, Ms. Martin reviewed steps that had been taken to inform students and families about supports available to students. Ms. Martin and Ms. Bradshaw-Smith also indicated that communication with students and families was complicated by the fact that Breon’s death took place over Spring Break. Nevertheless, Ms. Martin affirmed that the school learns from such situations to improve these processes in the future.

VIII. Student Entry into School

An LSAT member asked whether it would be possible for students to be allowed entry into the building before 8:00 am, to accommodate students who must be dropped off early. Ms. Martin responded that because there is not adequate staff or security officer coverage available to supervise students before 8:00 am, students unfortunately may not enter the atrium and are instead required to wait in the lobby entrance area.

Ms. Martin also clarified entrance policies and procedures during testing times (AP, PARCC, etc.)

The meeting was adjourned at 8:02 am.

Next meeting: June 11, 2019