Karin Perkins called the meeting to order at 7:05 am.

I. Welcome

Karin Perkins welcomed everyone to the first LSAT meeting of the 2018-19 school year and invited the group to introduce themselves.

II. Elections

The LSAT elected Sam Frumkin as Chair and Karin Perkins as Secretary for the 2018-19 year.

III. Principal’s Report on Start of the School Year

Enrollment: Ms. Martin reported that enrollment was 1,854 students as of September 17, 2018. She noted that enrollment will continue to change as non-attending students are removed from the database and as new students continue to enroll. Originally, 1,950 schedules were created (based on every student promoted from feeder middle schools). Wilson’s official projected enrollment was 1,885.

Staffing: There are three vacant positions – one BCBA and two school psychologists – due to lack of candidates. The vacant art teacher position has been filled, and the hired teacher is completing DCPS’s paperwork process to be able to report for work. An LSAT member asked Ms. Martin what staff she would add if she were able to convert the three vacant positions to other positions. She responded that in an ideal world, she would hire an additional classroom teacher in each core content area.

Scheduling: DCPS Central Administration played a strong oversight role in high school scheduling this year. Ms. Martin indicated that the micromanagement was challenging and caused delays, but stated that the outcome in terms of the actual schedules was the same as it would have been had DCPS not involved itself.

Yondr: The use of Yondr (cell phone) bags has been introduced in all math and science classes. So far, the pilot is going well, and teachers in other departments are asking for them. They will be phased in to all classes as the year progresses. The plan is for the Yondr bags to be kept in the classrooms, rather than at the main entrance to the school. Yondr will conduct surveys as part of evaluating their use at Wilson. It has not yet been determined how the program, which is currently heavily funded by the PTSO, will work next school year.

Security: Councilmember Mary Cheh pledged funds for a new magnetometer (metal detector) at the main entrance. It is unclear what the status is, but the magnetometer still
is not at the school. Additionally, many classroom doors do not function correctly, with long-outstanding work orders at the Department of General Services (DGS) to fix them.

Cafeteria: The new cafeteria manager created a “hot bar” with an extra line, helping to address the flow of students through the food lines. Ms. Martin is pleased with the new manager’s efforts to proactively improve service.

Testing Schedule: Ms. Martin asked the school’s testing coordinator to create a comprehensive testing calendar. She then shared the calendar with Central Office. Ms. Martin has requested a decrease in the number of tests the school is required to administer. She also requested additional laptop computers for testing purposes, as Wilson does not have enough given the size of the student body.

IV. Other Items

Karin Perkins suggested that the group identify two or three areas of proactive focus for the year (e.g. solutions to crowding). The group agreed to discuss this at a future meeting.

Sam Frumkin asked whether Wilson’s course catalog is available on-line. Ms. Martin responded that the 2016-17 DCPS catalog, which governs the classes available at Wilson, is available on-line. It was suggested that even a list of currently-offered classes at Wilson posted on the school website would be helpful.

Parent member Zerline Hughes Spruill asked how to know which teachers request fees (e.g. lab fees for science, materials fees for art) and how the fees should be paid. Ms. Bradshaw-Smith agreed to work with the school bank to create and post a list of classes on the Wilson website with requested fees and instructions for making the contributions.

A parent raised the issue of the decrease in funding for Project Lead the Way (PLTW) and how that may affect certain classes and departments at Wilson (Biomed, CTE). Ms. Martin stated that these programs have been funded through a large outside grant to DCPS, and funding for the current year is considerably less than in previous years. Nonetheless, these programs are still well funded relative to other academies at Wilson. Karin Perkins suggested that teachers who are concerned about funding shortfalls could explore the PTSO’s grant program.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 am.

Next meeting October 16, 2018