

LSAT Meeting April 26, 2011
Minutes

1. Student Council representative Emily Oliphant, still in cleats from soccer practice, reported that the Student Council had decided to have a Sock Hop. "We know we are resolute on the Sock Hop," she said resolutely. The Student Council wants to spend money for decorations, refreshments and entertainment but leave \$300-\$500 for next year's council.

2. The LSAT agreed to ask the PTA to change its bylaws to remove a requirement that the PTA coordinate and run the annual election for members of the LSAT. The LSAT would run the elections instead.

3. Principal Norah Lycknell reported that:

--The contractors report that the soccer field will likely not be completed until Sept. 6. But they are planning to have the interior of the existing building completed one week before school begins.

--The contractor will add more, thicker mulch in the new space next to the library.

--Construction delays have not been the fault of the contractor.

--Asbestos mediation inside the current building is complete.

--Construction of the foundation for the new kitchen is beginning.

4. A third-grade parent and university psychologist has asked for Janney to participate in a study on childhood depression and anxiety. The LSAT agreed to establish a policy in which such requests -- studies that may involve student participation -- will be considered by the principal and the LSAT before approval is granted. The principal will be the initial filter of request and the LSAT will make a final decision. The LSAT agreed that any study involving Janney participation would have to be for nonprofit purposes only. Norah will forward the material on the current request to the LSAT for review.

5. Norah reported that the PTA has a budget surplus of about \$270,000 and would like to spend about \$100,000 of that now and hold about \$100,000 in reserve. She reported that some already planned expenditures, including a climbing wall for the new gym and four iPads per classroom (in addition to two already in the school budget).

Plans to allocate some of the PTA surplus to a new garden north of the new playground along Albemarle have been at least temporarily obviated by a commitment from Whole Foods to fund the project.

Other possible PTA expenditures discussed: supplemental outdoor and gym equipment, including ground material for the new Pre K outdoor space, basketball hoops and

soccer goals; library books, electronic and paper; field trips, including a multiday, overnight 5th grade trip to a place like Echo Hill; and meteorological equipment. It was agreed that some of the PTA surplus should be held back for currently unseen furniture, fixtures and other equipment after the renovation is completed.

6. Norah reported that she had been contact with local universities about creating a grant program with some of the PTA surplus that would provide for graduate student paraprofessionals who would be paid a stipend and work at Janney at least part-time during the school year. Norah reported that he had contacted several areas schools and that GW and AU were interested in establishing a program, though possibly not until the 2012-13 school year.

7. Tracy Scarrow provided an update of the status of the Janney Aftercare Working Group. She reported that the group had reached a consensus that Janney Extended Day's proposal to continue as the school's aftercare provider required more evaluation. The group is working in conjunction with JED to develop an action plan, which is expected to be completed by Memorial Day. In the interim, the working group decided to accept applications from outside providers so as to a) better evaluate JED's proposal and b) have additional options for the next school year. Norah reported that she has asked the national nonprofit Aftercare Alliance to examine Janney's request for proposals (RFP) and recommend potential local organizations that might be interested in submitting a proposal. She said she expected to received other responses to the RFP by Memorial Day.

8. Brief report on the work of the Cultural Competency Committee on its drafting of a plan for Janney.

Stefan Fatsis