

**Janney SIT meeting  
March 18, 2008**

In attendance: Mary Osterman, Sherry Ettleson, Karen Langford, Dan Charles, Shellie Wood, Scott Cartland, Andrew Smiles, Claudia Piras, Kirk Rankin, Tawana Franklin, Allison Feeney, Karen Martin

Principal Update: Mr. Cartland provided an update on the Tutoring project, which appears to be going very well—an estimated two-thirds of students afforded an opportunity to have signed up, and three teachers, as well as Mr. Cartland, and 10 parents are serving as tutors.

Mr. Cartland advised that there is little to report on the budget, as there is little guidance as yet from the central office. Mr. Cartland noted that PTA funding has been useful to report in filling needed gaps in the city budgets, particularly when the OTPS funds (Other Than Personnel Services - basically the entire budget for curricular materials, supplies, equipment, furniture, computers, etc.) were reduced by 75% (\$40,000 to \$14,000); PTA funding was made available.

Class configurations: The SIT discussed an array of options for classroom configurations for the 2008-09 school year. In April, surveys were sent home to parents of 4<sup>th</sup> graders to gain their views and input on class configuration options for rising 5<sup>th</sup> graders, including: a) “consolidation” of the entire class of rising 5<sup>th</sup> graders into three classes (with an assumption of up to 28 students per class); and b) “multi-age grouping” (MAG class) in which one of *four* 5<sup>th</sup> grade classes would be split class between 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders. The returned surveys exhibited a strong preference for “consolidation” among rising 5<sup>th</sup> grade parents, rather than a MAG. Some parents pushed for other alternatives – neither consolidation nor a MAG. A discussion ensued on the strengths and weaknesses of MAG alternatives, whether for 4<sup>th</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> grades, or any primary year grades. Related, a variety of options were discussed for securing additional classroom space for 2009/10. It was resolved that: *If Janney is afforded an opportunity to create smaller class sizes based on additional classroom space and/or teacher resources, the configuration should aim to reduce student-teacher ratios for the lower grades (K-3) first.*

Public/Private Partnership: The current state of the proposals and process for responding to the public RFP were discussed. The SIT shared general reservations that each of the three current submissions (LCOR, See Forever, Roadside) were short of our expectations and our hopes for creating more usable space and securing a renovation that meets Janney’s urgent space and accommodation needs. The SIT discussed and edited a letter drafted by the Chair, and moved to accept and endorse this letter for immediate distribution to key stakeholders and decision-makers in the community. (see letter from SIT March 18, 2008, attached).