

Janney SIT Meeting
Wednesday, May 7, 2008

Present: Scott Cartland, Dan Charles, Marijke Gero, Tawana Franklin, Allison Feeney, Sherry Ettleson, Kirk Rankin, Laure Hunter, Malin Kerwin, Claudia Piras, Karen Martin

AGENDA:

Budget Issues

Principal Selection

Janney Modernization

SIT Transition

The Budget

Our meeting began with a detailed analysis and explanation of two documents Scott handed out: the DCPS 08-09 Staffing/Budget Allocations Process, and the Preliminary (5/2/08) 08-09 Budget Allocation for Janney ES (the budget document). Since this is the first budget with a new funding model by DCPS, there was a discussion of the changes and how they affect Janney. Essentially all schools in the DCPS are to receive staffing allocations based on the number of students. The rationale for the new model is to address the problem of smaller schools not funding Art, Music etc. as well as to standardize the funding.

Janney's budget for 08-09 is \$3,656,238.00 based on a projected enrollment of 480 (which is slightly less than our current enrollment). The budget provides for 43 full time employees and 1.71 part time employees. Full and part - time staffing account for all but \$100,000.00 of the budget. In reviewing the Budget allocations for Janney, Scott saw some errors and misallocations for which he has requested changes. His 5 requested changes are attached to the budget document and have been submitted already to DCPS. The changes essentially involve fitting the budgeted amounts to Janney's current staffing levels. Please see the budget document for more details.

Overall the budget is in good shape. Based on Janney's enrollment, DCPS has allocated two more teaching positions than we currently have, That funding level allows Janney, with some modifications, to achieve it's desired staffing in regards to Special Education, additional aides, another custodian, as well as additional instructional support. There was also a brief discussion of the PTA budget in regard to staffing, and the way it dovetails with the DCPS figures.

Under the Budget, no cutbacks are contemplated and there may be funds for an Assistant Principal. The AP position was dropped a few years ago in favor of instructional support. Given the demands of the job, and the anticipated needs of the incoming principal, there was some discussion of whether it may be better for Janney to fill the AP position again. There was also a discussion of whether we would be better off with an additional instructional aide or an additional custodian. The specific trade-offs (administrative vs. instructional) may need to be revisited once Scott's 5 requested changes are processed, which should happen shortly.

Principal Selection

There will be a new principal selection committee that will meet with prospective candidates who are applying to be the new Janney Principal. The entire process is very structured and will be run by DCPS. The selection committee will have an advisory role, and will be made up of the PTA head, the SIT chair, 3 elected parents, a teachers' union rep, a staff representative, and three teachers, and possibly others. It is anticipated that the group will be meeting during the work-day to interview candidates, probably in June. An early start date is obviously desired to prepare over the summer for the upcoming academic year.

Janney Modernization

The proposed public private partnership (PPP), which had seemed moribund, now appears to be resurrected. Although the information is unconfirmed, there has been some talk that the proposed library had some design/zoning issues and cannot be built as quickly as anticipated. The library is therefore back in "play" and it is assumed the Mayor's economic development people will seek revised PPP plans from the development community.

There is still a lack of information regarding DCPS' plans for Janney. No one in DCPS appears willing to confirm anything about the Master Facilities Plan and Janney's place on it. Allan Lew has delayed the issuance of the plan. The capital budget is uncertain. The closure of some DCPS schools and the renovation of the receiving schools is the current focus.

The petition drive by Janney Parents Scott Chaney and Mark Popovich resulted in 350 or so signatures. The signature gatherers report near unanimous support for a new, rebuilt Janney, but a fair amount of uncertainty and concern that the petition results could somehow be used to support a PPP. There will be an upcoming meeting to present the signatures to Mary Cheh. It remains unclear, given the political dimension, how best to advance the objective of rebuilding Janney as soon as possible.

SIT Transition

We offer congratulations to the newly elected student representatives Cheryl Ohlson, Jane Malhotra, and our current PTA-SIT liason Allison Feeny. We also offer our great thanks to outgoing members Claudia Piras, Sherry Ettleson, and the SIT Chair, Dan Charles, for all their hard work and dedication. The new chair, based on a brief follow up discussion between current SIT parent reps will be Kirk Rankin. The SIT will also likely have a community representative in the next term (accepting nominations now). The new term begins over the summer, probably in July. We discussed meeting at someone's home soon to thank departing members and welcome new ones. And the meeting ws adjourned.