

Next Meeting: Tues Dec 16 2008

**SIT Minutes**  
**Nov 25, 2008**

Present: Mary Osterman, Dr Crews, Malin Kerwin, Shellie Wood, Cheryl Olson, Karen Martin, Karen Kalat, Kirk Rankin, Allison Feeney, Andrew Smiles, Jane Malhotra

Student Representative Sarah Thompson was unable to attend but asked that the following information be shared at the meeting: Winter Fair is coming up on Saturday, Dec 6. Student Council will be switching from weekly officer only meetings to monthly full-council meetings.

**Local School Plan Committee**

Chair: Dr Crews; Cheryl Olson, Mary Osterman, Karen Langford, Tawana Franklin, Shellie Wood,

Dr Crews noted that parent and staff surveys are underway. They are designed to provide information for the creation of the Local School Plan (LSP), which all schools must submit to DCPS by Friday, Dec 5, 2008. Some early glitches with the Survey Monkey parent questionnaire had already been fixed today. The results will be shared with the entire SIT through the yahoo group before submission next week for review through email.

The survey was created based on the one found by Shellie that was developed several years ago when Gerry Leape was SIT Chair. Some modifications were made to reflect current conditions at Janney and DCPS. Some discussion ensued regarding signature requirement of all SIT members on the final LSP that would be submitted to DCPS. It was agreed that next week's version will be labeled DRAFT and will only carry signatures from LSP Committee members. A less rushed version will be developed with an internal deadline allowing for more thoughtful input.

Kirk asked that we discuss how committees report back to and involve the whole SIT. Suggestions were made for protocols to follow for a well-functioning committee. Shellie emphasized that the work in subcommittees needs input from the greater body. The whole SIT needs to reconvene to review LSP.

**Security Committee**

Chair: Tawana Franklin; Dr Crews, Karen Kalat, Laure Hunter, Malin Kerwin

Kirk asked if security issues were being addressed. Dr Crews noted that the committee has not yet met, but there was a walk-thru with DCPS Dept of Security. They agreed to add more security cameras and lighting. Sam Yeung came to review as well. Other awaited needs include signage, a monitor at the security desk, and fencing beside Ms Etris' demountable to discourage walk-thrus. Ms Magazine and Mr Hillyer are working on repair of gate at 42<sup>nd</sup> and Albemarle.

A letter was sent from Councilmember Cheh to the DCPS Dept of Security on what is needed. The committee is waiting to hear back. Signage: unclear if they are awaiting wording. David Anderson at the Dept of Security is our point of contact.

**Advocacy Committee (joint with PTA)**

Chair: Jane Malhotra; Kirk Rankin, Andrew Smiles; PTA: Scott Cheney, Jonathan McHugh, Mark Popovich

Jane outlined the advocacy work conducted regarding Janney's facilities. Testimony was submitted to the DC Council stating Janney's facilities issues and asking for an earlier start date for addition and modernization. Sarah Thompson

surveyed the students and student council. A meeting was set up with Councilmember Cheh followed by the walk-thru with Lew. A flyer about Janney's needs was distributed on election day. Jane will resend the flyer by email as earlier was corrupted PDF. The SIT's Sept. statement to the Janney community was presented to the Library Board of Trustees.

Ideas submitted by Janney parents to help end the PPP include a mayor call-in day, a letter to the NW Current, a banner on the fence. Also, scaffolding or balloons could be raised to show height and mass of new building. Some advocacy members preferred to wait until after tonight's final LCOR proposal to move forward with these more active oppositions.

Andrew noted that at the previous SIT meeting, the purpose of the Advocacy Committee was clarified to solidify and advance the adopted position of the Janney SIT to both internal and external stakeholders. The joint committee provides an avenue for the PTA to participate in shaping the message. Karen M explained that the facilities committee's focus would be on modernization and expansion, and the advocacy committee to communicate the school's interests with downtown. Allison noted that when the advocacy committee was created for the PTA, it was designed to present information to Janney parents so that they could advocate with the city individually. Andrew noted that the SIT was more policy focused and the PTA more about fundraising.

#### **Facilities Committee**

Chair: Andrew Smiles; Allison Feeney, Jane Malhotra, Karen Martin, Kirk Rankin

Andrew attended ANC3E meeting, where they issued a statement supporting Cheh and Kwame Brown's letter to the Mayor to end the PPP and go forward with construction of the library. Documents FOIA'd by the ANC reveal meddling by the Deputy Mayor of Education with Janney's placement in the lineup for the Master Facilities Plan, apparently in order to make the PPP a more attractive proposition for the Janney community.

Andrew noted that according to Anthony DeGuzman at DCPS Janney's place in the MFP is likely to be advanced, regardless of the outcome of the PPP. But no promises or stipulations were officially made. The Freedom of Information Act documents obtained by the ANC meant downtown got called on Janney students' needs not being prioritized in the MFP placement according to guiding principles of DCPS assessments. The top five facilities needs were drafted and submitted to Allen Lew's folks and Sam Yeung from his team has been following up to resolve several issues including leaking roof and new door between classrooms for 4<sup>th</sup> Grade/Etris demountable.

The committee has a diversity of strong opinions, there have been missteps and the group is working to function better going forward. The Facilities Committee will 1) Hold a scheduled bi-weekly in-person meeting to which any SIT member is welcome to attend; 2) Send a weekly email update to the entire SIT; 3) Ask that a teacher or staff member join the committee; 4) Use the Facilities yahoo group for all communication; 5) Follow group communication norms: self-monitor your participation; make sure everyone has a chance to participate; discuss ideas, not person; if you make a statement, be ready to clarify/justify; no side conversations; always assume good intent.

#### **Committees Generally**

Kirk noted that the full SIT should model behavior of good communication. Karen K suggested that each committee decide how often it should send updates to whole SIT. Dr Crews said the Local School Plan is a live document that will continue to

be updated throughout the year. We need to announce meetings and have regular communication from the Chair. Shellie noted that the SIT is an advisory committee to the principal, and the subcommittees should not operate as separate entities. Mary emphasized the value of face time over email.

Andrew noted that the SIT decided in September to unconditionally oppose ceding land for a PPP going forward. Allison noted that the position the SIT reached in September has not been revisited. There was continued discussion about how often to revisit a position once a decision has been made, the consensus of the whole SIT regarding the PPP, and individual interpretations of what it meant to withdraw support.

Kirk noted that the Facilities committee has been wrestling with these differences. He restated that DCPS has assured us that the now moved-up Janney addition in 2010 and modernization in 2011 is not dependent on a PPP despite what some may say. LCOR was then invited into the room.

#### **LCOR Presentation on PPP**

Tim Smith of LCOR introduced Sandy Silverman, Jeff (?), both of LCOR, and Matt Troy of the Deputy Mayor for Planning and Economic Development (DMPED). Mr Silverman presented a diagram of the latest plan, and said they knew there was concern about the amount of open space for the school. He said that they would use 14,500 sq ft from the field but that current surface parking is 15,400 square feet. (Note: LCOR based current parking lot size on the area from old photo which included the current lot plus the area now housing two demountable classrooms and a shed, formerly part of the parking lot. The current parking lot is closer to 12,000 to 12,500 square feet.) With parking moved underground, the recovered space could be used differently. The latest plan pushes the building as close to Wisconsin Avenue as possible, while allowing space for the library. There would be 80 feet between Janney school and apartment building, with stories stepping up towards Wisconsin up to nine stories. The two story library would have a similar floor plan to the current design, the exterior would change, and he stated that they have been working with the library architects. He said there could be a soccer field behind Janney but with "tighter sidelines" and room for another small field. None of these field plans are final. All vehicular access would be off Wisconsin Avenue.

Matt Troy said they'd like to maximize the value of the site to spur Janney's expansion and modernization, that the flexibility of funds provided by a prepaid long-term ground lease by the developer would spur the renovation and expansion of Janney, but is contingent on the CIP and MFP. DCPS's Office of Planning and Facilities Management (OPFM) would have ability to move Janney forward and is drafting Janney's ed specs now for an expansion in 2010 and modernization in 2011. The ed specs would come to Janney for the school to "opine on it." OPFM has a list of architects and would give it to Troy and Troy would give it to Janney and LCOR. LCOR could make a charitable contribution to SIT to bring an architect on board to begin preliminary specs. Could have a site plan in February.

Andrew Smiles asked what is the compelling need for surplus Janney land. Troy said it fits with the Mayor's idea of smart, transit-oriented development and that it's not every day that you get a vacant site over the metro to work with. Troy said that the Wis. Ave corridor is greatly underserved and that Tenleytown needs to develop a critical mass of density to see better retail. And it would save the library money and fund Janney's needs. Troy said the mayor said that Janney's move up in the MFP is dependent on the PPP going forward. Troy was also asked about the FOIA'd documents.

**Conclusion**

LCOR left. Discussion followed as to next steps: a meeting with both halves of DCPS - Lew/Facilities and DeGuzman within the next week. Rhee had previously stated simply that DCPS would make a decision that is best for Janney. Clarification on what DCPS intends for Janney is needed. It was decided that we would seek clarification from DCPS, OPEFM, and DMPED about the linkage between the PPP and the 2010 expansion of Janney, and that we would ask DCPS to come to Janney the first week of December to address the issue and explain what their plans are.