

Janney SIT Meeting Minutes
October 21, 2008

In Attendance:

Kirk Rankin, Marijke Gero, Tawanna Franklin, Mary Osterman, Andrew Smiles, Karen Martin, Cheryl Ohlson, Jane Varner Malhotra, Karen Langford, Dr. Crews, Shellie Wood, Laure Hunter, Allison Barnard Feeney, Karen Kalat, Jonathon McHugh

Budget:

Dr. Crews reported that the high achieving grant program that recognized schools for their successes on standardized testing ended. Janney had received a significant portion of its operating budget through this program for the past three years and was anticipating \$100,000 this year.

Sub-Committee Reports

Campus Access and Security:

There is continued concern about the appropriate use of our grounds by older, unaccompanied children. Those violating our rules should be asked to leave. Beyond that, it is difficult to draw a line as to who should be excluded. The suggestion was made that more guidance be provided to Janney's security guard, calling for more active patrolling of the grounds.

It was reported that the playground has been filthy in the mornings for the past couple of weeks. Graffiti and tagging occur after dark when no one else is present. Tagging appears to be on the rise. Increased presence of DCPS security patrols and the DCPD is needed as a deterrent. The security lighting in the back is working, however, there are dark areas where additional lighting is needed.

This Thursday, 11/23/08, Janney is hosting a meeting of representatives of different security organizations including DCPS OSR and DCPD. Dr. Crews will be presenting for Janney and can raise our security concerns and ask for additional assistance from that group.

Local School Plan:

Dr. Crews reported that she attended a full-day Principal's Academy and received a notebook of School Plan information and a full day of instruction on how to develop our School Plan. The first draft of the School Plan is due November 6th. There will be a full-day meeting of School Plan teams at the convention center where the draft plans will be reviewed and revised.

The purpose of the School Plan is to be the driving force behind the school's vision and mission and state how we will move toward AYP. Metrics include evidence of data-driven instruction and parental involvement. We need to structure our goals in the plan to match what we are trying to do. Last year, for instance, we focused on the performance gaps between boys and girls and between white and non-white students.

The focused tutoring program January-June 2008 appeared to produce results but the data would have to be examined to determine if the tutoring was the primary factor. The money for that program was provided by DCPS. The suggestion was made to intensify the effort this year and focus that program on the students who are most likely to benefit.

Dr. Crews has put together a one-page draft of ideas that can be rolled into the School Plan now that we know the desired format. She has a folder containing prior-year school plans for Janney for reference.

Facilities Committee:

The Facilities Committee's primary charge is to communicate the SIT's stated position against a PPP. It has a very narrow band of authority for discussing any new concepts or ideas related to the PPP. The Facilities committee will rely on the rationale provided to the Janney community in September (e.g. loss of confidence in the PPP process as led from downtown, reduction of longer-term need based on 6th graders moving on, ability to manage our growth through Pre-K numbers, willingness to wait until 2014 for an addition). The Facilities committee may offer alternatives to the SIT for meeting some of Janney's most urgent needs sooner and work with the Advocacy Committee to request specific relief (additional bathrooms, roof replacement) in advance of 2013/2014.

The Facilities Committee met with Eric Scott and Matt Troy of the EOM immediately prior to this meeting. They reported that they have a revised plan that

- eliminates the curb cut from Albemarle Street.
- estimates no net loss of green space (a net gain of 2000SF)
- moves building mass toward Wisconsin Avenue leaving 80' clear between the school and the residential building
- reduces building height to 7 stories closest to Janney
- provides no parking under library so library could open 3-6 months earlier than the residences
- provides three levels of underground parking that includes 50 spaces for Janney.

The Facilities Committee was granted permission to monitor the City's efforts toward a PPP and provide feedback on the evolving plans. At this point, Janney is the only stakeholder in the community that has not provided input on LCOR's design. Having such input provided by a subcommittee with no authority to revise the SIT's stated position is a pragmatic compromise in the event that the City proceeds with the project without Janney support. The Facilities Committee will not have the authority to negotiate, only critique. The Facilities Committee will monitor progress and report back to the SIT for decision making.

Some staff-raised facilities issues:

- Not only are student bathrooms a health issue, there is only one adult-sized toilet in the staff lounge and there is often a queue.
- The original demountable is aging and nearing the end of its life span.

- The newest demountable needs a door between the two classrooms so that the teachers can have immediate access to another adult in the case of emergency or to help cover the class in the case of a short absence.
- The roof has leaked since it was installed and annual attempts to repair have all failed. With the onset of the rainy season and winter ice buildup, seepage and ceiling decay will resume.

Advocacy Committee:

The Advocacy Committee will partner and liaise with the PTA Advocacy Committee. The Advocacy committee will focus in the near term on communications strategies to advance Janney's place in the queue in the mayor's Master Facilities Plan. The public comment period on the MFP closes October 24th. The Advocacy Committee may take on additional issues such as budget, as relevant for the SIT.

One last note:

Typically schools that are polling places are closed for Presidential elections but DCPS schools will be open this year. The volume of adult traffic in the school is expected to be a major disruption and potential safety issue. The staff has created plans to mitigate the impact and safeguard the students but would prefer for the school to be closed.