

MSAAC General Body Meeting

Meeting Minutes

Date: March 18, 2015

Call to Order by MSAAC Chairman, Zerell Johnson-Welch (7:03 PM)

Adjournment: 9:10 PM

Agenda Items

- Opening & Welcome
- Acknowledge LCPS Administrators, School Board members, Teachers, and Staff
- Minutes- March
- Joint SEAC and MSAAC discussion
- Nominations announcements
- This is My Brave
- Question and Answers
- Events and Announcements
- Wrap Up and Adjourn

Welcome

- Opened meeting with a welcome from MSAAC Chair
- Representatives include LCPS Administration, Principals, Assistant Vice Principals, Teachers, School Board Members, and Parent/Delegates
- Jodi Folta, SEAC, Chair remarks on how SEAC/MSAAC interests overlap, thanking MSAAC for the joint meeting

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- March 4th meeting minutes presented to the General Body and approved into the record

Nominations

- MSAAC must form a nominating committee; deadline of intent to run 4/8/15; candidate intros on 4/15/15; elections on 5/20/15

Meeting Activities

1. Dr. Michael Richards, Chief of Staff remarks re: his experience/background with "at risk" students & accountability; thanked leadership of MSAAC & SEAC for their vital role to support the collective vision (Dr. Williams strategic vision 20/20) which is central not an addendum; noted he believed in the power of community
2. Jennifer Marshall, Founder & Executive Director, This Is My Brave (thisismybrave.org; @thisismybrave on Instagram), talked about her struggle that lead to the fruition of This is My Brave in 2013; showed a video on such as well as mission of the not-for-profit organization being that of ending the stigma surrounding mental illness through storytelling as storytelling/talking about it takes away the power of it (the stigma); that mental illness doesn't discriminate; she noted 4m people with mental illness, 1/2 are diagnosed or have it before age 14; 20% receive treatment/services;

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suicide is 3rd leading cause of death ages 15-24; minorities are less likely to reach out or receive care & there is less research on mental illness for minorities; there was a pilot program in October at Briar Woods HS resulted in good feedback but they need funding; HS initiative targets teens, provides tips for coping/managing stress; they have a show in DC this year to present a few storytellers (2 presented tonight), tix on sale now; they have a psychiatrist on Board of directors, Dr. Mark Komrad, he wrote, "You need Help"

3. Gabbi Sulzer, age 17, storyteller presented her essay "Below the Surface", essay described her story of being raped at a very young age, bullied for 5 years (9-14), folks telling her what does she have to worry about she's pretty & popular, etc; she considered suicide; she has a video on youtube; she listened to a comedian regarding "confessions of a depressed comic", she gained strength, "my mental illness describes/defines my journey but doesn't define me."
4. Laurie Chulson, storyteller presented her essay of her 24 year old son Nathaniel a substance abuser, depressed, eventually committed suicide; she noted would/should have doesn't matter; no shortcuts to healing; grief is love that has no where to go; you matter, your life matters-you deserve to be here; let someone know, don't suffer silently; with hope & awareness, we don't stand alone
5. Dr. Mary Kealy, Asst. Superintendent, Department of Pupil Services introduced herself & her team (Dr. Suzanne Humenez, Mr. John Lody, Ms. Jeanine Cummings); all 3 spoke on prevention & intervention models in supporting the whole child, services to address the social, building social & emotional resiliency skills; this department doesn't tier/rank students, rather provide tiered/layered services; PBIS (positive behavioral interventions & supports) is part of broader framework; 100% in all schools now, model/layout may look different in each school; 1st layer of which 80% of all students respond to universal methodologies; 2nd layer (early intervention) is groups for students not really responding to tier 1; layer 3 is ~5% of students require more intensive intervention, an individualized behavior plan, counseling, etc; suicide intervention/assessment may happen in tier 2 or 3; LCPS does not offer psychotherapy rather refer to county agencies & private providers; a support team assigned to each school; discussed that each PBIS school has to have clear, defined expectations that all students/teachers know (teach, model & reinforcement are all key) as a whole school approach; consistency is critical; discipline procedures (classroom vs to admin), where are behavioral issues occurring; all schools trained & implementing
6. DPS presented on depression awareness/suicide prevention using ACT (acknowledge, care, tell), encourage peer based intervention/peer ambassadors (trained to be good listening help & go to admin, volunteer, pilot of peer ambassadors in ES (already in HS); discussed in 9th grade HPE classes
7. DPS presented on prevention from the beginning, the 4th 'r' (reading, writing, arithmetic, resiliency building) from ES up using restorative practices (tier 1, problem solving approach, empathy; tier 2, circles/groups; tier 3, conference for all levels as an alternative to suspension)

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8. DPS presented on substance abuse prevention services; parent info sessions monthly (8th/10th grade for all schools), can provide individual treatment; volunteer drug/alcohol assessment (tier 2); violation of drug/alcohol policy---Douglass School for 3 days (tier 3); education/support groups in schools (individual, family)
9. DPS presented on bullying prevention---school wide; collaborative efforts; video produced by stone bridge sca "Beautiful" (video didn't run because of internet, may play at beginning of next meeting)

Q/A

1. How as parents do we help? Allow student to struggle in a supportive productive way to identify own skills/strengths & how to use them; use specific positive reinforcement; tell them its ok to need support that we all have our struggles; we as parents keep in mind that kids worry about parents stress levels
2. What tools provided to instructors? Classroom environments need to be aligned w/school wide, needs improvement & consistency; universally, PBIS has respect as a behavioral expectation
3. Parent noted that depression & need for discussed pupil services start in MS as well, requested funding for that initiative as well. Also, how is admin handling huge discrepancies noting consistency & reliability = good outcomes? Team recommended approach same as in classroom; 4-5 tools fidelity tools used to measure implementation, additional support is available through DPS as needed/requested
4. Parent noted 3 kids with different neurological issues & different outcomes noting 9th grade is too late; negative response. Team noted no sanctions for schools not asking for help, external & internal coaching for each school is available; brainstorm, encouraged to ask for help; sharing collaborative approach is best
5. Parent revisited inconsistency in implementation, etc, is this part of their performance evaluation? how much time given to correct? DPS performs annual PBIS evaluation; no school persistently "yellow"; teachers/students need to know expectations; DPS looks at big picture; schools need to also help each other; 1st year of 100% implementation

Announcements/Events

- Tom Reed- budget looks to be accepted in full; however, not ready to discuss with board of supervisor & school board about what to cut, if necessary
- Dr. Hough, who spoke at 3/4/15 meeting, with the topic of "Cultural Competency"; will be back April 18 to speak further; prompted attendees to write down questions for Dr. Hough for the April meeting
- April 18, 2015, MSAAC Achievement Fair and Symposium - Tuscarora High School, Leesburg- Volunteers Needed
- This is My Brave show, tickets on sale, 5/17/15, 4pm, Arlington

Action Items

- Email the MSAAC Secretary at dcaulk@modalinc.com with your email address so that

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you can be added to the MSAAC email list

- Stay up to date via:
 - Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/loudounmsaac>
 - MSAAC LCPS web site: <http://www.lcps.org/Page/1494>
 - Email list