BLT Minutes
5/18/10
3:30pm – 5:00pm

Attendees
Bev Clonch, Kathy Bledsoe, Lisa Bogen, Phil Crocker, Bobby Mullins, Melissa Denke, Lisa Reeves, Linda Cutler, Margaret Bolger, Shirley Rybock, Carrie Wheeler, Mike Howard, Rich Conner, Sue Allen, Patrick Johnson, Robert Vaughn, Kimball Mullins, Lyon Terry, Elizabeth Hester, Julie Luke, Corrie Kahn, Michelle Gonzalez, Maureen Mastrobattista, Nicole Ashford, Danella Anderson, Cheri Hargis, Amy Efroymson, Phyllis Rosen, Heather Needham

Minutes
Bobby moved to approve minutes for April. Seconded by Phil.

Student Placement
Sue Allen attended the meeting to discuss the Spectrum program at Lawton. Many other parents attended in a show of support for her. She stated that in addition to the parents in attendance, she has talked with at least 9 additional families who are unhappy with the current self-contained model. Sue prefaced the conversation by stating that she has a child in the Spectrum program as well as one who is not in the program and feels that she can represent both points of view. Sue chose Lawton because it was represented as an "inclusion" school with a blended learning model when she toured a number of years ago. She is disappointed with the current self-contained Spectrum program. Her disappointments include how decisions about the Spectrum program have been made, inconsistencies over classroom placement across grades, and inconsistencies about the Spectrum program and Lawton Elementary on Seattle Public School's website. Sue asked that the BLT consider surveying the school community to determine if there is consensus around this issue. Kathy stated that she didn't believe that it is the right time to survey parents. She said she wasn't sure what we would do with the results. She reiterated that any changes to the Spectrum program would have to be presented to the school board.

Robert Vaughn was in attendance per Kathy Bledsoe's invitation. Bob manages the advanced learning program for Seattle Public Schools. He offered some background on Lawton's Spectrum program. He stated that in the mid 90s, Larry Jacobs, Lawton's principal, requested that Lawton be established as a Spectrum school. Bob stated that Lawton's Spectrum program serves the McClure service area and that the goal for all Spectrum programs is consistency. He also mentioned the ALO program as an alternative model for advanced learning. Bob addressed some of Sue's concerns. He stated that the Spectrum program has changed over the years to meet the needs of students. He discussed the programs diversity by pointing out that 4% of kids in the special education program are also in the Spectrum program. He agreed that SPS could tighten up language on the website to clarify the program.

Many other issues related to the Spectrum program were also discussed including special education, ALO schools in the cluster, and staff sentiment. Phil suggested that a letter be sent to the community addressing this issue. Patrick Johnson, the instructional director for our region, agreed that this is an appropriate response. Robert Vaughn agreed. The BLT will send out a letter to the Lawton community addressing the Spectrum issue.

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Revision to School Plan
Kathy stated that the BLT is the chartering body for work on the school's strategic plan. Kathy and Phil are spearheading this effort. They have proposed 4 focus areas including balanced day, school culture, family engagement, and community partnership, which are based on long standing themes at Lawton. They are interested in feedback from the staff as well as the BLT. Kathy will be meeting with the staff in late May to discuss this topic. The goal is to complete the strategic planning process prior to the principal change in the fall. Once staff input and BLT review/approval of the draft are completed, Kathy and Phil will insert these focus areas into this year's C-SIP. If anyone is interested in joining this BLT subgroup, talk to Kathy or Phil. Margaret motioned to move ahead with process. Lisa B. seconded this.

Enrollment
Kathy stated that the school enrollment for next year is expected to be full at 432 students compared to 424 this year. We will have 8 more kids next year but 2 fewer classrooms resulting in larger class sizes. She currently has the kindergarten list and is in the process of contacting families about their intention to attend. Once the kindergarten list is finalized, a letter will go out to those families. Lisa Bogen mentioned that most families with an older sibling at Lawton who do not live in the reference area were offered a spot at Lawton for their incoming kindergartner.

Computer Lab
Kathy stated that Lawton would have a new Mac computer lab next year. The new equipment will be a valuable resource for teachers both for testing purposes as well as for projects and instruction. Kathy is in the process of space planning for the lab with district representatives. Patrick shared that the MAP test provides instantaneous results giving teachers information about where students fall as well as interventions that should take place to keep students advancing. Kathy made it clear that time in the lab will not be considered PCP time. The teachers will have the ability to incorporate the lab into their instruction. Patrick recommended additional resources to help with technology service issues. Kathy stated that SSIA might be a resource to help manage our lab.

Lost & Found
Kathy stated that the lost & found pile is huge. She thanked Annie Hauge for coordinating the management of this problem. Lawton is establishing a monthly donation process for lost and found items to reduce the storage needs in the cafeteria.

School Safety
Lisa Reeves provided an update on school safety as a member of Lawton's safety committee. The 3 main issues discussed included the orientation of substitutes, visitor sign in/name badges and sexual predators. Kathy stated that substitutes are provided a folder from the teacher that outlines classroom issues. This information is unique to each teacher and does not contain safety information about the building. Lisa also discussed the issue of visitor sign in and name badges. The BLT agreed that all visitors should be directed to the

front doors. It was suggested that signage be made for all doors directing visitors to enter via the main entrance. Lisa R. researched the carbon copy badges and found that they are quite expensive. The issue of sexual predators was also mentioned. Kathy stated that the school receives a letter from the Seattle Police if a registered sexual predator moves into the area. The notification is posted for staff. Patrick suggested that the safety committee discuss these issues and develop a protocol. The next safety meeting is Tuesday, May 25th.

5th Grade Camp
Lisa R is developing a process for Islandwood. She is recommending that notification be sent to 5th grade families in October with permission slips, payment plan information and scholarship requests. This will enable the fundraising effort to begin early in the year. It will also help the PTA budget for camp scholarship needs. Lisa R is also examing historical and current situations relative teacher compensation for camp. She has researched how other schools address compensatation for teachers for overnight camp. This year's compensation is funded out of Kathy's discretionary budget. It is not a line item in the school budget. The decision to compensate teachers for overnight camp sits with the principal. She suggested that Lawton develop a policy around this issue. Lisa and Kathy are working on a school policy on how to manage 5th grade camp in the future.

Summer Programs
Kathy has been working with staff to develop a summer program for teacher-identified bridge students. The goal of the summer program would be to help students stay on track for next year. This program would not be open to all students. Currently about 42 students have been identified. Kathy stated that she is exploring a partnership with SSIA to manage this program. There are 2 staff members interested in teaching this summer. The cost will be approximately $250 per student and the program would be run during the month of July.

Margaret is developing a summer learning resource for families. She has been working with Kathy Dial to aggregate both web based resources as well as workbooks available for purchase. The goal is to have the resources available to families prior to the end of the school year.

Action Items
- Bev and Kathy send a letter to the school community addressing the Spectrum program – end of May
- Kathy and Phil meet with staff to discuss the strategic plan and the additional focus areas – end of May
- Kathy send a welcome letter to all incoming kindergarten families – end of May
- Margaret finalize the summer learning resource for families – mid June

Next BLT Meeting, June 15, 2010, 3:30-5:00pm

Revised by Margaret Bolger, 5/31/10, 6/10/10
Submitted by Margaret Bolger, 5/26/10