



MINUTES

Maury Elementary

Date | time 6/9/2016 6:00 PM |

Misc. Presentations or Introductions

LSAT Voting: JR Ford noted that Local School Advisory Team voting would occur (via paper ballot) until 6:30 pm. Running for the four (4) positions were Susan Wall, Amber Gove, Erica Martin and David Anspacher.

Exec Board Announcements

Thank you Elsa! Shannon von Felden thanked Elsa for her work and leadership over the past two years as PTA President, all of which was handled with grace.

Bylaw Changes: A voice vote was held approving the proposed changes to the PTA Bylaws. The changes were previously circulated on the listserve and included 1) clarifying that the PTA President's duties include serving as the PTA representative to the LSAT; 2) clarifying and streamlining the list of standing PTA committees; and, 3) requiring an audit at the end of each Treasurer's time in office.

Budget for SY2016-2017: A voice vote was held approving the Budget for next year. Shannon von Felden noted that the Budget had been presented in last month's meeting for review. Adam Hais circulated information earlier this week on the listserve detailing how the discretionary fund had been used during SY2015-2016.

Space Camp Presentation: Amy Wheedon discussed the 5th Grade's June 2016 trip to Space Camp in Alabama. The class raised \$35,000 to fund their trip through Babysitting Nights, bake sales and several other endeavors. Maila, Allison, Hazel and Bryce each shared their experiences. The students' favorite activities included the Multi-Axis Chamber, Flight Simulator and the food! The Flight Simulator allowed each student to be assigned a different role in the team and work together to launch a rocket and bring it home while working together to solve a problem which was thrown at them. JR Ford stated that it was wonderful to see the children excel in this experience.

Principle Carolyne Albert-Garvey participated in the trip and will be working on a program to increase the educational value of this already great STEM experience. She will be working Amanda Menzter to create an eight (8) session series for the next 5th grade class (each lasting 30 minutes) which will allow the students to have a broader knowledge base of space travel fundamentals prior to the trip to help further enhance their trip. She noted that the trip is very intense with 12 hours of programmed activities a day. CAG stated that the facility is full of children and chaperones and very secure. Parents of the rising 5th Grade class have expressed interest in continuing Space Camp and a meeting will be held at a later date to continue discussions. Amy Wheedon has offered to share her experiences and lessons learned with the next set of families.

Committee and Teacher Announcements

Grants: Granetta Coleman presented and is the new Grants Committee Chair. The committee secured two grants in the Spring CHCF round. The committee obtained a \$2,000 grant for Second Step for the Early Childhood Education Program. We also were awarded a \$2,000 grant for the Prime Time Reading Program which will be run by Ms. Marks for ECE.

Fundraising: Franny Decker report that we met our goal for this year which was \$140,000. To date we have raised.....\$141,124! Yay! This number does not include the remaining bake sales and T-Shirt sale. We have been very successful because of Maury families. Thank you!

We are still looking for a parent to run Maury at the Market for next year. Several people who led committees this year have already sign on to assist next year. For example, Kenyon Weaver has volunteered to handle Sponsorships. We are also looking for a volunteer to take on gift management and one to be a volunteer coordinator. We are asking for people to please consider taking on this important task. In the past, committee chairs had less help, now you can be secure in knowing there is a large team of people ready to help.

Kenyon Weaver passed on some information about his experience as Maury at the Market Chair last year. Chairing Maury at the Market is really about school spirit. You have a lot of people working with you. The job of the chair is to know what has to be done, what is done, and working with hyper-competent parents. Kenyon encourages you to consider this role.

Yard Sale. The Maury Yard Sale is scheduled for September 24, 2016. If you have items, especially high priced items, please hold on to them through the summer.

SIT: Max Kieba provided an update on SIT.

Short term issues: We are going to be one classroom short for next year. Therefore, the staff decided to move Think Tank to the current staff lounge. The staff lounge will move to the current Parent Resource Room. The additional 2nd grade class will be located in the current Think Tank space. The items in the current Parent Resource Room will be relocated to an undetermined location or place in storage. Elizabeth Nelson has been brainstorming possible storage solutions for the items in the Parents Resource Room.

Long Term Issues: The SIT Committee is having a very difficult time receiving information regarding the SIT process. The SIT Committee has sent a letter to DCPS and DGS outlining its concerns regarding the process and recommendations made about Maury. At this time the scenarios include only a 1 room gain for Maury post renovation which is wholly inadequate. Max Kieba will forward information via the listserve sent to DGC and DCPS outlining concerns. The SIT Committee is very close to issuing a FOIA request in order to obtain additional information regarding the planning process for Maury's scheduled renovations and notified local DCPS and DC Council of its intent to elevate the issue due to lack of response and information. The SIT Committee has repeatedly sought information through other means unsuccessfully.

Hospitality/Letter from Angela Caudle: PTA Aide Angela Caudle sent a thank you card and note to be read to the PTA. The note read: "To the PTA Committee, parents, staff. Thank you for your generosity and your appreciation. Words can't express how thankful I am for all the love and support that you have shown throughout this school year. Love, Angela Caudle"

School Supplies: Don't forget to Order your school supplies. Supply lists are also available at the same site if you want to shop on your own.

Capital Pride Parade: DCPS has a loosely organized group participating in the Capital Pride Parade on Saturday June 11th; all are welcome to join. Heather Bonome will send out additional details on the listserve. Generally, kickoff is at 4:30 around Dupont Circle. It is easy to access via the D6 Bus. Heather's family has participated for a couple of years and it is a lot of fun. You can walk the parade route in about 30-45 minutes and she brings candy to throw to the crowd. It is an easy trip back from 14th street on the 90 or 92 Buses. This year Heather's husband will be carrying a really large flag, so keep your eyes out for him!

Additional Exec Board Update

Help in the front office: Thanks to everyone who has been able to volunteer and help in the front office. It is hard work and very appreciated in Ms. Bell's absence. Shannon suggested that all parents should volunteer at some point to get a real understanding of all the activity which occurs every day; it is really hard work!

Principal's Update

SIT: Please support your PTA SIT volunteers and offer them a pat on the back. CAG emphasized that this has been a very frustrating experience because the committee will wait for answer for months only to receive unresponsive answers. Maury has displayed stellar and professional behavior during this process as a community. Unfortunately, it has not worked. After everything the SIT Committee has done, at this point we are now getting unresponsive communications which are insulting to the community. Our parents and committee have responded gracefully to DCPS and DGS. But at this point, we are rejecting all the plans proposed for Maury. The plans do not meet our needs. Under the proposed plans, we will be out of space on day one after the renovation. We are standing firm and rejecting the plan. It does not work.

Staffing: We had very good retention this year. As previously provided on the listserve, only 4 people are leaving. Ms. Nellie is not returning from maternity leave, Ms. Hipps' move made her commute unsustainable, Ms. Macek the reading teacher received her dream job of a coaching position for an inclusion model program, and Ms. Ford is leaving classroom teaching after 5 years of leading our STEM program through inquiry based learning.

Think Tank will now be led by Amanda Mentzer who has vast experience as both a civil engineer and classroom teacher. She is back to leading a classroom after taking off some time to be with her children, who are now at Maury. Last year she worked with Ms. Wolfe. Vanessa Ford also intends to collaborate with Ms. Mentzer on lots of work on the new gardens.

Ms. Mitchell will cover for Ms. Sanghvi when she begins maternity leave. Ms. Sanghvi will transition from 2nd grade to be the reading teacher. We will have a new 2nd grade teacher. Additional new staff information was sent out on the listserve.

Social and Emotional Learning: Next year we will be focusing on social and emotional learning, growing from the models we currently apply. Maureen Shove-Brown, Laura White and others have been studying 4 main curricula and will be making a final recommendation. CAG is concerned about the impact of social media on our kids. The longer you can postpone cell phones, the better. In school, we can directly see the impact of phones and social media on our students. A cell phone policy will be forthcoming.

New Math Program: We will still be using Singapore Math as the primary program for K-2. It will be secondary for 3/4/5. The Eureka Company will be publishing a program based on the Engage NY Math Program. This will be our primary math program for 3/4/5 who will still use Singapore Math as a secondary resource. The new program is 100% aligned with Common Core.

Enrollment: Due to staffing in the front office, we do not have enrollment statistics at this time. Various staff have stepped up and are helping accept enrollment paperwork, but it takes time to get the information entered into the system. Also due to staffing issues, it is very likely that no one will be in the office most days in July to accept enrollment paperwork. If you have not enrolled for next year, please do so now or before school ends for the summer.

Confusious Group Grants: CAG and Ms. Wang were both awarded grants to attend 2 weeks of training this summer in China. They will be attending different sessions. Other DC schools represented include George Mason and Hardy.

Wrap Up: It has been a very interesting year with lots of fantastic things happening. Thank you to all those who served our school and community!

Assistant Principal: We have hired a new Assistant Principal. David Frieble will join us on June 27, 2016. He is a master at teacher supervision, math and writing the reports required by DCPS. This will allow CAG time to focus on other needs within the school community and we are all very excited for him to start. Ms. Rabiah will be full time at Maury next year! Patrick Koontz will take the role of Manager of Strategy and Logistics at Maury; an operations role. Think of Patrick as Assistant Principal for Operations and Assistant Principal Frieble as having a focus on content and quality for teachers. CAG looks forward to connecting with the community.

Questions:

Q: Should we be waiting for enrollment confirmation?

A: No, unless we call you, you are ok.

Q: What were the final numbers on the PK3/4 Waitlists?

A: Not sure of numbers right now. But there was no movement on the PK3 list and very little 4 or 5 spots on PK4.

We did a new family orientation for ECE in April.

LSAT Election Results

The election results were announced. The new LSAT representatives are Amber Gove, Erica Martin, David Anspacher, and Susan Wall.

The PTA will be asking for additional volunteers to lead committees in the Fall!

In Attendance

Principal Carolyn Albert-Garvey, Erica Martin, Amber Gove, Kirstin Erge, Ari Bevacqua, Susan Wall, Granetta Coleman, Antonio Evans, Emily Martin, Amanda Mentzer, Emily Paterson, Kaheri Gyenuame for Trameece Jeffries, Britt Stuart, Shannon von Felden, Adam Hais, Max Kieba, JR Ford, Donny Kirsch, Sheri Johnson, Elsa Huxley, Shannon Warren, Kristina Vidal, George Blackmon, Amy Weedon, Angelique Sanders, JR Sanders, Krzysztof Wozniak, Diane Douglas, Heather Bonome, Kenyon Weaver, Sandra George, Franny Decker, Sarah Hais

Next Meeting

See you in the new school year! 9/15 at 6:00 pm. Multipurpose room.

Upcoming Events

June

14 Grade Promotion 9:30

15 Kindergarten Celebration 10:00

16 Whole school morning meeting

16 Last Day of Polite Piggy's

17 End of Term-Last Day of School (students dismissed at 12:15)

27 First day of summer school

July

4 Fourth of July Holiday Capitol Hill Community Independence Day Parade

9 am, gather at/near the bridge near 8th & I SE

29 Last day of summer school