



MINUTES

Maury Elementary

Date | Time 9/18/2014 6:00 PM |

Principal Carolyne Albert Garvey

- Great school opening -- Kudos!
- **School Boundaries:** Both Mayoral candidates have indicated that they would revisit this so we're not going to worry about it too much until after election.
- **Class size:** We've exceeded our target (we are now at 368) budget goal was 362. Budget will not be problematic (which is why it is important to meet or exceed targets).
- **Emergency school plans:** DC Gov has a plan -- once it is tightened up, it will be distributed to families. (Our home base is Minor if we ever needed to evacuate)
- **Reading Logs:** There is a strong correlation between reading levels and amount of time spent reading so it is really important to encourage your kids to read and to fill out reading logs -- if you don't have one, ask your child's teacher, or look to the listserv where it will be uploaded soon.
- **Singapore Math** is hosting conference here in DC on Oct 16th. They will be bringing representatives to Maury (since we are the District school most loyal to the program) They will visit classrooms - meet with staff etc.
- **School Supplies:** We had some issues with the process this year. Next year we'll offer three options: 1) click on classroom list and have it shipped to the school, 2) customize list, or 3) just pull up list from the website and shop yourself elsewhere (and we'll start earlier next year).
- **Yahoo Calendar:** All events have been entered on the calendar on the Maury Listserv, but there have been some problems with Yahoo's Calendar feature. We do have a printed calendar. It went home with the PTA packet in the first Tuesday folder and it is also available in the main office. *[I've also attached it to this PDF]*

- **Yard Sale.** The Maury yard sale will be Saturday, September 27th. Please donate gently used items and please drop off BEFORE or AFTER school hours -- we also need lots of help before during and after -- you can sign up on the listserv or contact Wendy Putnam.
- **Walk to School Day.** Walk to school day will be Wednesday, October 8th -- Meet at Lincoln Park at 7:30am. There will be some great give-aways/ food. Special guests will be there. It's lots of fun -- Kids really enjoy it.

- **Family Fitness Night** will be October 23 from 6-7pm. Representatives will in attendance from Vida Fitness, Capitol Hill bikes, Capital City Karate, Yoga, food vendors, and many more. Really exciting stuff-- Info will be coming home soon in a Tuesday folder. It will have a World Series theme -- There will be raffle with cool prizes.
- **Space Camp.** 5th graders are fundraising for a space camp trip. The cost is between \$600-\$800 per person and we are expecting 30 people. Fridays they will be selling crafts and popsicles -- if you have other ideas for fundraising please speak with Vanessa Ford.
- **Roots of Empathy.** 4th grade will continue the roots of empathy program -- If you're not familiar check out website (<http://www.rootsofempathy.org/>) -- They strive to give kids a better understanding of empathy. Baby Teacher -- babies actually come in the classroom. DCASS scores from the two classes that took part in the program were interestingly highest in school. There is a great article in the Washington Post that highlights Maury's participations in the program:
http://www.washingtonpost.com/local/education/dc-classrooms-welcome-babies-in-effort-to-teach-empathy/2014/06/01/3b799610-dd2d-11e3-bda1-9b46b2066796_story.html
- **SOS.** Support Our Schools campaign started at Maury 5 or 6 years ago. Every year we focus on something important to fund (in the past we've funded Think Tank and Literacy Labs and this year we feel it is most important to focus on providing aides for all of the upper grades. Our goal is to raise 25K by the end of October. If you have questions, please contact amywheedon@verizon.net
- **PTA Membership.** If you haven't turned in your membership forms, please fill them out and turn them in as soon as possible. If you need a form, they are available in main office or they can be downloaded from website. <http://mauryelementary.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/08/Maury-PTA-Welcome-Packet-FINAL-VERSION.pdf>
- **Volunteer!** – Maury is such a fantastic community in large part to the amazing volunteers. No skill is too small. We can find all kinds of ways to use your talents. You can turn PTA forms into the lockbox marked PTA behind Officer Washington's desk in the main lobby.
- **Box Tops.** Be sure to check your cereals, soups, cake mixes etc for "Box Tops for Education." Each box top raises \$0.10 for the school and can add up quickly. Place your box tops in the accordion file hanging on the wall behind Officer Washington's desk in the main lobby.
- **Room Parents.** We still have a few spaces that need to be filled. Our goal is to have at least one room parent per class including specials. There is a separate listserve for room parents, so if you're a room parent and you're not on that list, shoot an email to RJ (ronmford@gmail.com). Some teachers who still need room parents include: Ms. Fox, Ms. Fitzpatrick, Mr. Rogers.
- **Sign up for listserv!!!** Its a great way to get info and communicate quickly -- If you are currently only receiving the daily digest, you might consider switching to individual emails to stay up to date.
https://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/maury_elementary/info

Fall Festival: Heather Schoell will take the lead on organizing this event that will take place on Saturday, October 19th. Please contact Heather if you are interesting in volunteering at this fun event.

Fundraising: Talk to Wendy Putnam if you are interested in Fundraising. Maury at the Market is our biggest fundraiser (brought in 70-80K last year). We need a lot of support. It will be March 28th at Eastern Market.

Grants: See Donny Kirsch if you are interested in grant writing.

Hospitality: No one is the lead on it yet. We need volunteers for this committee.

Middle schools: Heather Schoell (IB (International Baccalaureate Info session Sept 23rd at Elliott Hine)

School Improvement: Scott Douglas is leading this year. This is the committee to join if you want to make your voice heard about our renovation/addition

Teacher Appreciation: This used to be part of hospitality, but is now its own separate group this year. Contact Heather Bonome if you are interested in volunteering.

Winter Dance: This will be held in February and will be a 5th grade Fundraiser.

Carolyne Albert-Garvey, Elsa Huxley, Emily Paterson, Adam Hais, Jessica Gardner, Annie Perezchia Wood, Antonia Herzog, Michelle Phipps-Evans, Antonio Evens, Hal Connolly, Kim Corbin, Jen Fernandez, David Bibo, Erin Bibo, Kenyon Weaver, Amanda Mentzer, Leigh Nolan, Kristen Gustafson, Anne McFadden, Bryan George, Heather Schoell, Emily Biondi, Jade Spradley, Sandra George, Liz Twarog, Latreece Wade, Jennifer Walsh, Ailena Mayo-Mills, Amanda Edwards, Becky McGeehan, Clare Dougherty, Scott Douglas, Chris Mullins, Dan Mullins, Linda F. Whittel, Vanessa Ford, Christina Porche, Emily Martin, Cody Rice, Jean Kohanek, Heather Bonome, Katie Durcan, Janel Barsi, Ashan Benedict, Susie Gorden, Sarah Alcorn, Brian Alcorn, Kim Longfield, Dinkar Mokadam, Sarah Hais, Brooke Jamison, Sonja Walti, Jennifer Hayes, Kirstin Erfe, Rebecca Hipps, Carly Fox, Shannon McMahan, Lindsay Raymond, Darrell Jones, Gwen Jones, Brad Greenfeld, Lousie Yinug, Falan Yinug, Sam Huxley, Amy Weedan, Chris McIntire, Gillian Penswick, Nate Martin, Erica Martin, Shauna Steele, Staci Walkes, Linda Samuel, Carine Cannon, Wendy Putnam, Angelique Dorazio-Sanders, Adina Wadsworth, Joe Weedon, April Hahn (Lange), Diane Douglas, Amber Grove, Contessa Riggs, Stefan Hankin, Chris Copetas, Adrienne Alcartara, Aaron Chakrey, Paul B. Bevanl, Shannon Warren.

10/16/2014 6:00 PM, Maury Multipurpose Room

2013-2014 Maury School Calendar – *Keep for your records.*

Please use this calendar as reference for the many events to enhance your experience at Maury. We ask that you volunteer at events this year to add value to our Maury Community. Please note that DCPS may change Professional Development or other dates due to inclement weather.

August

28 Back to School Night 6:30

September

1 Labor Day Holiday – school closed

9 Room Parent Orientation 7:50-8:30 am

18 New Family meet and greet with PTA Exec Board 5:30

18 PTA meeting 6:00

27 Maury Yard Sale

October

8 National Walk to School Day

10 Professional Development Day – no school for students

13 Columbus Day Holiday – school closed

16 PTA meeting 6:00

18 Fall Fair

23 Family Fitness Night 6:00

31 Book Character Parade 10:30

31 End of Term 1 – Students dismissed at 12:15pm

November

4 Picture Day

6 Literacy Night 6:00

10-14 Fall Book Fair

10 Parent-teacher Conference Day - no school for students

11 Veterans Day Holiday – school closed

20 PTA meeting 6:00

27-28 Thanksgiving Day Holiday - no school for students

December

2 Open House 9:00-10:30

4 Parent/Staff basketball game

5 Professional Development Day – no school for students

11 Musical event 6:00

15 Picture Day Make Up Date

22-31 Winter Break

January

1-2 Winter Break

15 PTA meeting 6:00

16 School Spelling Bee (Grades 3-4-5)

19 MLK Jr. Day – school closed

20 Open House - 9:00am-10:30am and 6:30pm-7:30pm

23 End of Term 2 – Students dismissed at 12:15pm

February

6 A Journey Through Time – African American History Gallery (daytime)
10 Open House - 9:00am-10:30am
12 Maury Loves Disco 6:00
13 Professional Development Day – no school for students
16 President's Day – school closed
19 PTA meeting 6:00
23 Parent-teacher Conference Day - no school for students
26 PARCC Info Night Grades 3-4-5 5:30
27 Black History Program 9:30am

March

12 Think Tank Night 6:00
19 PTA meeting 6:00
28 Maury @ The Market 7:00-10:00

April

2 Mathademics (grades 3-4-5) 6:00
3 End of Term 3 – Students dismissed at 12:15pm
6 School closed
13-17 Spring Break
23 PTA meeting 6:00
24 Sneak Peek Kindergarten
TBD PARCC Grades 3-4-5

May

1 Professional Development Day – no school for students
4-8 Staff Appreciation Week
15 School Play 6:00
16 School Play noon
21 PTA meeting 6:00
22 Sneak Peek Grades 1-5 and PK3-PK4
25 Memorial Day – school closed
28 Spring Concert

June

4 Volunteer Breakfast 8:30-9:20
5 Career Day
5 Talent Show 6:00
11 PTA meeting 6:00
12 Field Day
15 Grade 5 Promotion 10:00
16 Kindergarten promotion 9:30
17 Last day of school - Students dismissed at 12:15pm
18 Professional Development Day
29 First day of summer school

R U CONNECTED?

WEBSITE: www.mauryelementary.com

FACEBOOK: www.facebook.com/MauryElementary

TWITTER: @MauryElementary

LISTSERV:

http://groups.yahoo.com/group/maury_elementary/

Q. What is a listserv?

A. It's a message board, a problem-solver, a place to ask questions and get answers.

- o Post photos from a class trip, or see photos from the trip you missed.
- o Don't know if the kids need to wear their uniforms on the field trip? Post the question, get the answer.
- o A teacher requests egg cartons - you happen to have them.

Q. How do I sign up?

A. Go to the web address above, click Join This Group.

Q. Is this going to flood my inbox with unwanted email?

A. Not if you don't want it. Go to **Edit Membership** (see it right over the title bar?), and under Option #2, you have the choice of individual emails (a lot), a daily digest (manageable), or no email (you'll have to check the group site to get any information).

The screenshot shows the top of a Yahoo! Groups page. At the top left, it says 'heysassy · heysassy@yahoo.com | Group Owner - Edit Membership'. At the top right, it says 'Start a Group | My Groups'. Below this is a header bar with 'maury_elementary · Maury Elementary' on the left, 'Search for other groups...' in the middle, and 'Search' on the right. Below the header bar, there are two vertical lines. To the left of the lines is a 'Home Messages' link. To the right of the lines is a checkmark icon and the text 'Click here for the latest updates on Groups Message search'.

Q. Can anyone join?

A. No, the listserv is limited to parents, guardians, teachers, staff, community members, etc. with a current and direct link to the school. The community can stay connected with the school through the website, Facebook, and other means.

Listserv etiquette is standard – keep it clean and civil.

Don't post anything that you wouldn't say to someone face-to-face.

Be careful about replying to everyone on list instead of to an individual.

(Defaults to Replies to Sender.)



MINUTES

Maury Elementary

Date: Nov 10/16/2014 6:00 PM |

Asst. Principal Spradley

- We adopted Singapore Math about 5 years ago. Thursday, dignitaries from all over the world came to visit Maury to observe -- we got rave reviews -- they were really impressed at how well the kids are doing in math.
- This Saturday is the fall festival -- All proceeds support sending our 5th graders to space camp. Come out -- volunteer if you can.
- October 30 is the school audit. The city bases our budget on the audit. Make sure your kids are present on TIME so that kids are counted and we don't lose any of our budget for next year.

SOS: SOS is going toward providing aides for all of the upper grades this year. We're at 17K -- our goal is 25K, we'd really like to reach the goal by the end of Oct for budgetary reasons. You can complete your membership and sos online on the maury website under PTA.

Fall Festival sat 10-2

- set up begins at 9am
- Please volunteer if you can. It's going to be really fun -- face-painting, moon bounces, photo booth, cake walk. No entry fee, but there will be tickets for sale for games, food (pizza, drinks, fruit snacks, etc) toys, crafts, etc. Cook-off. No entry fee. The winner will get an awesome "WINNER" apron.

Family Fitness Night: Next Thursday.

- Starts at 6pm. Over 15 vendors coming -- lots of demos (yoga/ yoga for children, Vida, Results Gym, cap hill little league, and many more)
- Raffle will be at 7:15 -- cool kids prizes AND adult prizes.
- Where we need help -- need volunteers to help at stations with traffic control. We also need help picking up items from Costco (fully reimbursed) Email Ms. Raymond if you'd like to volunteer. lindsey.raymond2@dc.gov

Fundraising:

- Yard sale is over, but we still have one item available (Yakima car top) if you're interested in it email Wendy or Elsa. We made 8K at yard sale.
- Link Your Loyalty Cards! So many businesses (Safeway, Giants, Harris Teater, Targett and Amazon) are willing to give us free money just for shopping with them and linking your cards. Many of them require you to relink every year. You can do it online, or at the store when you are shopping.
- Maury at the Market: March 28th. We've secured Eastern Market. If you indicated on the PTA form about securing donations, you'll be hearing from Becky or Annie soon. Last year we made 80k and we are shooting to beat it. There are all kinds of way to help -- secure auction items, log items, sell tickets, etc. Getting sponsors is one of

the most important parts of organizing at this point. If you have a business/ know anyone who has a business who might be interested in sponsoring, please let us know.

School improvement: If you have an interest in joining, contact Scott Douglas. Projects we are focusing on:

- Fixing the gutters on the trailers (water running straight into the AC). It's possible we'll get rain barrels in the process.
- Lighting in the Multi purpose room
- More bike racks
- New school sign
- Improvement of outdoor space with a curriculum tie-in -- make a nice outdoor learning space

Even if you are not interested in 'heavy lifting,' we'd love to have volunteers to act as a liaison (we meet on the 3rd wed of every month).

Hospitality: Upcoming events that we'll need help with = thanksgiving baskets, winter coat drives. Get in touch with Sarah Hais if you can help.

Literacy Night: Nov 6. Fun Night -- different stations for kids to check out. Story time, puppet show, mini theatre, good night story. We'll need parents to volunteer -- contact Ms. Fox or Emily Paterson. If any local grandparents are interested, we'd love to have them.

Space Camp: Movie Night was a great success. We are really looking for sponsors, if you know anyone (outside of the maury at the market sponsors), please let her know. 5th grade has raised \$6,200 so far, still have a way to go.

Box Tops: Remember to check you groceries for boxtops. Nov 1 is deadline.

Hilloween: Maury (and Elliot Hine) will have a table at Hilloween selling pizza this year, from 5:30-7pm at Easter Market. Hilloween will be more geared to older kids AS WELL as younger kids this year.

Elections: Election Day is Nov 4. Make sure you get out and vote.

If you are interested in volunteering any talent, you can send a message to Maurypta@yahoo.com

in 2014

Elsa Huxley, Emily Paterson, Adam Hais, Jessica Gardner, JR Ford, Asst. Principal Spradley, Amanda Mentzer, Jennifer Hayes, Susan Wall, Max Kieba, Gillian Penswick, David Bibo, Shannon Warren, Scott Douglas, Rebecca McGeehan, Greg Michaels, George Blackmon, Janel Barsi, Ian Coleman, Amy Weedan, Joe Weedan, Heather Bonome, John Durcan, Ayeola Brodie, Benita Douglas, Adina Wadsworth, Rodecia McKnight, Lindsey Raymond, Carly Fox, Vanessa Ford, Jay Murphy, Kim Longfield, Paul Bevans, Melissa Ho, Adrienne Alcantara, Vincent Erfe, Heather Schoell, Lee Pellegrino, Justin Brookman, Erica Martin, Diane Douglas, Shauna Steele, Amber Grove, Bridget Hankin, Franny Decker.

in 2014

11/20/2014 6:00 PM, Maury Multipurpose Room



MINUTES

Maury Elementary

Date: *Time* 11/20/2014 6:00 PM |

There was a presentation from four representatives from Eliot Hine. Eliot Hine (EH) is Maury's Feeder school (even if you are OOB). Open Houses are on certain Tuesdays, and the next is Dec 9th. You can call the school and make an appointment to take a tour if you can't make the open house. DEC 16th will be designated buddy day for 4th and 5th graders. You can also do a shadow day where you can drop your kid off for a day to shadow a 6th grader.

EH is a candidate school in the International Baccalaureate (IB) program. IB is an educational program geared to help develop the intellectual, personal, emotional and social skills to live, learn and work in a rapidly globalizing world. If you'd like more information, feel free to contact: Dana.watson@dc.gov

There are a number of interesting events/programs available to EH students such the Young Playwrights' Theatre Group and a gardening club. After school clubs include: sports clubs such as soccer, swimming and rowing. Tutoring is also available.

Info about EH will be in front office.

- **Literacy Lab:** The literacy lab is a PTA funded program towards advanced reading. This year it will focus on science and it will serve 50-60 kids. There will also be two parent workshops. These are really great whether your kid is advanced reader or struggling.
- **Parent Staff Basketball Game:** Polite Piggy is sponsoring. Great event to raise funds for aftercare programs. It's really a lot of fun. If you don't want to play, come and cheer! December 4th
- **Musical Informance Program:** We aren't doing a traditional winter concert this year. We are having a participatory event where the whole family can come in and walk around to different stations and experience what the kids are learning. There will be 2 evenings (ps3-K) and then upper-grades. Dec 11th & Dec 18th
- **Security:** We installed 17 new security cameras -- mostly in the historic building. They record and store for up to two weeks. We now have much more coverage from a security perspective. We've been working to get these for 6 years, so this is great!

Notes from Mr. Spradley:

- **EdFest:** Saturday is the DC Edfest at the Armory, highlighting schools and initiatives. If you have any pictures from former Maury events that you'd like to share, please let us know.
- **Nurse:** Nurse Martin resigned. Our new full-time nurse starts next week.

SOS: Elizabeth Nelson is selling sweaters to support SOS. They make great holiday presents. We have 153 members and we are at about 19K (our goal is 25K). If you know any families who haven't joined PTA, please encourage them. Don't forget we're non-profit and SOS donations are tax deductible. SOS is going toward providing aides for all of the upper grades this year.

Grants: All of the grants we've written so far got funded. (Yay!) \$5,500 total

- \$2,000 toward roots of empathy.
- \$2,500 toward space camp
- Professional Development Conference for Ms Rabia (and she'll get to present)
- \$350 for supplies for Singapore math
- Funds toward an art conference for Ms. Bomba
- \$800 for new math resource room.

Fundraising:

- Maury at the Market: March 28th but there is so much work that needs to be done now. Getting sponsors is one of the most important parts of organizing at this point. We just secured our first big sponsorship for \$5K. If you have a business/ know anyone who has a business who might be interested in sponsoring, please let us know. We could use all the help we could get. For anyone who doesn't know, it is a silent auction, adult only event with great food and drinks, prizes, raffles, etc -- very fun.

Hospitality:

- The Coat Drive was a big success -- thanks to everyone who donated. Ms. Coleman allowed kids who really needed a new warm coat pick first in the office. There are extras coats in the hall that anyone should feel welcome to take. If you can swap out your kid's coats for a different size.
- Thanksgiving Baskets: Kudos to Shannon Von Felden for doing an amazing job collecting all we need and more. We are providing thanksgiving baskets to 37 Maury families.

Maury Newsletter: The November issue is available online on the Maury website <http://mauryelementary.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/11/maury-newsletter-nov-2014.pdf>. If you'd like to write for the next newsletter (coming out around Dec 5) email Dinkar Mokadam at dmokadam@yahoo.com.

School improvement: If you have an interest in joining, contact Scott Douglas.

- Fall Garden Day was well-attended. We put down 100 bags of mulch and raked leaves and provided them to the Maury garden club.
- We still want to remain active over the winter in the form of advocating for our addition. Contact Scott Douglas if you'd like to help out.

Healthy Schools Program: Maury was Chosen to be part of the Healthy Schools Program. First order of business is to create a wellness council (teachers, parents and student representatives). This is a great opportunity for Maury. The council will meet once every other month to discuss goals and the wellness assessment. This includes the health of not just students but the entire community. Please email Lindsey if you'd like to join.
lindsey.raymond2@dc.gov

Entire School Morning Meeting: We held our first morning meeting for the entire school and it was a huge success. We are going to continue at least once a month -- but it was such a success, we think we might do it every other week. Parents are invited to attend.

Open Housing Season is Starting: First is Dec 2. If you know neighbors who are interested in Maury, spread the word.

Eastern is playing in a championship at 2pm on Saturday. Check it out.

December's meeting is canceled.

MINDS Inc is a non-profit that works to bring mindfulness to our schools. This practice helps bring calm, compassion and empathy. We will start with training and then we will consider possibly bringing it into certain classrooms in January (possible beginning with 3rd grade) - and there was a suggestion that this practice might be a great way to start the big school morning meeting.

Practicing mindfulness.

At a basic level, it is awareness and concentration -- taking a quiet moment to pause and think and process what they are feeling. This improves your ability to respond to situations by being less reactive and more responsive. Focus on what is happening, observe it, and let it go. If you are having a hard time, that momentary pause, will allow you to respond in a way that is less harmful, and it is important to give kids these tools. Kids tend to do much better when they are more focused -- and run into trouble when there are distractions. Being in the present can be more productive. This practice reinforces that it is OK to be in the moment rather than worrying about what happened before/after.

We participated in two quick group exercises to demonstrate how the mindfulness practice works.

Mindfulness helps kids focus and be attentive. It helps with emotional regulation. It helps with stress reduction. It helps with resilience (being able to practice these things when situations arise). Helps develop empathy -- even empathy towards yourself/ being able to forgive yourself. The other area is executive function. You can learn in an efficient manner with this practice.

On Dec 8th we have some time scheduled for staff to participate in the mindfulness practice. CAG would like to get an idea of how parents feel about expanding this. We haven't really mapped out how we'd use this yet.

Anecdotal story from 3rd grade mom -- recalls another school that used mindfulness found that taking those brief moments to focus made the entire classroom run more smoothly. Kids were more focused and there was less conflict.

Elsa Huxley, Emily Paterson, Jessica Gardner, Chantese Alston, JR Ford, Principal Albert-Garvy, Asst. Principal Spradley, Amanda Mentzer, Scott Douglas, Diane Douglas, George

Blackmon, Amy Weedan, Joe Weedan, Lindsey Raymond, Vanessa Ford, Heather Schoell, Erica Martin, Linda Whitted, Franny Decker, Chritina Porche, Sarah Alcorn, Anne McFadden, Aaron Chaletsky, Ana Chaletzky, Jen Walsh, Elizabeth Festa, Michelle Phipps-Evans, Antonio Evans, Shannon Warren, Brad Greenfield, Tracy Gerstle, Dinkar Mokadam, Subrat Biswal, Wendy Putnam, James Roberts, Teronica McDonald, Donny Kirsch,

1/15/2014 6:00 PM, Maury Multipurpose Room - THERE WILL NOT BE A MEETING IN DECEMBER



MINUTES

Maury Elementary

Date Time: 1/15/2015 6:00 PM |

Agenda Report

- **School Spelling Bee.** The first bee will be tomorrow (Friday) morning at 9:15am for grades 3-5 in classrooms -- winners compete as a school in the multi-purpose room. Parents are welcome. 2nd Graders are invited to watch. Winners (2 from each grade) will compete against other DC3 schools. Top 5th Graders will compete in the citywide bee in the spring.
- **A Journey Through Time.** We will have two programs to celebrate black history month in February. The first will be A Journey Through Time, a daytime event on 2/6 which will celebrate African American artists, authors and leaders at a number of stations hosted by staff and parent volunteers. On 2/2 there will be a Black History Program put on by the kids during the day beginning at 9:30am -- parents are welcome.
- **All School Morning Meeting Update.** Two classes share, sing songs etc. The next meeting is Wednesday at 9:05am -- parents welcome.
- **Keyboarding Skills.** We are haven't been able to fit in time to teach kids typing/keyboarding skills -- if parents could work on that with kids at home that would be a huge help. We tested 4th grade -- kids who wrote 2-3 pages on composition paper, only wrote 2-3 sentences when they were asked to type which is really problematic for testing.
- **Supplies.** We are starting classroom supplies earlier this year. Teachers will be revising supply lists for next year and we hope to have it ready for orders in March -- you can order as early as you want, but you don't want to order late (if you order out of the window, than shipping isn't free). Classroom supplies are shipped straight to your child's class over the summer. If you'd prefer -- you can still get the lists and go shopping yourself.
- **PWP: Proving What's Possible.** We received a grant last year from Chancellor for fun programs. We need volunteers to help organize. One of the programs we'll be taking advantage of is Kennedy Center performances. We'll have buses (for up to 50 people) for 6 trips to the Kennedy center free of charge. Email CAG if you are interested in helping out. We are putting together other programs with Joy of Motion and we'll be upgrading our sound system on the theatre, and getting outdoor speakers, etc.
- **Budget.** It's already time to work on the budget -- with new mayor we're not sure how the timing will work. We never know what the budget will be until we get it.
 - **Enrollment.** Due to space, our enrollment can't grow any more. We should have enough students for two 5th grade classes next year. We exceeded our projection which is good for budgeting. We will be holding a meeting for prek 4 families in the next month to talk about class size concerns in kindergarten. There is a big decision to be made because DCPS *will* actually give us a budget for a third kindergarten classroom, but for the last couple years we have been voting on this and asking for an exemption so that we can fund think tank/ science. Ms Vick and Ms Battle will be at the morning meeting, there will also be an evening meeting.

Current Kindergarten parents are welcome to join to talk about your experiences, positive or negative. We currently have 2 spots that opened up in prek4, but we asked DCPS that we not fill these spots since we currently do not have any students on the prek4 waitlist who are either inbounds or siblings - its only 2 spots, but it will help with kindergarten size next year.

- DCPS will host meetings about the budget at the middle schools -- info will be coming home in Tuesday folders.
- **Renovations.** The reno is definitely Not going to happen this summer -- but we need to mobilize now to get it done in 2016. If we can get the renovation, we can get enrollment up to 400 and we will no longer be considered a small school (ie if we have 399 kids, we lose hundreds of thousands of dollars in funding compared to if we have 400). This will eliminate the extremely large kindergarten classrooms.
- **Literacy Donation.** Our Librarian, Adam Roach's family made a 30K donation directly to the literacy lab. This is particularly exciting because we've had a hard time funding some of our literacy initiatives since we lost title I.
- Think Tank Expo date changed to April 28th.

Fundraising Committee: Franny Decker volunteered to chair the fundraising committee. While she is new to school fundraising, she's a professional fundraiser by occupation.

Maury At The Market: We've already gotten some great auction items from new donors. We'd love to get some more volunteers to collect items and/or sponsorships. We'll put sponsorship forms up on the listserver. The top three solicitors will receive 2 free tickets to the event! We need to get this stuff early for cataloguing and for the printed program. Start thinking about class items.

Ashoka Changemaker Update: We've formed a parenting changemaker discussion group -- 8 parents were trained last year. We'll be starting that up again this year. Hopefully these skills will pass on to our children to become changemakers. We are working on how to tie all of our empathy initiatives together.

We are going back to a 5 person executive board. Chantese has stepping down from the board.

During our annual audit, we uncovered some financial irregularities. We've been fortunate to get non-profit, Raffa, to do a forensic audit pro bono. There is also an MPD investigation. We are taking it very seriously, and proceeding in accordance to our bylaws, but don't want to say anything unsubstantiated until the investigations conclude.

Our current balance is over \$125K and no PTA programs are affected. We want to be as transparent as possible with this membership and hopefully will have a lot more facts to report in February.

Elsa Huxley, Emily Paterson, Jessica Gardner, Adam Hais, JR Ford, Principal Albert-Garvy, Diane Douglas, George Blackmon, Amy Weedan, Joe Weedan, Vanessa Ford, Heather Schoell, Franny Decker, Becky McGeehan, Jennifer Hayes, Christopher Porche, Lela Lee, Beth Dougherty, Adina Wadsworth, Susan Wall, Antoni J Evans, Chantese Alston, Melissa Ho, Bennett Lerner, Sandrine Enoya, Amber Grove, Rebecca Trautmann, Sarah Rozensky Alcorn, Brian Alcorn, Justin Brookman, Maish Smaw, Jim Roberts, Linda Samuel, Amanda Menter, Chris McIntire, Anne Fletcher, Contessa Riggs, Bridget Hankin, Shannon Warren, Ayeola Brodie, Max Kieba, Heather Bonome, Shawn Johnson, Matthew O'Hara.

2/19/2014 6:00 PM, Maury Multipurpose Room -



MINUTES

Maury Elementary

Date / Time 2/19/2015 6:00 PM |

- Matt Levy, local ANC rep and pediatrician at Georgetown, will be hosting a series of community input meetings at Maury for our Single Member District starting next Thursday from 6-8pm.
- Rachelle Barrs from the ANBryce Foundation presented about their partnership with Maury and opportunities for our students: Saturday academic enrichment program at G.W. for grades 1-8 and summer camp in Madison, VA for grades 2-12. Programs are free except for a small registration fee based on a sliding scale of income.

- Lottery Update: For PS3, all in-bound siblings and 8 or 9 new inbound students are getting in. For PK4, we are very close to getting our out-of-bounds siblings in (they are top of the waitlist). Results may come out a little later this year for data verification purposes.
- PARCC Assessment parent info night is Feb. 26th at 5:30pm, mainly for grades 3-5 but all are welcome. PARCC is a new, computer-based, national-level assessment that is completely aligned to the Common Core Standards.
- CAG has difficulty getting on the listserve from school. If there are messages or topics that require a quick response from her, please forward them to her email account.
- A couple of calendar corrections: Mathademics will be April 9th and Think Tank Night will be April 28th.

Erica Martin, LSAT co-chair, presented.

- Parent survey indicated confusion over our budget process and priorities, so they want to give a primer on the overall topic.
- DCPS budgets arrive unannounced in early spring and require a quick turnaround (sometimes 72 hours), so the LSAT needs a plan in advance.
- Maury is in a unique position because we are categorized as a small school (under 400 enrolled) but we have large class sizes, a huge waitlist, and we are at capacity with our physical space.
- This year the Chancellor is prioritizing high schools, quality academic programming across the district, and empowering males of color. Maury's needs may not be seen as a top priority.
- Reviewing our recent budget history, we lost Title I funding and our per-pupil spending has gone down due to increased enrollment. The PTA has increasingly funded more teacher's aides to mitigate budget losses.
- We will receive a larger staffing budget when enrollment hits 400 but we need a building addition to accommodate extra classrooms.
- Within budget parameters, the LSAT will have to decide whether to fund a third K class versus funding Think Tank and a full-time Assistant Principal.
- Maury will be required to have a part-time foreign language instructor next year, which will require additional Specials funding.

- The LSAT intends to continue utilizing staffing funds for our full-time Reading Resource position.
- CAG requested that DCPS analyze how many new in-bounds students we can expect to receive from the re-drawn boundaries that include former Gibbs students (now at Brown).

Scott Douglas, committee chair, presented.

- School Improvement committee is advocating for our Phase 2 renovation/addition to be moved up. It was initially slated for 2017 but has been pushed back.
- The addition plan includes 6 extra classrooms and an ADA-compliant elevator, to be built off the multi-purpose room.
- They are putting together an “ask” to present to the Chancellor and City Council during budget hearings, using our current and projected enrollment figures and classroom sizes as evidence of our need for an immediate addition.
- After presenting our proposal, parents can begin a letter-writing campaign to advocate. Amy Weedon reminded everyone to keep in mind, however, that many neighborhood schools (including our feeder school Eliot-Hine) have yet to receive Phase 1 renovations. We need to be tactful and mindful of competing interests.
- CAG added that because we no longer have Title 1 status we risk losing our PS-3 classes in order to make room for additional classes in upper grades. We need to tread carefully when requesting funds for the addition.
- Private funding was brought up as an option. It is unlikely in our case, though there are models for it, such as at Oyster-Adams.
- If anyone has relevant contacts, suggestions or questions please email Scott at: scdouglas@gmail.com

Heather Bonome, committee chair, presented.

- The committee has been providing baked goods for staff on the 1st Monday of each month.
- Staff Appreciation Week will be May 4-8. Plans could include a luncheon, ice cream social, flowers, or massages for staff. Give your suggestions to Heather!
- Penny Wars is the traditional fundraiser, usually brings in about \$1500 but is a lot of work to coordinate. Other ideas were solicited.
- Those present agreed to continue doing Penny Wars because it is a kid favorite and accessible to all income levels but it will be changed this year so that all coins count as positive points (not just pennies), and dollars/checks count as negative points.

Franny Decker, committee chair, presented.

- The committee is now tracking monthly and yearly fundraising goals and income. Review of the data indicated that we need to up attendance at our Tunnicliff's and Argonaut fundraisers.
- Our Maury at the Nats fundraiser will take place Saturday May 9th. Tickets will be \$20.
- We need more box tops!
- We need someone to lead Mabel's Label's fundraiser. Contact Franny if interested.
- Our TEA fundraiser will take place March 9-15. Our goal is 100 orders. We get 20% back per order.
- Remember to register Maury Elementary DC on Amazon Smile.

Becky McGeehan and Annie Perezchica Wood, co-chairs, presented.

- We need someone to spear-head the in-school auction. Contact Becky if interested.
- We currently have \$14,000 in sponsorships and 200 auction items donated.
- Nando's is catering, Argonaut is providing beer and wine, and Matchbox is providing sweets.
- Parents can contact teachers to remind them to submit an auction offering. Only 3 have responded so far.
- Plenty of before, during, and after the auction volunteer opportunities needed.

- Mindfulness workshop for parents will take place March 10 at 7pm. Parents Subrat Biswal and Adrienne Alcantara are working with Minds Inc. to provide programming/trainings for our staff and students and encourage parents to come out and experience the workshop.
- Corinne Cannon summarized some of the LSAT parent survey results. A majority of parents are concerned about class sizes. Many wanted clarification on the budget process. Many wanted more guidance on how to get involved as volunteers. Many want foreign language and a more streamlined mode of school-wide electronic communication. Everyone loves our strong sense of community! The LSAT will be using these results to guide their priorities for the upcoming year.
- Vanessa Ford prepared a handout detailing the funding sources for Space Camp, as well key details about dates, parent meetings, and plans for next year. This will be circulated online.

Rachelle Barrs, Liz Shirley, Brooke Jamison, Scott Douglas, Annie Perezchica Wood, Franny Decker, Shannon von Felden, Sandra George, Maureen Shove-Brown, Shannon Warren, Brian Alcorn, Sarah Alcorn, Antonio Evans, Melissa Ho, Paul Bevans, Scott Aaranson, Julie Aaronson, Jennifer Kemp, Adam Hais, Chantese Alston, George Blackmon, Ailena Mayo-Mills, Amber Gove, Dena Smith, Kim Longfield, Brian Pate, Michelle Phipps-Evans, Elsa Huxley, JR Ford, Emily Paterson, Erica Martin, Amy Weedon, Joe Weedon, Shauna Steele, Kristen Gustafson, Max Kieba, Chris Copetas, Jason Alcantara, Linda Samuel, Louise Yinug, Subrat Biswal, Cody Rice, Jean Kohanek, Carolyn Albert-Garvey.

March 19th, 2015 at 6:00pm.



MINUTES

Maury Elementary

Date: March 19/2015 6:00 PM |

Staff Appreciation Committee Update: Staff appreciation will take place May 4-7. Penny Wars will be the primary fundraiser. The rules will be changed up a little to make things a little easier. Heather will put out info on listserv and Tuesday folders within the next few weeks. We are going to do the staff breakfast on Friday, May 8th which is a professional development day.

Stem Expo: The Stem Expo will be April 28th. This is always a really fun event. This year it will feature live Bats, beekeeping, telescopes, reptiles, robots, chemistry, this year is shaping up to be bigger and better than ever. Email Ms. Ford if you can volunteer.

Space Camp: The kids are only \$1,200 away from their goal.

Middle School Committee Update: Elliot Hine is planting 40 trees around the school on Saturday at 9am. They could definitely use some volunteers. The next PTO meeting is April 8th at 6pm. April 10th is Elliot Hine Lemonade day. It's a program through GW. Business students visit with students and discuss ideas and plans. Many of the kids are donating the money they raise to The Washington Animal Rescue League. The sale will take place at 216 7th Street SE (Eastern Market). On April 23rd the council will hold their budget meeting representatives from EH are going at 10am and 5pm to discuss EH's renovation that was supposed to happen in 2014, but keeps getting pushed back.

Fundraising:

- We have a new fundraiser this year – The Pajama Pass. Kids can buy a pass for \$2 and wear their PJs to school. There will be two PJ day (April 3rd and May 29th).
- Maury at the Market.
 - Sales are down on raffle tickets compared to last year. If you haven't bought your raffle tickets yet, please buy some or ask coworkers and/or family if they are interested in buying any. There are great prizes including an iPad. Tickets are \$5, or 5 for \$20.
 - Don't forget to buy your tickets to the event now. Tickets are \$40 ahead of time, but \$45 at the door.
 - We need volunteers to distribute neighborhood flyers and/or postcards. Franny has stacks of them. If you are interested in helping out, just go see her.
 - Polite Piggy is available for babysitting on the night of the event, but you must pre-register with them.
 - We're doing great with sponsorships, but if you know of any companies or individuals who would be interested in sponsoring, please let us know.
 - We have a new type of sponsorship this year specifically targeted to friends and family. It ranges from \$50-\$200 and their message will be on a scroll at the event. You can find more info on the website mauryatthemarket.org
 - We need volunteers for all kinds of duties—cataloging, set up, etc. There are sign up sheets in the lobby. We are also looking for one very special volunteer who would be willing to take home unclaimed auction items (they will be driven to your home) and allow people to come pick them up.
- Don't forget about Tunicliff's fundraiser on the first Tuesday of the month. And don't forget to get your gems every time you dine at the Argonaut (and don't forget to bring your gems into the main office).

- Nationals Game. Maury Day at the Park will be May 9th. Tickets will go on sale some time after Maury at the Market.
- Box Tops. We are a little short of our goal. We will do another collection in May so make sure you are keeping an eye out for box tops and bring them in to the accordion folder behind Officer Washington's desk.
- Mables Labels. Is anyone interested in heading up this fundraiser?
- Brook Jeameson has volunteered to lead the fall yard sale..
- The last fundraising committee meeting before the auction will be Monday at 7pm at Becky McGeehan's house at 121 Tennessee Ave. Please come if you are interested in helping at Maury at the Market.

Hospitality: One of the PTA-funded educational aides, Ms. Angela Caudle, was hit by a truck while walking through a crosswalk two weeks ago. Fortunately she is recovering but sustained significant injuries and will be out until at least April. We have been collecting donations to support Ms. Caudle to try to make up for some of her lost income as she recovers. Sara will be giving her our donation tomorrow (Friday). If you would like to contribute, please contact Sara Hais ASAP. You can leave checks or money with Mrs. Coleman or place in a labeled envelope in the PTA mailbox. You can also donate via PayPal to adam.hais@verizon.net with Ms. Caudle in the memo line.

School Improvement: We put together a memo that describes the problems we face at Maury with overcrowding especially considering the extended boundaries. We will be sending it to the Chancellor and various administrators tomorrow, and then we will need to consider a broader grassroots effort to reach out to the council. We can make a form letter that you can use or you can send a message in your own language. Scott will try to send out a sample letter to the listserve/Tuesday folder soon.

Spring clean up will happen next month and we'll talk about it at the next meeting.

LSAT Update: Thank you to everyone who took the time to fill out the survey, because it was the biggest tool we used to decide how to allocate our budget. (CAG said this is the best budget DC has given us in years). We have a net gain of 2.5 teachers. One is earmarked for another special education teacher which means we will have three special ed teachers.

This year we were given the budget for at least a part time world language teacher but b/c there is such a strong desire for world language, we decided to hire a full time language teacher. We'll decide which language at a later date.

We will have a third kindergarten classroom. We are not sure where we are going to put the classroom at this point though. The third kindergarten will likely take over our think tank classroom.

We will no longer have a part time math resource teacher (that was the sacrifice for full time language)., but the special ed teachers should be able to help out with that.

One disappointment is that we lost about a large amount of our budget for supplies (I have \$80K in my notes - is that right?!). We also lost some of the budget autonomy in regards to supplies. We will need the PTA to pick up the difference - there are a few different ideas we can discuss.

Financial Irregularities. We just received the findings from the forensic audit we had done on our accounts and it confirmed our suspicions. There is still an active case with MPD and until that concludes that we can't share any other specifics.

- **School Year 2015-2016 Budget.** DC gave us a budget for a third kindergarten class as well as a third 1st grade class. Due to size constraints, we will not be having a third 1st grade, but we will have a third kindergarten class. We will need to think creatively. The new K class will probably take over the think tank classroom. We could possibly more think tank to the staff lounge. The think tank as it exists now cannot exist on a cart that goes from classroom to classroom. We are really trying to think creatively -- maybe get another trailer. Going back to Scott's memo to the council, a good point for our letter regarding our school expansion/renovation is that DC has allocated money for two classrooms that we have no space for.

The Chinese teacher from Brent approached CAG that she'd love to bring a Chinese program to Maury and would help to write a grant to get an additional Chinese teacher. It's a bit surprising why the program is ending at Brent so we want to find out exactly what is going on. Putting it out there since we've never discussed Chinese before (we've always talked about Spanish). If you feel **REALLY** passionate regarding Chinese in either direction, please email CAG.

Q & A on the Budget

Q: Did we get a budget for any after school programs.

A: No, but we received a big donation from Mr. Roach's family so part of that will fund the literacy intervention power hour.

Q: Is the current PK4 bigger than Kindergarten, and if not, why did we choose to take the third kindergarten class and not the third first grade class.

A: No, the current PK4 is not bigger than the current kindergarten, but it's hard to tell how big the class will be when gaining all the inbound kids. First grade class size is more predictable. We also chose kindergarten over first because of the age.

Q: If we have a 3rd class kindergarten class, are we required to totally fill them.

A: Absolutely not. We already meet our enrollment.

Q: Will we **DEFINITELY** have think tank.

A: Yes, our budget was approved by DCPS.

Q: How unique is our situation compared to other hill schools?

A: No, other schools have not gotten good budgets. "At risk" funds were a big part of our budget increase this year -- a lot of thanks goes to Joe Weedon for providing us with a spreadsheet showing how schools with less at risk kids got more "at risk" funding. We lost a huge piece of the budget when we lost title 1 status, but we still have a large number of "at risk" kids who weren't getting funding. CAG made a stink about the discrepancy in schools who are receiving at risk funding and those who aren't and the city is correcting the problem.

Q: Is the PS3 program in danger if we don't get the renovation soon.

A: I don't know, but looking at other schools that have space problems, yes they are getting rid of their early childhood classrooms. It is important to us and we certainly don't want to lose it.

Q: If Chinese doesn't work out, what about ASL?

A: No, it doesn't count as a world language.

Q: If we were ever in danger of losing early childhood program, would we ever consider another campus specifically for early childhood (like Peabody/Watkins)?

A: I'm game, but I don't know how it would work.

Q: Is our mental health team funded?

A. Yes, but our current social worker resigned in December. We are about to hire a new person in the next couple weeks.

- **Common Core.** I can't think about it from a political perspective, but rather an educational perspective. From my opinion, I don't think you need to be concerned. They are just standards, and I think the standards are excellent. No one is dictating any type of program. They are really not scary. Please read them (a yellow informational sheet was distributed). This is our 3rd year using common core and it is going really well.
- **PARCC.** We needed a new test b/c the DCCAS didn't hold up to the standards. There is so much technology that they have to deal with and that is what I'm most concerned about. I'm afraid our test scores will be lower than where our kids really are because of the technology component. Some interesting data we'll get from the PARCC is how long it took the kids to read the questions -- how long they took before they started answering.

Q & A on PARCC

Q: Weren't the kids given an option to take the tests traditionally on paper?

A. It would have been logistically too difficult. The teachers felt that the kids would do better on the screen. The paper option is not going to be available for much longer so DCPS decided to dive right in.

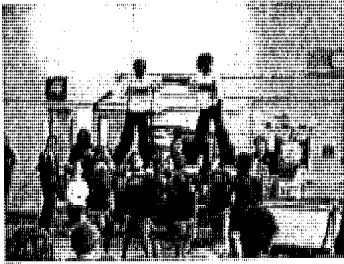
[Parent commentary: My kids liked taking the test on the computer although we worry a bit about the essay section -- it would be great if they pushed more typing skills at library.]

Q: Did the kids get to practice?

A: Yes, three times this year they got to practice.

Elsa Huxley, Emily Paterson, Jessica Gardner, Principal Albert-Garvy, Erica Martin, Antonio J. Evans, Christina Porche, Heidi Flooden, Cody Rice, Mark Jensen, Sarah Hais. Mr. Spradley. Benita May-Douglas, Delonte Douglas Sr, Liz Festa, Adina Wadsworth, Jim Wadsworth, Shannon Van Felden, Amanda Mentzer, Kirstin Erfe, Anne Mufadda, Max Kieba, Shannon Warren, Franny Decker, Angie Stillwell, April Hahn, Maggie Sullivan, Ailena Mayo-Mills, George Blackmon, Contessa Riggs, V. Corswell, Corinne Cannon, James Maysonett, Ana Chaletzky, Kristina Vidal, Scott Douglas, Diane Douglas, Joe Weedon, Amy Weedon, Subrat Biswal, Liz Twarog, Emily Martin, Anne Fletcher, Dena Smith, Jim Smith, Jennifer Hayes, Jim Roberts, Charles Hayes, Rick Trimble.

This month's meeting began with an awesome performance from the award-winning Maury Cheerleaders!



Staff Appreciation Committee Update: Staff appreciation will take place May 4-7. Fundraising for the events, The Coin Wars, is underway. Rules changed this year so that all coins are positive points, not just pennies. Only dollars and checks are negative. We're doing surprise counts -- winners of the surprise counts get

no uniform days. The class winner at the end gets an ice cream party. The coin wars will continue for one more week.

We already had a luncheon for staff on April 3rd. Reminders will come out in the next two Tuesday folders for ways you can help. We will decorate the school Saturday, May 2nd from 10am-noon. Friday of staff appreciation week, we'll have a breakfast for staff. Adina Wadsworth will organize. Sign up to bring/ bake things. We'll need about 10 parent volunteers to hang out on the playground so teachers can enjoy the breakfast. We'll also need a couple of volunteers for each ps3 and prek class.

Hospitality: One of the PTA-funded educational aides, Ms. Angela Caudle, was hit by a truck while walking through a crosswalk a couple months ago. She sustained significant injuries and missed a significant amount of work. Through all of your generous donations, we were able to provide her with about \$700 during her time out. She wrote a lovely thank you note, which Sara Hais read.

Fundraising: Outside of SOS, PTA raised \$105K last year. So far this year, we're at about \$99K, and we are on track to exceed last year's total!

- **PJ Day** was a huge success. Lots of parents and kids enjoyed it! Stand by for the date of the next PJ day in May or June. Next year we might expand to different options other than just PJ (some kids suggested maybe crazy hair day, backwards clothes day, etc)-- if your kids have ideas - let us know.
- **Maury at Market** raised \$78K which was just short of our goal. We will have an online auction soon for the remaining items and hopefully that will help us reach our goal. Huge thanks to Annie and Becky for all their hard work putting on an amazing event. We are looking for someone to chair the event next year. We'd like to have a Chair and rising chair (to shadow for next year, but commit to the following year).
- **Dining Out for Maury.** Don't forget to collect your gems at Argonaut. The next Maury night at Tunicliff's is Tuesday, May 5.
- **Maury Day at Nats Stadium.** Kate is selling tickets before school. Tickets are \$20. We have 200 tickets to sell and the Nats will *not* buy them back. If you know anyone who might want to go to the game, please give them a heads up.

- **Box Tops** The next collection will be May 23rd. Take a minute to see if you have any at home. It really adds up and we end up raising about \$500 at the end of the year.
- **Mables Lables** sale will start May 4th -- look in the Tuesday folder for info-- share the code -- anyone can use it.
- The yard sale will be sep 19th
- **Maury Tshirt** sales will start May 1
- **SOS effort for next year.** SOS is extremely important. It raises about \$20K* on top of general PTA fundraising. This year it was used to provide teacher's aides to all classrooms.
- **WINE Sale!** The owners of Schneiders are putting together a special wine sale. 1/2 cases of wine (that could retail around \$400) for \$150 and they will give \$50 back to Maury. More info will be in Tuesday Folder. Tell friends and neighbors as this is a great way to get a great deal on good wine and also make a lot of money for the school.

Middle School Committee Update: Thank you to everyone who has called and written in about EH's reno budget getting pushed back again. The Mayor did send a crew to do some quick patches and fixes. So now at least we have locks on the stalls, lights are fixed, etc. This does not take the place of full modernization, but at least it is a start. We need to keep the pressure on. We are hoping they will vote to restore funding in the 2016 budget. The next open house will be Tuesday may 12 at 9:30 am (there will also be an evening open house). The next PTO meeting will be May 13 at 6pm

School Improvement Committee Update: Thanks to the parents who testified to restore Maury's reno budget. It's time to reach out to the council. David Grosso was really impressed with what Maury has been able to create, especially with specials and understands how important they are, and why we can't just take away specials classrooms to solve the space issue. Max Keiba mentioned our need for at very least some more trailers if funding continues to be pushed back. Some of the schools that are getting renovated will no longer need their trailers and if they could be given to Maury, that would at least be a short term solution.

Next steps: we will be organizing our talking points regarding Maury's situation, and drafting sample letters that you can sign and send to council members. There is hope that the effort towards the council members will be more fruitful.

Spring cleanup day will be Saturday, May 16th. We think *Hands On DC* will be out there volunteering so it would be great if a lot of parents were there to help and direct.

Enrollment: Our budget is based on enrollment. So far we have 220 enrolled. Our projection is 380. The sooner we get everyone enrolled, the better to prove to the council that we really *are* at capacity. Please get your enrollment forms in!

Picture Day: Picture day is coming up (May 13). The kids need to wear uniforms**. Please return the order forms or pay online. We need another volunteer to help out.

STEM EXPO: 29 organizations are coming. We're using the front yard, the hallway, multipurpose room and upstairs classrooms. There will be a lot of really exciting exhibits. We're hoping to get a lot of people outside of the Maury community and we are expecting 400 people. So we need volunteers -- even if you haven't signed up, if you show up at 5, we could use your help. A certain number of the first kids to arrive get a think tank bag.

Space Camp is fully funded. Not only is every kid going, but they all get \$25 spending money and flight suits! June 3rd-5th

Citizenship Award: Community member Steve Cymrot passed away. His organization has been very generous to our community. We'd like to create a committee for the citizenship award. It would either be a think tank thing or work through the other specials. The kids will propose a community project in honor of Steve -- the winners project will get funded. We think this is a great way to give back to the community that has done so much for us.

Bike to School Day: May 6th. More info will be coming home soon.

Whole School Morning Meeting: The date of the next meeting is changing. Stay tuned for more info.

Maurice Wilkins is our Ward 5 and 6 rep from The Office of Family and Public Engagement at DCPS. His job is to not only help improve the public image of DCPS but also help foster relationships between community and central office. He will gather information and feedback to bring back to central office. He grew up in Wards 5 and 6 and attended DCPS (Ms. Vick was his 2nd grade teacher!). He went to college in Atlanta and then came back to DC. He currently runs a boys group at Eastern, lives in Ward 6 and is committed to the community. He can answer any questions and looks forward to building a positive relationship with all of you.

Contact info for Maurice. Phone: 202-423-0351 Email: maurice.wilkins2@dc.gov

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- The following positions are up for election on the Exec Board: Vice President and Secretary. Emily Patterson has completed her term and is not seeking reelection. Please let JR Ford know if you would be interested in running for Vice President. Jessica Gardner will run for reelection for a full term. If anyone else is interested in running, please let JR know. We will announce everyone who is running at the next meeting.
 - Bylaws: We will be voting on amendments to our bylaws at next meeting.
 - Financial Irregularities: The MPD case is closed, an arrest has been made and the case has been handed over to the US Attorney's office. We are waiting on the US Attorney for more information, but we hope to have everything resolved by next meeting so we can move on.

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- Maurice Wilkins did a walk through and witnessed how very crowded we are. It's great to have him share this info with central office.

Testing:

- Lots of parents asking -- why so much testing. There are two parts to the PARCC. The actual number of days of testing are about the same as DCCASS, but the first part needs to be hand graded and takes a long time which is why a section was done earlier the second half is multiple choice.

- This year will be a baseline. It's our first time taking a new test. We're not officially counting this year's test scores.
- DC was given a window for taking the tests. DCPS started the tests early for some good reasons, but many of the charter schools were able to take the test later which means they got 3 extra weeks of instruction before they were tested. We feel that that is not fair and that it should be a standard date across DC. CAG complained and that is why we had the last minute change to push back the last tests by one week.
- The testing window creates another challenge. DCPS should figure out earlier when the testing windows will take place instead of letting us know at the very last minute. We have had to continuously make changes to the schedule because of the late notice of testing window.
- ANET is a unit specific assessment -- not just another standardized test. Next year will be moving to the DCPS unit assessment test (more or less the same thing, but it won't be called ANET anymore). There will be a science portion even though we didn't have the standards 3 years ago.

Q&A on Testing

Q: Even though the PARCC doesn't count this year, will the results be analyzed?

A: Yes, absolutely. We think it will give us much more detailed data than DCCAS. So it can have a bigger impact on how we adjust.

Q: Will 2nd graders be tested?

A: It's optional and we will probably opt-in. In 2nd grade, the directions are read to them (especially important in math section).

Class Supply List

- We will launch the school supply list for next year, next week.
- We are not doing it as a fundraiser because we want to keep the cost down.
- If you get your orders in early, you don't have to pay shipping (and shipping is expensive) and all the supplies are shipped to the school BEFORE the first day of school.
- 1st grade and early childhood are not participating in the online supply list. Those classrooms will just give a check for \$40 for 1st grade, and slightly more for pre3 and prek (I think \$50).
- If you'd prefer to do your own shopping, you have the option to print out the list and buy your own supplies.

PTA Aides They currently work from 9:30 to 2:30 and they don't take a lunch break.

- We've decided to extend their day to 3:00pm so that they can participate in the last special of the day.
- We will offer them a paid lunch break.
- We want to maximize their time so we are going to work with each individual teacher to find out what they need an aide for and when, and put together a master list so no one is idle and everyone has help. This will also make it easier to place the aides in areas where they are strongest. Please feel free to email CAG with any thoughts or if you have any ideas of a more clever way to roll this out.

Volunteer breakfast is Thursday, June 4. Please put it on your calendars. It's the only time the staff gets to do something for you. The kids create artwork that is on the table.

World Language. Our World Language instructor will be Chinese.

- We did not receive good Spanish instructor resumes and there are so many vacancies for Spanish in other schools (so very competitive environment - difficult to get good teacher).

- We decided to interview the Chinese instructor, Ms. Wang, and she was fantastic. The 4th graders and adults she met loved her. We made her an offer. She also got an offer from VanNess, but she chose us (yay). We'll try to invite her to the May meeting. She will work with Donny to write a Grant to launch the Confucius school -- they will give us 10K start up and 10K more.

Other Q & A

Q: How do we vote to change next year's DCPS calendar?

A: We can't actually change next years' calendar, but what DCPS is looking for is feedback about the calendar that they can take into consideration when planning the 2016-2017 calendar. The biggest change is that spring break is later. I've heard good arguments on both sides. One other positive about a later spring break is that when you come back from the later spring break, there are only 9 weeks left of the school year rather than 12 which can feel more exciting for both staff and students.

Elsa Huxley, Emily Paterson, Jessica Gardner, Adam Hais, JR Ford, Principal Albert-Garvy, Franny Decker, George Blackmon, Vanessa Ford, Heather Bonome, Donny Kirsch, Amanda Mentzer, Heather Schoell, Shannon Von Felden, Antonio Evans, Michelle Evans, Karida Green, Contessa Riggs, Cody Rice, Dinkar Mokadam, Sarah Hais, Susan Wall, Janin Valentine, Anne McFaden, Erin Bibo, David Bibo, Scott Douglas, Maureen Shove-Brown, Max Kieba, Jessica Lowther, Kristina Vidal, Gillien Penswick, Jonnel Hevndon, Paula Caira.

5/21/2014 6:00 PM, Maury Multipurpose Room -

**At the meeting is was mistakenly reported that SOS raises \$50K – it currently raises about \$20K*

*** At the meeting is was mistakenly stated that kids do not have to wear uniforms and that picture day was May 15th.*



MINUTES

Maury Elementary

Drop time 5/21/2015 6:00 PM |

Election. Voting took place until 6:30pm for vice president and secretary. Nathaniel Rogers and Jonnel Herdon were candidates for VP. Jessica Gardner ran for secretary unopposed. Jonnel Herndon was elected Vice President.

Budget. Adam Hais presented the working Budget for next year. We upped a few fundraising goals. We increased funding for the aides by about 6K. The other major change is 10K for supplies since that was cut in the DCPS budget. [a copy of the budget is available upon request]

The Budget will be voted on at the June meeting.

Bylaws. A copy of the proposed new bylaws was uploaded to the listserv and distributed to those attending the meeting (available upon request). The changes are as follows:

- The Board is changed permanently to five members (removing the position of second treasurer).
- The Board will submit to background checks
- A Volunteer Code of Ethics will be added to PTA Membership form and will be maintained by the Secretary
- Additional guidelines for handling cash and writing checks
- Description of Parliamentary duties

Q&A on Bylaws

Q: Are background checks for board members standard on PTA bylaws.

A: No, but it was something our auditor suggested.

The amendments are open for comment and will be voted on at the June meeting.

LSAT Update: We will need to elect new LSAT representatives in June. Please let JR Ford know if you have an interest in running no later than Wednesday, May 27. The election will be at the June 11 PTA meeting. The LSAT is comprised of 4 parent representatives, 4 teacher reps, and a community member. The LSAT meets a minimum of 5 times-(this year we met more because of the big budget decisions). The biggest time commitment comes at budget time. Key areas of discussion include:

- Allocation of school resources
- Organization of school
- Curriculum options
- Budget decisions
- Monitoring student progress
- Priorities and considerations for staffing patterns and the selection of personnel
- School culture
- Family engagement

Priorities:

- Conduct the community survey
- Ongoing and continued education efforts to advise and inform the community about the budget process and decisions to be made.

Ashoka Parents Group: A few months ago a bill was introduced by senator Rubio to strip DC of gun control laws. This is particularly frustrating as the bill is written/ supported by officials we, as DC residents, have not elected. The ashoka group has drafted a letter to congress. Our goal is to get all DC PTA presidents (and as many parents as possible) to sign the letter to send a strong message that DC residents take our responsibility as parents and citizens seriously. If you have questions (or if you'd like to sign it) please see Ben Powell (or Ron or Donnie). We'd like to get as much community participation as possible.

Grants: Good news from capitol hill community foundation. We received 2 of the 3 grants we applied for. The first (\$2,500) is for new a curriculum for our writing program. It's inline with common core and age/grade appropriate. The second is a grant for music. We also received a grant for our future Chinese program which is coming next year. 20K came in in the official grant. Every year after will get 10K.

Fundraising: So far this year, we've raised about \$130K. Thank you for all of your support.

- **PJ Days** were a huge success. We raised a thousand dollars! We'd like to do about 3 or 4 next year with different themes (we'll call it no uniform pass day)
- **Maury at Market** We are looking for someone to chair the event next year. We'd like to have a Chair and rising chair (to shadow for next year, but commit to the following year).
- **Dining Out for Maury.** Don't forget to collect your gems at Argonaught. The next Maury night at Tunicliff's is Tuesday, June 2nd.
- **Box Tops** The next collection will be this Friday May 22nd. Take a minute to see if you have any at home.
- **Mables Lables** sale is going on right now. Use this link, and 20% of your purchase will go to Maury! <https://www.mabelsfundraising.com/campaigns/14607-maurys-mabels-labels>
- **Maury Tshirt:** you can get them through the website.
- **WINE Sale!** The owners of Schneiders put together a special wine sale. 1/2 cases of wine (that could retail around \$400) for \$149 and they will give \$50 back to Maury. Tell friends and neighbors as this is a great way to get a great deal on good wine and also make a lot of money for the school. Just ask for the Maury 6-pack. Not limited to Maury families so spread the word! My goal is to sell 50 cases.

Monday June 8th will be the next fundraising committee meeting. Please join us.

Vacancies. We are still looking for 4th and 5th special ed teacher with opportunity for management.

Mr Ludis is leaving as he got his dream job so we are looking for a lead parent gardening volunteer. Usually we would need you one or two days a week around lunch.

The Whole School Morning Meeting will be tomorrow (Friday) at 9:05. Elmer's parade will be right after and kids don't have to wear uniforms.

Spring Concert. 2pm show Thursday the 28th and evening show at 6:15 at Maury.

I've received noticed that I've been reappointed, and the Chancellor offered a three year contract. (Yay)

Technology. We had a lot of tech glitches with PARCC so we met with someone about it and received 24 new laptops today, an additional 9k for more technology. Plus 2 free laptop carts.

Renovation Budget. We are meeting with architects to figure out realistically what we can do with the 5.8 million the city is giving us (our original addition plans would cost more like 11 million). Thank you for all your advocacy with the Budget.

Elsa Huxley, Emily Paterson, Jessica Gardner, Adam Hais, JR Ford, Principal Albert-Garvy, Amy Weedon, Joe Weedon, Ben Powell, Maureen Shove Brown, Eri Shimomukai, Jonnel Herndon, Patricia Koontz, Matthew O'Hara, Vincent Erfe, Kristen Erfe, Max Kieba, Courtney Kieba, Ailena Mayo-Mills, Daniel Mullins, Vanessa Ford, Nathaniel Rogers, Franny Decker, Erica Martin, Cody Rice, Heather Bonome, Sarah Alcorn, David Bibo, Shauna Steele

6/11/2015 6:00 PM, Maury Multipurpose Room -



MINUTES

Maury Elementary

Date / Time 6/11/2015 6:00 PM |

There was a slide show with highlights from space camps and 5th grade representatives spoke about their favorite parts of space camp which included:

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- 'Spending time with all our friends,'
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There will be a meeting for 4th grade parents on Monday at 5pm about next year's meeting.

LSAT Election. LSAT Candidates: Each candidate gave a brief introduction and explained why they are running for LSAT. The candidates were Cody Rice, Sarah Hais, David Bibo, Amber Gove, Dinkar Mokadam and Erica Martin.
The following were elected to the LSAT Board: Erica Martin, Dinkar Mokadam, Sarah Hais and Cody Rice

Budget. The Budget was approved unanimously

Bylaws. The amendments to the bylaws were approved unanimously.

Fundraising:

Overall Budget & Goal

- Thanks again for all your help and support over the year. As you can see from the PTA budget that was sent out and we are voting on we are bringing more of the fundraising activities that have occurred in the past under the umbrella of the fundraising committee and trying to streamline the budget and goals.
- We won't be able to do this without you, the goal is \$157,250 and we are excited to get started raising the funds to support the amazing programs, teacher and of course students here at Maury
- Keep your eye out over the summer for announcements about different Maury fundraising updates and opportunities
- Also, please remember to keep clipping your Box Top's, we want to collect at least 5,000 and your gems from Argonaut

Maury Wine Sale

- This was a great success! In the 2 weeks of the sale, we sold 48 cases and our goal was 50. Schneider's extended our sale and even expanded it to their nationwide list and we ended up with a total of 51 sold which is \$2,550 for the PTA. You can still buy a 6-Pack through Saturday so go on over and pick up a 6-Pack

M@M-

- I have to say I am getting a little desperate here. We REALLY REALLY REALLY need someone to step forward and lead the charge on Maury at the Market. Please consider doing this, we are happy to have you team up with your spouse or partner or friend. If there is a fabulous incoming family who you think would be great we will take it. We need someone to step forward and lead this event, it is the most important event and we depend on Maury at the Market for nearly half the overall PTA budget.

School Improvement: May 16th was spring cleaning. Thanks to everyone who helped out-- we also had 30 individuals from hands on DC help out and donate supplies and mulch.

Two projects we are working on -- getting a little community lending library and think tank shed.

Phase 2 expansion plans -- we were able to secure 5.8 million for Maury expansion in 2016. Right now we are planning a two story 6- classroom addition and also updating the multi-purpose room and adding a kitchen. We know that 5.8 million will not be enough so we hope that the council will be able to get us adequate funds. We were also offered additional trailers, but the cost of installing them and then removing them when the renovation started would have eaten too much of the budget which already isn't enough. The hope is that the renovation will be completed in 2 years.

July 18th. DCPS is sponsoring the Nelson Mandela Day of Service. Update will go to listserv -- but please put the day on your calendar.

Good opportunity to make your voices heard:

June 24. Grosso and Allen will be holding a Ward 6 town hall meeting.

July 8th: 11am DC Council will be holding a meeting with DGS about modernization of schools.

Q&A

Q: How much money do you think the project needs?

A: Our original estimate was 11 million, but it depends on the plans. Until the project is bid out, it's difficult to say. The council is aware that we are confident that 5.8 million will not be enough.

Q: What organization determines the scope?

A: DGS

We took a moment to say good bye and thank you to families who are leaving. Amy Weedon discussed her first year at Maury when the PTA had about \$100 in the bank account. Heather Schoell suggested a silent auction and the rest is history. Thank you maury families for all you do, and good luck to all the students who are moving on next year.

Financial Fraud. We have a full update to give you now. Before going into detail, please note a couple of things.

- First, thank you to the membership for your patience and trust. This Board has been striving to resolve the case in a way that would cause the least distractions for our school year, and we've followed the requests of MPD and the US Attorney to wait to disclose details publicly till the case is where it is now in terms of resolution.
- As upsetting as this situation is, please remember that there are appropriate forums to address the issue, and that's within the court system. Anyone who would like to express themselves about what they learn tonight will have the opportunity to do so by writing a community impact statement: <http://www.borderstan.com/files/2011/05/community-impact-statement.doc> (Statements should be sent to Judge Todd Edelman at least 2 weeks prior to sentencing.)
Our listserv, Facebook, emails, phone calls, or in person confrontations are not appropriate forums to go over this, and we hope you will help your Executive Board to keep working hard to handle this in the most responsible, and appropriate way.
- We request that you not discuss this openly in front of your kids. We only have a week left of school but the children of the defendant haven't done anything wrong here and they should not be teased or made miserable because of her actions.

As a matter of public record, Chantese Alston agreed on May 21st to plead guilty to a felony charge of Theft 1, with Maury PTA as the complainant. This ends a 6 month investigation. Her sentencing will be on July 20th, and the prosecutor would like us to contribute those community impact statements mentioned earlier. If you feel a compelling need to be present at sentencing, or to make a live statement before the judge, you can contact Elsa and she will coordinate with the US Attorney. The prosecutor would like a representation of a few people to make statements, but we don't want to overwhelm the court with a ton of people.

What is not public record yet is the amount that was taken, which you have the right to know as dues-paying and voting members of this organization, and complainants in the case. This will become public after sentencing. Understand that our organization is totally financially sound and healthy. We have \$137K in the bank, enough to cover all our budgeted expenses.

We have this amount because of Donny Kirsch, who writes incredible grant applications and our phenomenal Fundraising Committee run by Franny Decker who stepped up halfway through the year and has really taken a huge leadership role in running that committee and is doing an incredible job. We also are happy to announce that we were able to secure a one-time \$10K donation back in December by a private individual who was solicited specifically because of this fraud situation to help the PTA and (primarily) the Space Camp funds to be whole. We hope you will understand that a lot of work has gone into making our PTA's recovery complete.

The amount stolen that has been independently corroborated by the forensic accounting firm (Raffa) who audited us pro bono is just north of \$21,000. We have a few thousand dollars in additional cash unaccounted for but that is not something the police or the accountants can verify.

That number is shocking and distressing. Without going into too many details, we want to emphasize that she has a degree in accounting and she was very purposeful and duplicitous in how she acted. She took advantage of her position as a PTA Treasurer and the trust and good faith of our membership and Executive Boards. She stole and covered it up carefully over a period of at least 14 months and with both the previous and the current Executive Boards. It's a disheartening thing, and regrettably common as we have been told again and again by the police and forensic accountants and prosecutor.

We have discovered the loopholes that she used and we have closed them. The bylaw amendments you voted on tonight are being put in place per recommendations of the professionals to help safeguard against this happening again, and they are in addition to other safeguards we are implementing. We hope you feel reassured that we have done everything we or the professionals have thought of to protect this organization that we have all worked so hard to build together.

Our organization is whole and the person who did this has been stopped, caught, and we hope (you can request this in your community impact statements) will have to pay restitution.

New Staff

New Staff. The latest newsletter has the bios and photos for most of our new staff. We just filled the position of para-professional for PS3. We have 2 other vacancies that haven't been announced yet -- they will be announced in the next few days. Chris will update the website by July 1st with new bios and photos of staff.

Home visits. Our goal will be to do 100% for early childhood and 50% for k-5, although it is optional. Expect calls in the beginning of July. We're hoping to get class lists out by the end of June. Prek 4 should have found out who their teachers will be -- there will be a meet and greet tomorrow morning with prek teachers at 8:15 in the special ed room.

CAG will be leaving July 2nd -July 9 for vacation. After that she'll be in school in NY, and then she'll take a final vacation at the end of July. She will not be in communication while on vacation.

APTT Meetings in 2nd and 4th grade were a huge success. 2nd, 4th and 5th have committed to do them again next year. The one thing we plan to change is that we'll do APTT early and late in the year and one-on-one conferences in between. But big shout out to teachers and parents because even though we lost the parent-teacher conference day (because of snow) -- we had 70% families make it up.

We had a discussion about 3 year contracts for principals. We are all excited and happy that CAG now has a 3-year contract, she pointed out some of the obstacles that DCPS has put into place (particularly for young recruits that we want to keep in DC) to obtain those contracts.

CAG's new personal campaign is to stop charters from beginning at 5th grade. It's awesome to have school choice, but it's not right that you have to make that choice in 4th grade and pull kids from their elementary schools.

[Note from 5th grade parent: We've had such an incredible year, and we were still able to get into the middle school we wanted to get into. There is so much fear that if you don't start in 5th you won't get in the schools you want and that hasn't been our experience.]

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The PARCC administration is very complex and it was stressful -- One good thing about the PARCC being later this year is that hopefully everything on that end will be fixed.

It's been a really great year. Thank you

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PTA meetings will resume in the next school year.

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MINUTES

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Date: June 6/11/2015 6:00 PM

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Financial Fraud. The Executive Board report included details of the financial fraud case referred to in earlier PTA meetings and minutes. That section of the minutes has been redacted due to its sensitive nature . Any inquiries can be sent to maurypta@yahoo.com

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