



MAURY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL LOCAL SCHOOL ADVISORY TEAM

1250 Constitution Avenue NE, Washington, DC 20002 • (202) 698-3838 • mauryelementary.com/lSAT

Meeting Minutes

September 10, 2019, 7:30 am

Present: Helena Payne Chauvenet, Taeneress Griffin, Stefany Thangavelu, VanNessa Duckett, Becca Schendel Norris, D'Ann Lettieri, Norah Rabiah, Katie Spellacy, Maria Maya, Jean Kohanek

Absent: Becca Sanghvi, Shannon von Felden, Patrick Koontz

- 1) **Welcome and discussion of priorities for the school year.** The group had a discussion about the challenges of maintaining a tight-knit community and remaining connected with a large new building and greater number of families. Fostering and maintaining community is a priority for this year. Brainstorming yielded several ideas:
 - **Schoolwide book club.** The book club would have selections for adults and children, as well as other resources if people did not want to read an entire book. This could be organized around the five stances as a way of re-introducing Maury's guiding principles in the new space and for new families, and provide a shared experience within the school community. Leads: Stefany and Norah
 - **Community days at the school.** The school could host one or more community days where people could come in and tour the building; this could be done on the same day as the Maury Yard and Bake Sale. There should also be another event targeted more toward Maury alumni and the former principals in the area. It would be great to get the former principals to a Whole School Morning Meeting or other event at the school as a way of connecting current students and families to the history and legacy of Maury. Leads: Jean and VanNessa
 - **Story of Our Schools.** This is a non-profit group that helps a school research and document its history, culminating in a visual installation that can be displayed in the school. Maury has had initial discussions; we have a teacher who is interested.
 - **More communications** with the school community around LSAT activities and priorities.

- **Connecting with adult volunteers.** Community members have expressed an interest in staying involved in Maury, and recent research has shown the strong positive benefits for kids of connecting with an engaged adult. In the past, learning clubs have been ways for volunteers to get involved; other suggestions were conversation clubs. There have been confidentiality issues in the past, and it is a significant effort to organize volunteers and fit them into a classroom schedule. Suggested to poll teachers in a few weeks to assess needs and revisit the idea.

2) **Elections.** Maria Maya and Jean Kohanek were elected as co-chairs. LSAT will reach out to appoint a community member.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:35 am. The next LSAT meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, September 24 at 7:30 am.