



MAURY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL LOCAL SCHOOL ADVISORY TEAM

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

Meeting Minutes

December 10, 2019, 7:40 am

School Leadership Present: Taeneress Griffin

LSAT Members Present: Norah Rabiah, Jean Kohanek, Elizabeth Nelson, D'Ann Lettieri, Stefany Thangavelu, Becca Schendel Norris, Katie Spellacy, Shannon von Felden

LSAT Members Absent: Helena Payne Chauvenet, Becca Sanghvi, D'Angela Williams

Other Attendees: Lora Nunn, David Pinchotti

1. **Approved minutes from previous meeting.**
2. **Community comments.** There were no community comments.
3. **Additional LSAT meeting scheduled for February.** In anticipation of additional time needed to proposed DCPS budget for the 2020–2021 school year, members voted to schedule an additional LSAT meeting for Tuesday, February 25, 2020 at 7:30 am. It is unclear if we will have a proposed budget at that time, but compliance with the Open Meetings Act requires as much notice as possible and makes it easier to cancel a meeting than add one. Members discussed setting an alternate date of March 3, 2020 if budget delivery is delayed. AP Griffin noted that in prior years the budget has been delivered late, with a very short time for turnaround (only 1 week); ideally, school leadership would have a month to evaluate the proposed budget. AP Griffin reported that at a cluster meeting last week, DCPS shared there would be budget changes coming in the 2021–2022 school year that are designed to address equity, and that we should expect to see some small changes in the 2020–2021 budget as a precursor to the bigger changes coming in the following school year.
4. **Updates from previous meetings.**
 - Maury Book Club. The first meeting was held at 5:00 PM on November 21, 2019, during the hour prior to the PTA meeting. While there was a good turnout at this

time, members discussed setting future meetings at an alternate time of day so that parents with different availabilities may have the opportunity to attend. A meeting time in conjunction with the periodic morning coffee events was considered. Members also discussed soliciting feedback from the Maury community about other times that would work well for parents.

In the interim, members agreed to set the next book club meeting date for Thursday, January 16 at 5:00 PM, to coincide with the January PTA meeting. The book selections are based on the theme of “Persistence”:

- Adults: [Mindset, How we can learn to fulfill our potential \(TedTalk Video\)](#)
- Grades 3–5: [Roller Girl](#) (graphic novel, YA), [With the Fire on High](#)
- Grades 1–2: [The Book of Mistakes](#)
- PK3–K: [The Boy who Harnessed the Wind](#)

In response to a question about the book selections for students, Stefany Thangavelu clarified that book club is intended to be an adults-only event and that the childrens’ book selections are offered so that parents can reinforce the theme with their kids. The SEL committee may also be planning to create an SEL book nook at Maury that includes books reflecting the 5 stances.

Norah Rabiah agreed to find out if any teacher would be willing to serve as a co-facilitator for future book club meetings.

- Contractor Punch List Follow-up. Members discussed the best way to obtain an update on the contractor punch list. AP Griffin shared that an individual from the contractor who has been assigned to address the punch list items is on-site every day, and that Principal PC and Patrick have a monthly sit-down with the contractors. She noted that Patrick is the main point of contact for questions about the punch list. D’Ann Lettieri shared that it is unclear whether nudging by parents helps or hinders Patrick’s efforts to address the remaining punch list items.

Staff members noted they do not have any way to track progress on the issues they have submitted for the punch list, including missing items belonging to teachers that were placed in storage during the move.

Members made a plan to request a mid-year or new-year check-in with Patrick and the contractor representative, possibly in January 2020, to review progress on the punch list and assess which items are still outstanding. Norah agreed to make arrangements for that meeting with Patrick.

- Citywide Academic Clubs/Programs. The Geography Bee was a success and the Spelling Bee is coming up. A Maury Grade 5 student also recently won a Chinese competition.
 - Families of Students with Special Needs. Jean is planning to set up a support group for these families in the new year. AP Griffin added that she and Ms. Delaney were discussing ways to bring back the Parent Cafés as well as a way of supporting all parents in the Maury Community.
5. **Enrollment projections**. Principal PC, who was not present for this meeting, reported to the chair via email that we do not yet have final enrollment projections, though Maury staff calculations indicate @ 500 students for next year. AP Griffin reported that much of the growth this year came from Kindergarten enrollment, and that school leadership anticipates quite a few new Kindergartners next year as well.
6. **STAR Rating**. AP Griffin reported that Maury retained a 5 in its STAR Rating. This year's rating included new data on ELL students, now that we have enough ELL students (~12) to include that datapoint. Maury has made progress in Special Education and in closing the achievement gap, and with the new data can also work on increasing achievement by ELL students. Currently Ms. Bowers is jointly filling the role of ELL instruction and Math Intervention.

Last year we did not retain as many students for Grade 5 as we had previously; DCPS has set a goal for Maury to increase its retention of Grade 5 students. There was a discussion of the reasons why enrollment in that grade may have declined last year, including renovations and the systemic issues affecting Grade 5 retention district-wide. AP Griffin noted that Grade 5 retention issues are not unique to Maury, and is not a major factor in our STAR Rating as our overall re-enrollment numbers are very high.

7. **School goals (CSP) and PARCC goals**. AP Griffin provided a high-level overview of our PARCC goals, which include increasing the number of students scoring 4 and 5, and moving students scoring a 1 up to 2 and 3. This year DCPS has also given us an ambitious goal of increasing the number of students scoring 5. For next year, DCPS is expecting us to achieve about 80% proficiency for both ELA and Math.

There was a discussion concerning frustration with PARCC, the classroom time required to teach and learn how to successfully take the test, and the hours of testing involved for staff and students; many parents are surprised when their children reach that grade level. It was noted that PARCC has been dropped by many states. While parents can “opt out” of testing, in many ways doing so often negatively affects the school's overall scores; teacher evaluations are also directly tied to students' scores

on PARCC. The standardized-testing movement has shaped education policy for the last 15 years, and reforms would require action at a higher level.

Members discussed how to support teachers and students around PARCC testing. Staff noted they have specialized plans for moving students scoring below proficiency up to proficient levels, and that APTT meetings were designed to give parents information about the testing parameters. In years past, students appreciated snacks brought in by parents on testing days and spirit-building efforts like last year's baby pictures project by Ms. Bomba.

8. **New business.** There was no new business.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:26 am. The next LSAT meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 7 at 7:30 am.