



MAURY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL LOCAL SCHOOL ADVISORY TEAM

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

Meeting Minutes

March 10, 2020, 7:40 am

School Leadership Present: Helena Payne Chauvenet, Taeneress Griffin

LSAT Members Present: Jean Kohanek, Elizabeth Nelson, Becca Schendel Norris, Katie Spellacy, Shannon von Felden, Rebecca Sanghvi

LSAT Members Absent: D'Angela Williams, VanNessa Duckett, D'Ann Lettieri, Stefany Thangavelu

Other Attendees: Lora Nunn

1. **Approved minutes from previous meeting.**
2. **Community comments.** There were no community comments.
3. **Updates from previous meetings.**
 - Maury Book Club. Next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 11 from 5:30–6:30 pm. Book selection is *The Boy, the Mole, the Fox, and the Horse*.
 - Support Group for Families of Children with Special Needs. First meeting scheduled for March 23 at Tunnick's at 7 pm.
 - Budget. No school budget update to report. There will be a DC government budget meeting with Ward 6 Councilmember Charles Allen at Maury on March 25 at 6 pm. This is a community budget meeting that is open to the public.
4. **Mid-year data.** Principal Payne Chauvenet reported on mid-year assessment data.
 - Quick facts:
 - 467 students (PK3–5th)
 - 5-star OSSE rating

- 2019 PARCC: 77% ELA, 75% Math—usually looking to improve scores by about 3% year-over-year (but note that baseline is a little lower this year than last year)
- Areas of focus:
 - Social Emotional Learning
 - Academics
 - Upper grades
 - Equity (large gap between performance of white/black students)
- 2019–2020 Goals:
 - Fountas & Pinnell (F&P) (reading): increase to 75% proficient;
 - DIBELS (phonics/letter sounds): increase to 50% proficient.
 - iReady (math): increase to 56% proficient for Black students (baseline at beginning of year was 11%);
 - LCP index (Loved, Challenged and Prepared from the Panorama survey): increase to 71%, last year was 67%
- Data we can track mid-year:
 - F&P: 72%. Goal is 75% so we're almost there, but we are targeting the achievement gap (Black students scoring 44%).
 - DIBELS: 71% on or above grade level, but “above” (33%) is still a smaller slice of the pie than we'd like. Black students score 46%. K–2 teachers are taking part of each day to do letter/sound work, with support from DCPS.
 - iReady: 69% proficient, 38% for Black students. Pyramid of scores looks pretty similar to last year: Tier 1 “proficient” 71%, Tier 2 24%, Tier 3 “at risk” 6%. Black student rate has gone up slightly.
 - LCP index: no mid-year results for Panorama survey.
- Achievement gap between races:
 - The group discussed some of the biggest factors contributing to this phenomenon, including: high correlation between economic disadvantage and math scores, differences in support and access to support outside the classroom, parent education level, and the higher proportion of Black students that arrive at Maury in upper grades from other schools teaching different curricula.

- The group discussed whether the achievement gap in math was due to a technology gap, and whether an assessment like iReady measures math ability or rather a familiarity with the iReady app through practice at home. School leadership and teachers who were present agreed that our math curriculum does a good job of asking students to explain their thinking about math, and is still largely a “paper and pencil” curriculum. While it may have disadvantages, a program like iReady is also helpful because it automatically compiles and presents data in various ways.
- The group discussed some steps that are currently being taken to address the achievement gap, including: a before-school math club for students who can’t access iReady at home, engaging the RTI (Response to Intervention) team, progress monitoring, ongoing observations and feedback for teachers, and coaching for teachers. There are plans to further differentiate support next year to better address individual student needs.
- It was noted that numbers for Black students are improving from the beginning of the year (7% up to 38%), although those numbers are still not where we’d like them to be.

5. Current Health Precautions.

- Starting this week, Maury has swapped the lunch and recess schedule (kids now eat before recess), to allow for thorough hand washing before lunch; Monday 3/9 was the first day this was implemented. These changes have not impacted how long students have to eat (hand washing is taking place during instructional time).
- Teachers have been talking to students about good hygiene practice and attempting to minimize student’s stress about this topic.
- There is currently deep cleaning happening in high contact areas, and a schoolwide deep cleaning will happen on Monday, March 16 when the building is closed to students.
- The DCPS central office contingency planning team is taking steps to prepare for a district-wide closure (in the event such a closure becomes necessary), and the Mayor’s office has asked schools to work on their own contingency plans. DCPS is starting to take over communications related to this issue, and major closures will be announced via the DCPS website and Twitter.
- Maury does not use an online system to push out school assignments for all grades, though the Clever website can be used for instructional materials in some grades. DCPS will create an instructional contingency plan, but schools will have the ability to add to the available resources as well. For example, teachers could

send PARCC prep materials home with students. There has also been some discussion about book clubs, and teachers have begun circulating titles now to prepare. This is an evolving and dynamic situation, and we will have more information after the Monday, March 16 Professional Development Day.

- *All parents are advised to make sure their contact information is up-to-date with the school so that announcements can be pushed out.*

6. Food/Beverage Policy for Classroom Celebrations

- This topic has come up on the room parent listserv. There was some confusion with how the district wellness policy affects classroom celebrations, and the policy itself is somewhat contradictory (it appears to limit classroom food celebrations to 1x/month, but also exempts parent-provided food from the policy).
- While some teachers/grade levels enforce the 1x/month policy for classroom birthday celebrations, this can come into conflict with other regular classroom celebrations such as publishing parties and holiday parties. It was also noted that some teachers and students dislike the “only 1x/month” policy for birthday celebrations (the policy requires a lot of coordination among teachers and parents, and takes away a special moment from kids who may care a lot about that). At present Maury allows individual teachers/grades to set their own policy.
- Maury’s nut-free policy pertains to all classroom celebrations.
- This topic may be discussed at an upcoming staff meeting for teachers to consider more fully.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:40 am. The next LSAT meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 21 at 7:30 am.