



# MAURY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL LOCAL SCHOOL ADVISORY TEAM

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

## **Meeting Minutes—DRAFT**

June 9, 2020, 4:00 pm via remote teleconference

School Leadership Present: Helena Payne Chavenet, Taeneress Griffin

LSAT Members Present: Jean Kohanek, Becca Schendel Norris, D'Ann Lettieri, Stefany Thangavelu, Becca Sanghvi, Norah Rabiah, Katie Spellacy, Ross Kyle.

LSAT Members Absent: Vanessa Duckett, Elizabeth Nelson, D'Angela Williams

Other Attendees: Angela Stover, Richard Parker (incoming 2020–2021 LSAT Members)

- 1. Approve minutes from previous meeting.** Minutes of the May 5, 2020 meeting were unanimously approved by a voice vote.
- 2. Community comments.** None.
- 3. LSAT Election Results.**
  - Administrative Staff Representative. Angela Stover will replace D'Angela Williams for 2020–2021.
  - Parent Representatives. Richard Parker will replace Becca Schendel Norris, and Jean Kohanek, Stefany Thangavelu, and D'Ann Lettieri will continue for 2020–2021.
  - Teacher Representatives. WTU has required that elections for Teacher Representatives to be held in the fall; current reps will remain in place until then.
  - 2020–2021 meeting dates. The first meeting of the 2020–2021 LSAT will be held remotely on August 18, 2020, at 4:00 pm via teleconference. The second meeting will be held on September 8, 2020 (time and venue TBD).

#### **4. Enrollment and Budget Updates.**

- Enrollment. Close to 70% of families have re-enrolled.
- Budget. The next round of budgets have been posted on the public DCPS Data Center website. There are no significant changes for Maury. There had previously been some holds placed on internal transfers, and a delay in budgeting for a paraprofessional position, but these issues have been resolved and funding for the paraprofessional position is now locked in.
- Grade 2. DCPS has projected 80 students in this grade, which is approximately how many were enrolled in Grade 1 for the 2019–2020 school year. We currently have ~ 55 students enrolled for the 2020–2021 school year. If enrollment figures meet projections, Principal PC still plans to advocate for additional funding to hire a fourth Grade 2 teacher. However in the current tighter budget environment, she is not as confident that there will be extra funds allocated based on any uptick in enrollment.
- Vacancies. Principal PC is working on filling a half-time psychologist vacancy that will be shared with another school.

#### **5. Reopening School—Planning for Next Year**

- There are still a lot of unknowns about reopening schools. A lot of the decision-making is coming from the Mayor’s office. She has made it clear that she’s looking at the data: tracking COVID-19 cases, and looking at recommendations from the CDC and other organizations.
- For distance learning, there will be more consistency in online platform usage. We will continue to have Microsoft Teams access, but DCPS is moving to Canvas district-wide. This is the learning platform used for the current DCPS packet distribution system.
- If we have an in-person model, schools will definitely have to follow guidance re: physical distancing.
- Staff has been training on how to build a trauma-informed school and set up learning environments to help the kids process what’s happened, as well as the nuts and bolts of online learning platforms.
- At this time we do not expect to lose any staff to furloughing or budget freezes.

- Distance-learning accommodations for students with IEPs. There is a training being offered to special educators this month on this topic, and there are some new ideas about how to deliver those services. Schools are still required to continue 504 and IEP meetings. Conducting evaluations and assessments that are due for determining eligibility, etc. will be easier to do in person, if there is an in-person model at all. For distance learning, we'll be doing something like a due diligence report—the psychologist will be reviewing data that's available for the child, but the in-person components will not be done. There may also be new guidance for the 2020-2021 school year. Parents who have concerns or questions about this topic should feel free to reach out to Principal PC, who can help direct you to the appropriate person in the Office of Specialized Instruction.

## **6. Family Engagement**

- The group discussed ideas for welcoming new families to Maury, and encouraging family engagement for students who will be new to Maury in the 2020–2021 school year (primarily new PK3, PK4, and Kindergarten families).
- One proposal was to match new Maury families with an existing Maury family, who would personally reach out to welcome the new family and serve as a resource. Since many of the PK3 students are siblings of older Maury students, we could likely run a “matching program” with only about 20 existing family volunteers.
- The group discussed adding this function to the duties of the current PTA Hospitality Committee, and/or asking Room Parents to solicit volunteers. Ms. Coco should be able to share contact information with the Committee for all families who have not indicated on their enrollment forms that their directory information may not be shared.
- The group also discussed formalizing a process for the Hospitality Committee to reach out to new families that join Maury mid-year, as there is currently no process in place and communication to new families typically falls on individual teachers. A subcommittee will work with Ms. Coco on this.
- Members noted there was low participation in the Whole School Morning Meeting flipgrid videos, but that might be due to a combination of overwhelm and unfamiliarity with the format. Members encouraged the continuation of the Whole School Morning Meeting in some format—perhaps even via classroom participation in some way next year,
- Parents praised the end-of-year farewell video created by teachers.

## 7. DGS Building Updates

- We continue to monitor the remaining work orders (e.g. extra keys to be remade, now-repaired leaking in the gym that will require monitoring over the summer, windows in the back of the building, etc.), but most of the big projects now are getting prepared for social distancing.
- Maury reports open issues via a unified work-order system. After the order goes into the system, there is sometimes some back-and-forth about whether the issue is covered by the building warranty, which occasionally can delay the requested repair.
- There were some teacher-owned items lost during the move that were never recovered. It's unclear if we'll ever get an answer re: compensation from MCN or the moving/storage company contracted by MCN. Maury is working with teachers to replace items on a case-by-case basis, using the PTA-provided school supply budget.

## 8. New Business

- Student items left in the building. Staff has been cleaning out their rooms and getting things organized for kid pickup. Every student has a bag with their name on it, and teachers are putting all of their items in the bag. There will be some dates put on the calendar this summer for kids to come pick up their bag, probably organized by last name.
- Anti-racism initiative. The Social Emotional Learning Committee is looking at putting together materials for an anti-racist initiative. The group discussed what resources could be made available to parents, and how Maury can create space for a discussion on this topic between parents. Principal PC agreed to share information with the Maury community about the various programs that are being utilized for staff training, and to pass along any parent and community-oriented resources offered by those programs.

Principal PC also shared the following:

- Equity in learning has historically been a focus at Maury, and that focus has evolved in recent years to address structures that perpetuate racial inequity;

- Maury leadership is part of a small group of DCPS personnel who are working with a Harvard facilitator to walk through building a more consistent equity approach;
- Maury staff has also been discussing the recent national conversation about race and equity, and specifically police treatment of black people;
- For professional development, Maury has considered but rejected using either the “Kindred” program (too expensive), or the “Teaching for Change” program, which is not designed to address gentrification and the racial inequity issues we are dealing with at Maury).
- Parent LSAT members shared that they are interested in pushing the conversation beyond educators and into our school community—many families are interested in doing this work, whether via SEL Committee or through the school in some format. Principal PC believes parent-to-parent discussions/trainings are in many ways the most effective for this kind of work, especially as there are not as many organizations around that are yet ready to deal with the issues that are changing community schools in DC.
- This is an ongoing conversation that we will continue in the fall.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:10 pm.

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The first LSAT meeting of the 2020–2021 school year will be held Tuesday, August 18, 2020 at 4:00 pm via teleconference.