



MAURY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL LOCAL SCHOOL ADVISORY TEAM

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

Meeting Agenda

December 8, 2020, 4:00 pm via teleconference (login info below)

School Leadership Present: Taeneress Griffin, Helena Payne Chauvenet

LSAT Members Present: Henri Cooper, Jean Kohanek, Ross Kyle, D'Ann Lettieri, Richard Parker, Abby Sparrow, Katie Spellacy, Stefany Thangavelu, VanNessa Duckett, Angela Stover, Elizabeth Nelson

LSAT Members Absent: Becca Sanghvi

Other Attendees: George Blackmon, Lora Nunn, Corinth Capella, unidentified participant

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 pm.

- 1. Minutes from Previous Meeting.** Minutes of the November 10, 2020 meeting were unanimously approved by a roll call vote.
- 2. Community Comments.** None.
- 3. Distance Learning Updates.** Update provided by Principal Payne Chauvenet that Maury would be opening a CARES classroom December 9 with Grade 5 students. There are currently 6 students signed up and will max out at 11 students; possible to combine with Grade 4 students if not enough interest. Staff for CARES class are from Eastern High School and Eliot-Hine Middle School to support. Per the response from Maury families to DCPS survey, CARES classrooms are not the preferred format for the majority of families but this provides some support that Maury can test out and see how it works during Term 2.

Additionally, Principal PC shared that the school is trying to accommodate feedback from Maury School survey regarding the request to have live online learning for specials, which they will work to roll out.

- 4. Enrollment and Budget for SY21–22.** Currently, the SY21–22 projections are similar to past years and anticipate maintaining trends. Discussion started around whether the projections would justify an additional Grade 2 or Grade 3 teacher. The current Grade 2 class has a high teacher to student ratio. HPC noted that the teacher to student ratio shifts up to 1:25 in Grade 3, which allows for larger classes in the upper grades. This student cohort may continue to have a high teacher to student ratio, so we will continue to watch and see if the numbers allow for an additional Grade 3 teacher to be added. Current K and Grade 1 cohorts have numbers that maintain their teacher allocations and enrollment may justify an additional Grade 2 teacher for next year, bringing that grade band to 4 teachers. It was noted that the low enrollment for PK and Kindergarten this year due to COVID is District-wide and the understanding is that DCPS will still plan for normal projections going into SY 21–22. However, much is still to be determined, so we will look more closely when reviewing the budget, estimated to drop in February 2021.
- 5. Term 3 Reopening Process.** The Term 3 Reopening Committee is comprised of Principal PC and AP Griffin, mandated positions like LSAT (Katie Spellacy and Jean Kohanek), WTU (Becca Sanghvi), Paraeducators (Angela Stover), PTA President (Ross Kyle), and Community representative (Elizabeth Nelson), and others including PTA Parliamentarian/Room Parent Coordinator (Ebony Burton), PTA SEL Committee (Caitlin Wesaw), school administration (Patrick Koontz), and additional teachers (Kim Wright-Spurlock and Camelia McCandies) and parents (Melanie Anspacher, Margaret Ben-Or, Katherine Wright) to ensure representation for all grades. DCPS is giving schools four models to consider for reopening; however, there is a very tight timeline for response: school leadership is required to submit Term 3 reopening plans to DCPS by December 11 or soon after.

The four models proposed by DCPS include a blend of past models, and include a hybrid model with student learning both online and in person with the majority of learners remaining virtual (see DCPS Term 3 Planning website [here](#)). Models have trade-offs and not all of them will work for everyone. Based on numbers, not everyone will be eligible to return; the goal for Term 3 is 25% of capacity for in-person instruction with safe social distancing (gym capacity is a maximum of 60 kids). The selection lottery and process has not yet been determined for Term 3, but it is anticipated that it will continue to prioritize at-risk groups. Students who have previously declined would still be eligible and prioritized. More updates should be provided in January; Term 3 begins on February 1 and Term 4 begins on April 19.

Committee members will survey within their groups (teachers, paraeducators, and parents) to gather additional input from the wider school community. The goal is to

deliver high quality education in a pandemic and the group is discussing how best to allow flexibility as different grade levels have dramatically different needs.

6. **SEL Update.** Wellness activities ramping up, with an initial Wellness Day on December 11 where students can show off a pet, relative, or favorite stuffed animal that has helped them during Distance Learning. Nutrition and fitness will be the focus of future wellness activities.
7. **New Business.** There was an inquiry about the role of teachers aides during distance learning. Principal PC noted that the role of aides may vary depending on whether they are funded by DCPS vs. PTA. The DCPS aides are tied to a classroom in the younger grades, while PTA aides are typically split between classes at a grade level. What complicates the participation of PTA aides during distance learning is that they are not eligible for DCPS devices, but rather are provided PTA Chromebooks—which as we learned at the start of the year have limited functionality in some ways. Some aides have been helping with library access or other areas. PK and K aides have received training on Heggerty Phonemic Awareness curriculum to help class instruction.

A participant asked about Maury's presence at **Virtual EdFest** on Saturday, December 12. Enrollment team will manage participation; Principal PC noted that she has received inquiries about the upcoming virtual open houses, which will begin in January and will be a structured presentation to include a virtual tour.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 4:52 pm.

The next LSAT meeting will be held Tuesday, January 12, 2021 at 4:00 pm via teleconference.