



FEBRUARY 2021 PTA MINUTES

Maury Elementary

2/18/2021

Introductions and General Announcements

Ross Kyle, PTA President, kicked off the meeting by announcing that the PTA Executive Committee and LSAT are beginning to think about the PTA and school budgets for next year. If anyone in the community would like to provide input on next year's PTA budget, they should reach out to anyone on the PTA Executive Committee. Ross also reminded attendees to become PTA members, if they haven't already done so this school year. You can sign up [here](#). Please contact anyone on the PTA Executive Committee to confirm whether you are a member. Only members can serve on the PTA Executive Board, vote in the upcoming PTA elections, vote on the PTA budget.

Executive Committee and PTA Committees

Treasurer's Update: Andrew Lyons, PTA Treasurer, noted that we are about half way through the school year and have incurred about 37% of our planned expenditures for the school year and have raised 52% of our fundraising goal. It's tax season and we are preparing to issue receipts documenting your charitable contributions for 2020. We're trying to automatically generate receipts, but if you need one sooner, please email Maury.PTA.Treasurer@gmail.com to request one.

Parliamentarian Update: Ebony Burton, Parliamentarian, announced we will have two positions up for election this year -- Vice President (currently, Tanya Myers) and Secretary (currently, Sandra George). Ebony will be circulating the nomination form shortly. Nominations will be requested by April. You have to be a dues paying member to fill one of these positions and to vote. Please contact Ebony for additional information at ebony.y.burton@gmail.com.

Black History Spirit Week and Maury Instagram: Tanya Myers, Vice President, urged everyone to follow Maury's new Instagram account ([@mauryelementary](https://www.instagram.com/mauryelementary)) that she and Ebony Burton have created. The current focus is on Black History month. Maury will be celebrating Black History Spirit week the week of February 22nd. Check [here](#) for details about Black History Spirit Week. Please take pictures and tag Maury on Instagram.

Other Announcements

Maury at the Market: Liz Lyons, Maury at the Market Co-Chair, made a pitch for donations of goods, services, and parties for Maury at the Market. Parties can be virtual and can be outside. Get creative! Save the date for Maury at the Market, which is 20th. The theme is Mad Hatter. If you have an item to donate, please complete this [form](#).

Friends and Family Sponsorships: Ben and Becca Norris are leading this year's Friends and Family Sponsorships component of Maury at the Market. This is a way we encourage our friends and family to donate to Maury, and was a significant part of our fundraising effort in 2019. Donations were down a bit in 2020, and we'd like to increase them again. We've had donors from all over the country in the past. If a [digital solicitation](#) won't be effective in your view, please let Ben or Becca know and they will mail a paper solicitation. The sponsorship levels begin at \$25 and higher levels of contribution will generate greater benefits, ranging from a postcard from a Maury student to a personalized art piece.

Local School Advisory Team (LSAT): Jean Kohanek announced that the Mayor's budget proposal for next school year was released just before the PTA meeting. Jean noted that LSAT would be meeting imminently to discuss how to allocate this budget. Jean explained that Maury has received a funding increase, which is reflective of our student population growth.

School Equity Group: Jean Kohanek explained that this new Maury effort is intended to spark community discussions and to improve the sense of community at Maury and address equity issues in the school community. Participating is a great opportunity to share your experience at Maury and to hear from others. The facilitated discussion groups (sign up [here](#); password is Maury20002) aren't just for folks who feel like they haven't had a good experience. The sessions are to encourage everyone to share what, in their view, is good and what is challenging.

Principal's and Assistant Principal's Updates

PARCC: Assistant Principal Griffin announced that all DCPS schools are scheduled to take PARCC this spring, sometime between late March and late April. It's looking likely the testing will take place. The Office of the State Superintendent (OSSE) did not apply for a waiver to exempt students from testing; therefore, as of right now, we are on track to take PARCC this spring. This isn't a decision that happens at the school level, but rather at the district level.

This will be the first time the school administers PARCC in a virtual and in a socially-distanced setting (testing was canceled last school year). The PARCC was adopted by DCPS in 2016, and is for students in grades 3-5. Students who are in person will take the assessment in person and those who are virtual will do so virtually. PARCC is scored on a scale from 1-5, with a 5 being "exceeds expectations." The school will be doing some preparation for the test to ensure students feel ready. To help prepare students, parents should encourage your students who will be taking PARCC. You might talk about the persistence and flexibility that they are developing. It's also important to give them the space

to talk about their emotions and to know it's okay to feel anxious and frustrated. The goal is to avoid test anxiety as much as possible.

PARCC does provide some student-level data to the school, but PARCC data is not used to dictate whether a child passes a grade or otherwise factor into their grading. The test is used to assess a school's educational progress.

There is no opt-out option for families. If there isn't a certain participation rate, there could be some penalties that the school might face. OSSE has been vague about repercussions. For example, they have said the school could face reduced funding. But, it is unclear what that might look like.

For those students who will take the test virtually, Assistant Principal Griffin explained that parents are not proctors during the testing. Students will be in virtual break out rooms testing on teams live with their teachers and will be able to chat with the teacher if they need help. OSSE is still developing guidance regarding the mechanics of testing. The school will also need to do test integrity training for parents so they are aware of what is and is not permissible during testing, as well as understand their role in the testing process.

Several parents shared a [Ward 6 Public Schools Parent Support Organization petition](#) that families can sign to urge OSSE to cancel PARCC this school year.

Principal's Update: Principal Payne-Chauvenet reminded families that the school is celebrating Kindness Week this week. Thanks to everyone who is participating in the activities.

Regarding PARCC, certain test scores will not affect teacher evaluations and pay this year. There is no in-person-learning update for now. Different options are being considered, and we don't know what things will look like for Term 4. To date, only in-person teaching staff have received an opportunity to receive vaccines. Some bigger schools have brought back large numbers of students, but it is important to remember that these schools are larger and therefore the total number of students they bring back will be larger than the number who have returned at Maury. School leadership expects to consult the Term 3 Reopening Committee as it prepares for Term 4. The Committee is comprised of the Principal and Assistant Principal, 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.

In Attendance

The meeting was held virtually and attendance was not taken.

Next Meeting

Thursday, March 18, 2021 at 6:00 PM