



MARCH 2021 PTA MINUTES

Maury Elementary

3/18/2021

Introductions and General Announcements

Ross Kyle, PTA President, kicked off the meeting by introducing Ms. Marks, who invited everyone to participate in Story Time at 7pm, immediately following the PTA meeting. Ms. Marks has been hosting story time each Thursday evening at 7pm as part of Literacy Month. The final evening story time will take place Thursday, March 25th at 7pm. Please keep an eye out on the listserve for the link.

Ross noted that the April PTA meeting will be rescheduled to a Thursday that does not coincide with spring break.

Ross encouraged everyone to support Maury at the Market -- bidding is currently live [here](#) and the Zoom event will take place this Saturday night! Please see below for more details.

Executive Committee and PTA Committees

Treasurer's Update: Andrew Lyons, PTA Treasurer, noted we've spent 40 percent of the budget, but are 60% through the school year. This is good since revenue is lower than budgeted. At this point in the year, we are looking toward establishing a budget for next year. The best way to support next year's budget is to support Maury at the Market, which each year raises approximately \$100,000 for the next school year's budget. These funds are essential to pay for school aides and to fund the many events that take place at Maury each school year (hopefully, in-person next year!). Enter your bids [here](#)!

Parliamentarian Update: Ebony Burton, Parliamentarian, reminded everyone that PTA elections are upcoming at the April meeting (date TBD) for Vice President and Secretary. If you are interested in running or want to nominate someone, please submit your nomination [here](#). Nominations are due on April 6th. Please contact Ebony for additional information regarding the open positions at ebony.y.burton@gmail.com. You do need to be a dues paying member of the PTA to vote. If you aren't sure if you're a member, please email Sandra to confirm (sandracgeorge@gmail.com).

Equity Group Update: Ebony noted there will be more listening sessions toward the end of March. Kenyon Weaver recently shared his very positive experience participating in a session on the list serve so check that out if you haven't seen it. Please be on the lookout for additional sessions if you are interested in participating.

Maury at the Market: Liz Lyons, Maury at the Market Co-Chair, gave a shout out to her co-chair, Amy Toner, and Maury at the Market Committee members Katie Telligman, Andrew Holod, Cari Fisher, Dani Abrams, Elizabeth Kaehler, Ben and Becca Norris, Sarah Swift, Liza Rao, Karli Maloney, and Shavannah Miller, Karen Maloney. Bidding is happening now! Place your bids [here](#).

- What should we expect on Saturday night? There will be a party on Zoom and you can join a variety of breakout rooms, such as wine lovers, new parents, Eliot Hine families, etc.
- How do you get the Zoom link? Amy will send the link to you. Donations are encouraged, but if you are unable to make a donation, please reach out to Amy and she will send the link (amysuebee@gmail.com). We want this to be a fun social event for the whole Maury community.
- When will the bidding close? It will close for most items at 10PM on Saturday, and at 9PM for select teacher experiences, which are being raffled off. The raffle will be held from 9pm-10pm.
- How much do we need to raise? The goal is \$90,000; we've already raised \$21,000 in business sponsorships.

Local School Advisory Team (LSAT): Jean Kohanek, LSAT Chair, noted that the LSAT has met a couple of times since the last PTA meeting to discuss the proposed school budget for next year. In contrast to many schools in DC, Maury received an increase, which includes funds for additional second and third grade teachers. We also received funding for a full-time psychologist and received approval to convert a new custodial position to a new teaching fellow position. We were able to preserve all other positions.

Term 4 Update: Ross acknowledged that there have been a lot of conversations in the community about term 4 and he has been able to participate in many of those conversations. It's been apparent to Ross that everyone is trying to approach this from what is best for the kids, which is why we are all here and the teachers and staff are working so hard. There was a survey that went out on the listserve and the parents who spearheaded that survey will briefly share the results of that survey. (see the Principal's Update below for more information regarding school reopening.)

Carolyn Marsh presented the survey results at a high level (the survey is available [here](#)). There were 300 plus responses, with a good mix of families across grades. About 75% said they wanted in-person learning and 8 percent want to remain virtual. Others said they were unsure or would only want an in-person spot if it worked for their family. The survey also collected input on families' reasons for turning down a Term 3 seat. You may have heard that more people declined seats for Term 3 than accepted seat. That data helps us see that some people had safety concerns at the time, wanted to keep their same teacher, the schedule presented challenges, there was no sibling spot, or they were committed to their pod. The survey also asked how families feel about outdoor options,

either with a teacher or with a playgroup. Those with students who are all virtual expressed very high support for outdoor options. If you have any questions, you can reach out to Carolyn Marsh (teaguecj@gmail.com) or Susan Hennessey (sjkhennessy@gmail.com).

Principal's and Assistant Principal's Updates

PARCC: Assistant Principal Griffin noted that OSSE has submitted a PARCC waiver request to the federal Department of Education and is awaiting approval of that waiver.

Principal's Update: Principal Payne-Chauvenet presented this [slide deck](#) regarding Term 3 reopening. She also explained that DC is reexamining the current 6-foot social distancing rule; if the distancing requirement drops to 3-feet, this will dramatically affect the school's options for expanding in-person learning. Principal Payne-Chauvenet shared a presentation on school reopening.

Assistant Principal Griffin talked about summer learning. DCPS has tasked all schools with developing a summer academy to support students with recovery and acceleration. The program can range from 2-4 weeks, and will focus on Kindergarten through 5th grade. The priority is grade level achievement and attendance. At Maury, we are considering doing a 3-week, half day program (9am-1pm). WE are also looking to partner with Polite Piggy's to offer a 1pm-5pm session. In addition to academics, we also want to offer enrichment. We also want to focus on equity. Equity is different from equality, which is that everyone gets the same thing. But, equity talks about everyone getting what they need. Please keep in mind this equity focus as we turn to discussion about Term 4. Having a one-size-fits-all approach may not work to ensure equity and, therefore, not everyone will get the same thing.

Principal Payne Chauvenet said that, for Term 3, the school was charged to design in-person learning with an equity focus, which meant focusing on the most vulnerable students. As a result, we were able to offer all students in these categories (e.g., homeless, special education) seats. This is the model we have now, which resulted in Maury being able to offer more seats than the minimum outlined by DCPS. Many schools are currently expanding seats, but many of them didn't offer as many seats at Maury did at the start of Term 3. The largest barrier to expanding the number of seats is the 6-foot distance requirements, which limits cohorts to 11 students, the amount of time needed to clean between groups in the same classroom, and the 3-person team requirement for early childhood education. There are additional barriers,

including allowances for teachers to remain virtual under the ADA/FMLA and relief coverage required per cohort, as well as classroom closure and close contact quarantining requirements. If the distance rules change for Term 4, the school would focus on adding more children to grades 3, 4, and 5, which currently only have 11 children in-person per grade.

Principal Payne-Chauvenet noted that we all want five days of week at school - those of who work at school and those of us with children at home. For Term 4, we are charged with not disrupting the current structure; this includes not taking away time in school from the students who have it, principally because we cannot take time away from at-risk children. So, our options are having some form of outdoor learning time, which would provide small learning group opportunities or small, social-emotional group opportunities. We are trying to figure out how to make this work with teachers needing to get to the building and then needing to return home to teach virtually.

Looking ahead to the next school year, the goal is to get all children who want seats into the building. The question is whether cohort requirements will change to allow us to get more children not the building? WE also know we may need to rethink our instructional model. Based on Term 2 interest in in-person learning, we did not expect interest to be as significant for Term 3. We know there are some other models that allow more students to be in the building. We didn't choose those because we wanted to preserve a high quality experience for in person and virtual students.

The best way for families to get updates on Term 4 plans is through the Principal's weekly updates, the monthly PTA meetings, and LSAT meetings, which are recorded.

A parent asked if the school is looking for volunteers to help with potential outdoor learning opportunities? Principal Payne-Chauvenet noted that volunteers will be solicited for any outdoor school activities, and will definitely be needed for any gatherings that are off of school property.

If the distancing requirements go down to 3 feet, would it be possible to get everyone in the school next year? Principal P-C is hopeful, but it's unclear whether lowering the distance requirements would allow us to bring in more than 22 children per class. Some classes have more than 22 students.

Zoom Chat Box

From [Jean Kohanek](#) to [Everyone](#):

6:05 PM

Hear, hear! M@M team should be sainted!

From Megan Grimaldi ... to Everyone:

6:06 PM

Woooohooooo!!!

From Richard Parker to Everyone:

6:06 PM

Thanks so much to M@M team!

From Kenyon Weaver to Everyone:

6:07 PM

Doesn't look backwards to me!

From Sarah Swift to Everyone:

6:08 PM

hurray for teacher experiences!

From Jean Kohanek to Everyone:

6:10 PM

Love the raffle idea

From Adriaan to Everyone:

6:11 PM

Can we get a list of the local businesses who donated?

From Tanya Myers to Everyone:

6:12 PM

2 nominations for which position?

From Amy Toner to Everyone:

6:12 PM

Here is the link to bid, donate and see the sponsors —

<https://maurye.ejoinme.org/MyEvents/MauryattheMarket2021/tabid/1189510/Default.aspx>

From Sarah Swift to Everyone:

6:13 PM

great!

sorry to have missed them. . .

From Jean Kohanek to Everyone:

6:13 PM

If you haven't had a chance to sign up for a listening session but wanted to, just shoot me an e-mail and I'll connect you: jean.m.kohanek@gmail.com

From Kenyon Weaver to Everyone:

6:13 PM

Strong recommendation

From Amy Toner to Everyone:

6:13 PM

Anyone can attend the zoom on Saturday, please shoot me an email if you need the link at amysuebee@gmail.com.

From Lora Nunn to Everyone:

6:13 PM

I second Kenyon's strong recommendation for the listening sessions!

From Ebony Burton to Everyone:

6:15 PM

PTA Election nomination form:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeQ6N8wIPGSbO2xd3HktUPt32Tc1IKEgr9N1nJRqTS5ZuW4gQ/viewform?gxids=7628>

From susanhennessey to Everyone:

6:22 PM

Hi all, I'm not able to share the PDF slides in this chat, but I will ask Ross to share the results, or if you'd like to see these slides and the breakdowns you can email me at sjkhennessey@gmail.com

From Ashley Quarcoo to Everyone:

6:24 PM

Can you share what that guidance is for those of us didn't see?

From Annie Perezchic... to Everyone:

6:26 PM

Will Maury be able to modify in person class size for term 4 if the 3' rule is approved by DCPS

From Sarah Swift to Everyone:

6:28 PM

when you say "attendance" do you those who didn't attend as much?

From Monica to Everyone:

6:30 PM

For the summer learning, the slides said the focus was for grades K-5. Is that for the students going into that grade in the fall?

From Taeneress Griff... to Everyone:

6:33 PM

Yes, attendance is one factor. There is a correlation between low attendance and below grade level performance.

We are referencing rising K-5.

From Sarah Swift to Everyone:

6:33 PM

thanks! just clarifying. . .

From Taeneress Griff... to Everyone:

6:33 PM

I believe guidance is listed on the DCPS reopen strong website.

From Liza Rao (she/h... to Everyone:

6:36 PM

Is there a plan at the grade-level to repeat any units in the fall for children have who fallen behind? Will the school test in-person to assess student progress/level, as virtual tests can be unwittingly and strongly influenced by parental participation?

From Annie Perezchic... to Everyone:

6:37 PM

Will there be time for Q & A?

on the topic of term 4 specifically

From Taeneress Griff... to Everyone:

6:39 PM

We will not be repeating units but the plan is to target students who have not made adequate progress during summer academy. Next year we will administer our usual BOY assessments to have a full picture of where students are entering each grade level and to gauge any learning loss. We will address learning loss through tiered instructional supports such as RTI/ intervention and differentiated instruction.

From Ashley Quarcoo to Everyone:

6:41 PM

Are IPL learning plans for next year being driven by individual schools? Or are there standards/goals for IPL being set by DCPS that will apply to all schools?

From Jean Kohanek to Everyone:

6:41 PM

<https://mauryelementary.com/lSAT>

From Taeneress Griff... to Everyone:

6:42 PM

We do not have firm guidance from DCPS for SY22. We know that schools are tasked with offering seats to all that want them. We are waiting on further guidance. It sounds like there will be some element of school flexibility.

From Kenyon Weaver to Everyone:

6:42 PM

It sounds like Maury leadership is open to considering ideas for Term 4, including offers of how parents can support / volunteer / facilitate?

From Richard Parker to Everyone:

6:45 PM

To volunteer does the parent, guardian, other adult need to have obtained the volunteer clearance from DCPS?

From [Taeneress Griff...](#) to [Everyone](#):

6:45 PM

Yes, all volunteers must be cleared through the volunteer process. Good question!

From [Stefan Hankin](#) to [Everyone](#):

6:47 PM

has DCPS given a date where we will know definitively what the plan is for the Fall?

From [Megan Grimaldi ...](#) to [Everyone](#):

6:48 PM

Is the volunteer clearance something we have to apply again for? I applied last year (2019) and got permission to go on field trips but I don't know if I need to renew.

From [Taeneress Griff...](#) to [Everyone](#):

6:48 PM

No, unfortunately this past year has and continues to be fluid.

From [Ashley Quarcoo](#) to [Everyone](#):

6:48 PM

5 days for a full day?

Or half day cohorts?

From [Kathyanne Cohen...](#) to [Everyone](#):

6:49 PM

When would you be able to say if 5 days is possible with a 3 foot guidance for next school year?

From [Sarah Swift](#) to [Everyone](#):

6:51 PM

do you expect each individual school to need to accommodate families who choose to remain virtual next year?
(wondering if there may be some DCPS-wide effort to support virtual students).

From [Taeneress Griff...](#) to [Everyone](#):

6:51 PM

We don't have firm guidance from DCPS on SY22. The three foot rule would help but it is also be impacted by enrollment and class size. There are a lot of factors that go into class size.

From [Sean Dillon](#) to [Everyone](#):

6:52 PM

is the 1.5 hours the time the classroom must be vacant in between cohorts?

From [Taeneress Griff...](#) to [Everyone](#):

6:53 PM

