



MAURY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL LOCAL SCHOOL ADVISORY TEAM

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

Meeting Minutes

May 11, 2021, 4:00 pm via teleconference

School Leadership Present: Helena Payne Chauvenet, Taeneress Griffin

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

LSAT Members Absent: Katie Spellacy, Angela Stover

Other Attendees: Lora Nunn, Sandy Lawrence, George Blackmon, two unidentified callers

The meeting was called to order at 4:04 pm.

- 1. Minutes from Previous Meeting.** Minutes of the April 6, 2021, meeting were unanimously approved by roll-call vote.
- 2. Community Comments.** None.
- 3. LSAT Elections.** Nominations for parent positions are due Thursday, May 13, 2021, and election will be held Thursday, May 20, 2021. Nominations for teacher positions are due Wednesday, May 12, 2021, and they currently need one more nomination, but given the election will be held next week there is still time to fill the slate. Teachers can also appoint members if there are empty seats after the election. The principal will hold an election for administrative staff. The goal is to have new members present for the June meeting.
- 4. Updates re: DDOT/parking.** Work will occur, probably over the summer, to expand the playground into the parking lot thus removing eight parking spaces. There is some zoned parking during the day on 12th Place NE, but not enough to meet teacher and staff needs. There is new signage on 12th Place NE designating school parking spots, but it was noted that there needs to be enforcement. The desire is to have more zoned

parking around the school, and there is a proposal before DDOT to provide for day-time spaces to meet school demand, but that appeared to stall during the pandemic. The local ANC Commissioner is familiar with that proposal. It was recommended that a parent volunteer be identified to serve as a point person with DDOT for this project. Patrick Koontz is the point person within the school. It was stated that teachers are concerned and skeptical that DDOT will fulfill its promises to get approved street parking near the school given the past experience when additional street parking did not materialize when the renovated school reopened. Teachers want to know that DDOT is being held accountable.

- 5. Term 4 Updates.** Close to 300 students are in the building, with roughly 200 at home. With reopening for Term 4, as many students are in the building as possible given social distancing requirements. One challenge associated with the return of more students has been tech issues as many of the school's computers had not been online and updated. One daily issue is enforcing the social distancing requirements with the students, as more children in the building make it more difficult to ensure adherence. Virtual students are being offered a "mini-fun day" experience on the school playground, broken up by grades, to take place on separate Wednesdays this month. The PK4 class that was delayed is now opened up with an in-person classroom teacher and aide.

Staffing remains a challenge. Currently, three teachers are on FMLA and a few more are currently on COVID leave. Substitutes have had to be utilized, but are not always easy to come by. Mayor Bowser made an update about May 21 openings across the city, but there is no new guidance as of yet with respect to schools. Until there is, we anticipate no changes to Term 4 in-person/virtual learning. Teacher representatives indicated that being back in the building is great for most teachers, but for those who are balancing virtual and in-person teaching, it is double the workload. One recurring issue is finding sufficient coverage for lunch, recess, and planning time for teachers. Matching school needs with parent volunteer availability has been tricky. If you are available to volunteer, please reach out to the main office.

- 6. Summer Learning Update.** Summer learning offers have gone out, and most classes are full. There will be programs for rising students in Grades 3–5, with a maximum number of 10–12 students in each class/grade level. It will be a three week program, from July 12–30. The schedule is 9 am–1 pm for academics and enrichment from 1–3 pm. Aides for the enrichment programs will not be obtained through Polite Piggy's but hired separately by the school. Four Maury teachers are confirmed to staff the program, and two of three aide positions have been filled. Maury has purchased curriculum materials, and teachers will tailor that curriculum to meet the needs of individual students based on year-end assessments. The cost for the summer learning

program is covered by the money allotted for summer learning; excess funds, if any, will roll over to next year into the admin premium budget category to pay teachers who take on additional responsibilities such as heavier teaching loads and sponsoring extracurricular activities.

- 7. Current Plans for 2021–22 School Year.** Students will be back 5 days a week, per the Mayor and DCPS announcements; this remains the current default plan for the 2021–22 school year. DCPS is considering a centralized virtual school for those students who need to remain virtual in the fall. This will remove virtual learning from any individual school's responsibility, but preserve the option for a small cohort of students across the District. At present, there is not a virtual teaching option for the fall for teachers. If a teacher is unable to return to the classroom for personal reasons, the school will staff their in-person classroom. It is important to note, discussions are ongoing between the WTU and DCPS, but that there is a commitment to 5 days a week, in-person education.

Additional funding through the federal American Rescue Plan (ARP/ESSER III) will allow Maury to renew its request for an additional Grade 3 teacher for next year (one year only), and it looks positive. An additional teacher in that grade might mean a structural change for the Grade 3 model, which is being considered. In addition, as the school population grows and operational demands expand, the school would benefit from a front office clerk position to help with responsibilities like enrollment and supply management. However, this is a new request and funding for that position might not be available for the upcoming school year. Enrollment is pacing similarly to past years, and enrollments are being processed. The anticipated Grade 5 class will be sizeable; each year it continues to grow as more families choose to remain at Maury for Grade 5. Regarding teacher turnover for 2021–22, teachers had to give notice to DCPS by April 1, 2021, if they are moving, retiring, etc. Principal PC is aware of those who are leaving, and interviews are already underway for the known open positions. The goal is to have new teachers in place this summer. At this point, turnover for this year is typical based on years past, but since we are hiring replacements and a handful of new positions there will be new faces at the school this fall. Hiring for the full-time school psychologist position is currently in process.

The school will take into consideration a request that additional SEL opportunities be provided to all students after school hours, such as by keeping the playground open to more students after 3:30 and by expanding the availability of extracurricular activities beyond Polite Piggy's. Principal PC stated that a school of 500 students with accompanying guardians would be a huge number well past playground capacity, so that would require some creative solutions.

- 8. Comprehensive School Plan.** Principal PC identified four specific goal areas: shared leadership, SEL, academics, and parent engagement. With respect to shared leadership, the school has worked to create a solid vision with the staff, and now seek more parent input. This year was necessarily focused on virtual learning, and the plan is to return to focus on longer term vision with parent input. With respect to SEL, this will remain a strong focus of the school culture and efforts will include addressing meeting students where they are based upon their varied experiences this year. As to academics, there will be a continued use of data with respect to reading, math, and ESL, as well as continued use of intervention and small group support based upon identified student growth and needs. In the area of parent engagement, the school will continue to emphasize the importance of parent-teacher and APTT meetings and other lines of regular communication from school to the community and will also seek to identify additional venues for open communication with parents. Over the last year or more, many within our community have felt deep emotions specifically about school-related issues. In order to continue to have a strong, thriving school community, we need to acknowledge these frustrations and lament that this past year was extremely hard, while at the same time definitively moving on from this year for the good of our staff, teachers, parents, and most importantly, students. School leadership is open to ideas on how to re-engage positively as a community, and also plans are already underway to address this in the fall.
- 9. New Business.** There was no new business.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 5:00 pm.

The next LSAT meeting will be held Tuesday, June 8, 2021, at 4:00 pm via teleconference.