



MAURY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL LOCAL SCHOOL ADVISORY TEAM

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

Meeting Minutes

December 14, 2021, 4:00 pm via remote teleconference

School Leadership Present: Principal Helena Payne Chauvenet, Assistant Principal Andrew Lardell, Business/Operations Manager Patrick Koontz

LSAT Members Present: D'Ann Lettieri, Richard Parker, Alison Schwartz, Kenyon Weaver, Katie Jondal, Becca Sanghvi, Shanna Williams-Carr, Elizabeth Nelson, VanNessa Duckett, Ross Kyle, Tess Winters

LSAT Members Absent: Angela Stover

Called to order at 4:04pm

1. **Previous Meeting Minutes.** Minutes of the November 9, 2021 meeting were unanimously approved by a roll call vote. The motion to adopt was put forward by Richard Parker and seconded by Kenyon Weaver.
2. **Community Comments.** No community comments.
3. **Whole School Update.**
 - a. *Comprehensive School Plan*
 - Social Emotional Learning: student focus groups continue. This is providing helpful insights and ideas into what students need and are dealing with, and building relationships with students and between students. The new tutoring program continues. The school is finalizing a contract with an external vendor for more tutoring online. Parent survey groups are planned to start in the new year.
 - b. *Current COVID Protocols*
 - The school now has more vaccinated students, which means fewer students who have to quarantine if considered a close contact.
 - Now that students are becoming fully vaccinated (two weeks post-second shot), there is planned to be a form available that can be uploaded into the school's system to allow families to note their child's Covid vaccination status. An update on this will be coming soon from Principal Payne Chauvenet..

- It was noted that more adults are not wearing masks during pick up and remaining on the playground. Principal Payne Chauvenet noted that the city’s outdoor mask mandate has been lifted. She explained that no one is allowed to enter the building without a mask, but outdoor areas are a blurred area between community space and school space. She advised that the school administration has little ability to enforce mask wearing anywhere other than the interior of the building. Members of the LSAT note it is still the desire of the school’s parent leadership teams to continue to see mask wearing on the playground and on sidewalks surrounding the school grounds. Reminders should be sent to our community that mask wearing is still important when on and around the campus grounds.
- Although there has been discussion, at the DCPS level, of changing the use of the COVID spit test (particularly for very young students), the only testing option for asymptomatic and symptomatic testing at school currently remains the spit test.
- Clarification was sought on what constitutes a close contact. It was explained that even if students are good mask wearers, if they are fewer than 3 feet from another student (or other individual at the school) who tests positive for more than 15 minutes they will be considered a close contact and subjected to quarantine protocol. On the whole, most Maury students are good mask wearers and teachers are good at reminding students to wear their masks.
- *Grade-specific Programs & Community Partnerships*
 - Maury has always had a wide variety of grade-specific programs and community partnerships, many of which were put on hold during virtual schooling. Quite a few of these programs are back up and running. But several are still on hold or being executed differently at this time. A few examples:
 - The SEL mindfulness program with Minds, Inc. in 2nd grade has been restarted after last year’s hiatus and being held virtually
 - Roots of Empathy in 4th grade is still on hold, but there is a desire to continue the program as soon as possible
 - Think Tank has several partnerships, like with beekeeper Ms. Toni (Burnham) that are continuing virtually
 - Whole school morning meetings are currently held virtually, but Principal Payne Chauvenet and the morning meeting committee is exploring outdoor options for the Spring so they can be held in-person
 - Boys and girls basketball is up and running
 - Girls on the Run just finished up a successful season
 - There is no ski club this winter due to current guidance on travel out of state, but parents are working to figure out an alternative.

c. *Outstanding Building Maintenance Issues*

- DGS is still doing their work order “blast,” and because of that we’ve seen some activity at Maury.

- Additional cleaning efforts have begun again, and DCPS walk throughs are occurring to monitor cleaning.
- It was noted that there is a lot of mouse activity at school as the weather has gotten colder, doors are left open longer for Covid safety, and children are eating in classrooms.
- The new area of the playground will be getting a new “surface” soon. It was supposed to have been completed by now, but progress has been limited by changes in the weather. A fence will go up on that part of the playground when this work begins.

d. *Playground, Parking & Outdoor Learning/Lunch*

- The temporary visitors parking passes offered by families that many teachers have been using since the summer are expiring. This requires families to create an additional temporary parking pass for the teacher or staff member with whom they are paired. The request has gone out, and most of the impacted teachers and staff have received an updated pass. If additional families are willing to obtain and “donate” parking passes, there are still needs at the school. It was also noted that teachers with designated spaces on 12th Place NE often struggle to find parking in the morning. Efforts to increase enforcement and get additional neighborhood parking passes for these teachers are ongoing. With regards to outdoor lunch, students sit in chairs and eat their lunches on their laps. If it’s 50° or warmer outside and the weather is cooperative, outdoor lunch occurs every day for half of the third grade and all of the fifth grade. The students now eat outside lunch very well, with earlier concerns no longer an issue.

e. *Volunteer Needs on Campus*

- Patrick Koontz has been using the volunteer list quite regularly for one-off projects around the school. The volunteer list is effective. It was noted that an additional area where volunteers could be utilized is with the Thursday asymptomatic testing. That would free up aides to remain in the academic classroom instead of escorting and helping children with testing.

f. *Traffic Around School Property*

- With regards to getting an additional crossing guard, Principal Payne-Chauvenet reported that the volunteer counter clicking, which monitored pedestrian and vehicle traffic around Maury, was completed. The data was sent to [whom?] to support the request.
- Kenyon Weaver led a discussion regarding traffic safety concerns around school property (see attached document). The school year has seen an increase in traffic along 13th Street NE between 3:00-3:30pm during pick up time. There are many traffic violations occurring each and every school day. This includes vehicles parked across the crosswalks, vehicles double parked, vehicles parked in the street and left unattended (blocking traffic both ways), cars racing down the street, and cars making illegal u-turns in the middle of the block. Individuals violating traffic laws have also shown general disrespect towards the crossing guards and others who are trying to keep our children safe. Several times this academic year, MPD has

monitored this activity, sometimes proactively and sometimes in response to 911 & 311 calls.

- Principal Payne Chauvenet noted that:
 - Confrontations between parents are not productive.
 - Some students have complicated situations and are picked up by people who may drive cars with out-of-state license plates.
 - Reinstating the express lane on Constitution Ave., NE is currently not an option. The aides who, in the past, staffed that are currently helping in other areas of the building during dismissal. It might be possible to do something like the express lane with community volunteer support.
- MPD First District Captain Tatjana Savoy joined the meeting. She said MPD has been aware of the traffic safety issues at Maury for a couple of months now. Her officers have observed after school pick up, and as expected, drivers are compliant when officers are present. MPD does not, however, have the bandwidth to dedicate an officer every day to Maury for this purpose. In addition, MPD does not want to issue tickets to parents/guardians/caretakers picking up students from school. One idea she suggested might work (based upon efforts at other schools) would be for the school to work with DDOT to make one of the surrounding blocks (most likely 13th Street, NE) one-way during this brief window of time during pickup in the afternoon. She also suggested considering other traffic calming solutions.
- ANC Commissioner Amber Gove noted that work has been ongoing to calm traffic around the school, e.g., the flexiposts seen around the school's intersections. She noted further traffic safety investigations are underway such as speed humps coming soon to the 100 and 300 block of 13th Street, NE.

- 4. Specials: Art Overview.** Ms. Lauren Bomba was invited to speak to the LSAT regarding art. She started her teaching career at Maury, and this is her 11th year with the school. She has witnessed the growth in student enrollment over that time, including the rapid growth in recent years. As a specials teacher, she typically teaches every student, every week of school. As a result, she has really felt the impact of increased enrollment.
- a. She noted that physical help from Maury community members is always welcome in her classroom, especially when it comes to hanging artwork as there are few places to display and store art in the new building.
 - b. She is always brainstorming how to keep the quality level in the art classroom high and student engagement solid. She reinvents her curriculum each year, and enjoys making it relevant to current local, national, and global events and issues.
 - c. Ms. Bomba suggested that a future schedule that has her seeing certain cohorts more intensely during certain terms rather than throughout the entire school year

would make it easier for her to work well with students and continue to provide them with high-quality art instruction. It was also noted that the transition between different grade levels throughout the school day, as currently scheduled, is quite difficult, as students in different grades are not working on the same types of art.

- d. Principal Payne-Chauvenet noted that the staff voted on scheduling configurations, and the current weekly schedule that has every student having every special one (or two) day(s) a week is the current preference of the majority of staff.
- e. Scheduling, however, is a conversation to be had every year. And as enrollment continues to grow, tough decisions, including ones impacting specials classes, will have to be made.

5. Budget SY2022-23 (including enrollment projections). The budget for next year is at an early stage. Current enrollment is projected to be 549 students for school year 2022-23. That is the maximum building capacity per the architects of our school. As growth continues as anticipated, difficult decisions will have to be made by school leadership, teachers and staff and the school community about classroom space, scheduling, and specials.

- a. Every classroom at Maury is currently being utilized. The maker space above the library is not being used as a classroom, but could be converted if necessary. As previously discussed, scheduling will be impacted as growth continues, and we have to figure out how to accommodate specials for students. In addition, the specials classrooms may need to be used in the future for homerooms, and that would require putting specials teachers on traveling carts. Reducing pre-K by one classroom is also an option available (as pre-K in the District is not mandatory).
- b. Maury is not yet at that point, but the school will be there in the near future. These conversations thus need to begin happening within our community soon.
- c. The school will likely receive its initial 2022-2023 budget in February. On behalf of the school, the administrative team and the LSAT will respond to that budget before it is finalized by DCPS.
- d. With regards to the initial projection of when the new building would reach capacity, the anticipated date was roughly five years out. The school has reached maximum capacity at nearly three years out. When it comes to structuring classrooms, the schedule, and pre-K, DCPS usually leaves those decisions to the discretion of the school.
- e. There was discussion about ways to retrofit the building for additional classroom space and other ideas were offered on the physical structure of the current space.

6. New Business. There was no new business. The meeting was adjourned at 5:23 pm.

The next LSAT meeting will be held at 4pm, on Tuesday, January 11, 2022, via teleconference.