



MAURY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL LOCAL SCHOOL ADVISORY TEAM

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

Meeting Minutes

March 8, 2022, 4:00 pm via remote teleconference

School Leadership Present: Principal Helena Payne Chauvenet; Business/Operations Manager Patrick Koontz

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

LSAT Members Absent: Angela Stover

Called to order at 4:01 pm

1. **Previous Meeting Minutes.** Minutes of the February 17, 2022 meeting were unanimously approved by a roll call vote. The motion to adopt was put forward by Richard Parker and seconded by Ross Kyle.
2. **Community Comments.** No comments.
3. **Whole School Update.**
 - Comprehensive School Plan
 - School personnel are reviewing students' mid-year testing results and examining the data at different grade levels (K through 5). There is a push to look at the data for those students who receive ongoing interventions to identify growth and to determine if other supports are needed. The school's contract with an outside vendor to provide one-on-one tutoring has been finalized and approved, and services are scheduled to begin next week (i.e., week of March 14th). The contract provides for a base number of hours, which may allow for more students to participate. The school will have a learning lab with live one-on-one tutoring. Tutoring may be available virtually for interested families if contract hours are available.

- Social & Emotional Learning
 - Parents, guardians, and caretakers are encouraged to take the DCPS Panorama survey. For information, see <https://dcps.dc.gov/surveys>. Students will also take the Panorama survey at school this month but may opt out (see website above for details). The survey purports to help DCPS understand how families feel about their children's school experience and learn how DCPS can better communicate with and support families. The results of the survey may inform the SEL portions of a DCPS strategic plan that is projected to come out soon.
- Current COVID Protocols
 - The school saw high participation in the February break at-home rapid COVID testing and reporting. A few students were tested on site upon return from break, and one positive case was identified that way. The overall number of COVID cases at the school has gone down.
 - There is now a COVID coordinator at the school to help staff and support classes.
 - DCPS has changed the required isolation period, which is now 7 days if a student tests positive for COVID but symptoms are not severe.
 - Masks are no longer required during outside recess. At the beginning of this change, many students chose to continue to wear masks but that number is declining. Students are compliant with safety protocols and wear their masks when they return inside.
 - Vaccination rates are believed to be high within the building, but there is no current data on actual numbers.
 - The weekly at-home testing for PK-K students continues to go well. Teachers send out reminders to families regarding the tests, and data is usually uploaded in a timely way.
- Fire Drills & Safety Protocols
 - Monthly fire drills continue and there will be one in March. While it was mentioned that parents were happy to have received a text message from the school regarding the most recent fire drill, Principal Payne Chauvenet indicated that she will have to consider whether to continue that practice in the future. She explained that there were some unusual circumstances involved with the last drill and that there are other considerations entering into the decision.
 - Other school-wide drills (e.g., natural disaster drills, active shooter drills) also occur throughout the year, although they are mostly the type held only once a year. The community will be made aware of such drills after they occur.

- Outstanding School-wide Issues
 - Outdoor lunches will occur as the weather gets warmer. The PTA Volunteer Committee is gathering names for volunteers to help. The school will also identify practices and policies to minimize lunch-related litter around the school grounds.
 - Repair requests continue to be made, e.g., the paint on the surface of the new playground expansion is chipping and will be redone when weather permits; new panels are being installed under the playground bridge to reduce noise in response to neighbors' complaints.

4. Budget SY2022-23 Update & Advocacy Update.

- Principal Payne Chauvenet:
 - There is no further update on next year's budget at this point. Continued advocacy by the Maury community is appreciated.
- LSAT parent advocacy:
 - The LSAT parent members have undertaken significant advocacy efforts targeting DCPS (specifically Mayor Bowser and Chancellor Ferebee) and individual City Council members seeking additional school funds for SY22-23. Two Maury parents testified at the March 2, 2022 City Council oversight hearing for DCPS, repeating the points made in the LSAT parent members' letter to the mayor and chancellor. It was noted that Councilmember Allen took the approach the LSAT parents outlined when he questioned Chancellor Ferebee during the hearing's second day. Based upon the Chancellor's response to the LSAT parents' letter and his testimony at the oversight hearing, there is no indication that DCPS will revisit Maury's SY22-23 budget. Advocacy efforts will now be focused on the City Council, which will undertake review of the mayor's proposed city budget (which will include DCPS funding), later this month and year. It does not appear, however, that the City Council can earmark additional funding for a specific school during its review of the mayor's budget.
 - Consistent with the approach taken by the LSAT parents, it was observed that different DCPS schools are also facing different budget experiences, are having to make difficult decisions, and do not have the resources and community financial support that Maury enjoys. The LSAT parents continue to advocate for Maury as well as for fair funding for all DCPS schools and students, e.g., advocating for a change to the DCPS at-risk funding formula which has not changed in 8 years and has not been aligned to inflation.

- There was focused discussion on the DCPS SY22-23 budget's removal of funds for a special education position and whether that might be a worthwhile advocacy point to seek additional funding. Principal Payne Chauvenet indicated that she would dispute that the special education numbers at Maury justify the loss of a position. She noted, however, that DCPS budget officials point out that the school received funding for a general position that the school uses to pay for the Think Tank teacher position - and this science focus is a specific instruction area not provided at all DCPS schools. She also noted that we did not use recovery funds for a special education teacher last year but rather for the fourth third-grade teacher, resulting in another position to be funded in the school's SY22-23 budget. Both of those staffing allocations are at the expense of an additional fourth-grade homeroom teacher. Principal Payne Chauvenet asserted that the underlying issue is that the base funding level of \$10,000 per student is fundamentally low. Currently, IEP services are provided through flexible and creative staffing. If the number of Maury students with IEPs increases and the maximum caseload for the current special education staff (15 per teacher) is reached, the Central Office could approve the hiring of a new special education teacher at mid-year. It was noted, however, that DCPS Central Office budgeting could argue that the school could use administrative premium funds to pay current teachers additional amounts to teach students with IEPs. Principal Payne Chauvenet indicated that she could provide the LSAT parent members with aggregative data related to recent past and current special education levels that might be used in their continued advocacy efforts.
- In past years, DCPS provided discretionary funding to hire an additional homeroom general education teacher when all the classes in a grade reached 30 students per class. Principal Payne Chauvenet indicated that it was not a formal process and that she is uncertain whether such funding will be made available for next year under DCPS' new budget model.
- It was observed that there are a lot of points in the new DCPS budget formula and model that conflict with the collective bargaining agreement (contract) between DCPS and the Washington Teachers' Union. For example, the contract provides for a maximum class size that shall not exceed 20 students per class in kindergarten through Grade 2, and 25 students per class in Grades 3 through 5; however, DCPS' practice has been to set the ceiling at the 30 number. Points of conflict will be identified and possibly used in the LSAT parents' advocacy efforts.

5. **New Business.** There was no new business.

Announcement: The Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) and DC Science Assessment will be given to the 3rd, 4th, & 5th grades in May.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:03 pm.

The next regular LSAT meeting will be held at 4 pm, on Tuesday, April 19, 2022, via teleconference.