



# MAURY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL LOCAL SCHOOL ADVISORY TEAM

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

## Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, September 13, 2022, 4:00 pm via remote teleconference

School Leadership Present: Principal Helena Payne Chauvenet; Assistant Principal Andrew Lardell

LSAT Members Present: Richard Parker, Ashley Quarcoo, Amy Daniels, Maria Cali, Shavanna Miller, Abby Sparrow, Angela Stover, Emily Paterson, Rachel Schwartz, Elizabeth Nelson

LSAT Members Absent: VanNessa Duckett, Rebecca Sanghvi, Amy Toner, Darchiniquia Smith

The meeting was called to order at 4:03 pm (EST).

1. **Previous Meeting Minutes.** Minutes of the June 14, 2022 meeting were unanimously approved by roll call vote. The motion to adopt was put forward by Amy Daniels and seconded by Ashley Quarcoo.
2. **Community Comments.** A Maury parent commented that lunch lines have been long with the introduction of lunch tickets and inquired whether all students who want lunch are getting it.

3. **Membership Updates, Election of Officers & Appointment of Community Member.**

Motion to elect Richard Parker as parent-chair of LSAT. The motion to adopt was put forward by Amy Daniels and seconded by Ashley Quarcoo. The motion was approved unanimously by individual member vote.

Motion to make two representatives from the Maury PTA members of the Maury LSAT this year because there two PTA co-presidents for the 2022-2023 school year. The motion to nominate was put forward by Ashley Quarcoo and seconded by Maria Cali. The motion was approved unanimously by individual member vote.

Motion to select Elizabeth Nelson as the LSAT community member representative. The motion was put forward by Ashley Quarcoo and seconded by Shavanna Miller. The motion was approved unanimously by individual member vote.

Motion to include Emily Patterson as WTU representative designee to serve on the LSAT due to limitations on Rebecca Sanghvi's ability to attend all LSAT meetings. The motion to nominate was put forward by Elizabeth Nelson and seconded by Maria Cali. The motion was approved unanimously by individual member vote.

#### 4. **Future Meetings Schedule.**

The second Tuesday of every month has been the standing regular schedule of the Maury LSAT for the past few years. It was noted that this scheduling seemed convenient, and there was no opposition. A motion to hold regular meetings the second Tuesday of every month at 4 pm was made by Elizabeth Nelson and seconded by Amy Daniels. The motion was approved unanimously.

#### 5. **LSAT Focus Topics.**

Principal Payne Chauvenet provided the following overview, in part drawing from the slide deck on the Comprehensive School Plan she had shared with the school community in advance of Back-to-School Night. A copy of the slide deck is attached.

- **Budget Concerns:** Maury is working within its existing budget, which reflects the lowest per-student funding among all DCPS elementary schools. A new budget model was introduced last year, and there may be modifications and changes to its formulas in the future. Budget constraints have created tensions between choosing more staffing and meeting non-staffing needs like supplies and professional development. For example, it has been a challenge to find a part-time PE teacher, and it would be easier to recruit a full-time teacher but the funding is not available. In turn, this creates pressure on the school schedule to provide coverage to meet DCPS physical activity requirements. A decision will have to be made in the future about prioritizing funding for a second full-time PE teacher.
- **Comprehensive School Plan (CSP) Introduction:** Principal Payne Chauvenet sent out a Back-to-School night video overview of the three major school priorities under the CSP: Social Emotional Learning (SEL), Equity, and Academics.

- **SEL:** Maury has added additional support, including a whole child team, a *Paving the Way* clinician, and a behavioral technician. This school support team and the Maury administration discuss SEL weekly, and an academic team also meets regularly. Maury maintains its five stances and continues to use the *Responsive Classroom* for setting up community culture throughout the year. Specific grade-level programs will also focus on SEL values. The goals for this year are to reduce behavioral referrals through early intervention and to reduce chronic absenteeism. There was an uptick in chronic absences last year, which impacted student achievement for some students. The school is now looking to adopt proactive strategies for students and families that need support getting to school consistently. The new student support facilitator will help address chronic absences in addition to behavior support.
- **Equity:** The CSP focuses on raising student achievement, with a focus on improving the average performance of black students as well as students with disabilities and learning differences, where a significant number are not on grade level for assessments. The school is reviewing data, conducting classroom walkthroughs, and looking at supports for students with special needs.
- **Academics:** Maury has three major assessments:

For grades K-2, the DIBELS assessment looks at K-2 early literacy. The goal this year is to move from an 83% proficiency level last year to a higher proficiency level and also reduce the number of those below grade level by 7%. The school is setting realistic goals for addressing the needs of those below grade level, recognizing some students will see progress over a two-year period.

For grades 2-5, the Reading Inventory Assessment assesses reading proficiency. The goal this year is to raise proficiency an additional 5%.

For grades 2-5, i-Ready assesses math proficiency. The goal is to raise proficiency an additional 6%, from around 70%. LSAT members will receive the academic improvement plan in more detail from Principal Payne Chauvenet for signature.

In response to a question as to how the percentages are determined and calculated, Principal Payne Chauvenet explained that assessing improvement in scores year to year will be done by comparing individual student scores last year and this year, and comparing the number of students up to below grade level from farther below grade level. Goals may need to be adjusted due to a number of factors, including summer slide.

- The school is looking to increase family attendance to all events - APTTs, conferences, etc. Specific school committees and personnel are developing action steps on meeting each of the goals.
  
- **Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC)**  
**Data:** Principal Payne Chauvenet reported that PARCC data is being reviewed by teachers. Though Maury remains one of the top scorers across the city, the scores overall are lower this year, with a 66% proficiency in ELA in grades 3 to 5 and 59% proficiency in math. Proficiency rates are higher for comparable subjects (ELA and math) in Maury's younger grades. Some teachers lacked familiarity with PARCC due to being hired during the moratorium on the test. Quarantines also played a factor in reducing class time for test preparation. With more stable attendance and more targeted interventions, Principal Payne Chauvenet believes Maury student scores overall will go up.
- **Enrollment and Staffing:** Student enrollment currently sits at a little over 530 this year. The DCPS projection for this academic year is 547 students. In recent past years, Maury has surpassed the DCPS projection goal, and this is the first year that Maury has not met its projection. Principal Payne Chauvenet notes that this likely reflects that Maury's enrollment is beginning to stabilize after enrollment increased due to the new building. Maury remains well within reach of its projection and the lower-than-projected enrollment numbers should not put the school at risk on its budget requests, especially given that this year's enrollment is slightly up from last year. Maximum allowed enrollment for students is 549, and additional students without additional staff will only put pressure on class size. The school is fully staffed with the exception of the part-time PE position.
- **SEL:** See above for "Whole Child Learning" and the expanded team to support.

- **Specials:** Specials have moved to an ABC rotation, with no more than four specials per week. Students in upper grades will have three specials every other term, alternating the specials grouping. Every term the special will change; interested parents should thus ask teachers for a classroom schedule to stay current on the specials schedule for an individual class. If in doubt about how to dress for specials, parents should send children in sneakers and PE-appropriate clothing. Students will have PE year round. This rotating schedule allows students to see teachers more frequently, provides teachers with better opportunities to set-up specific learning experiences, and also ensures that all students have adequate PE time to meet DCPS requirements. For students who do not have library as a special this term (or during any term this year), the school librarian (Mr. Feraz Ashraf) has a signup for teachers to regularly bring their classes in to check out books. The ABC specials schedule is likely to remain in place as Maury does not have the ability to hire additional specials teachers, though having another full time PE teacher would relieve pressure on the schedule to integrate additional physical activity to meet the DCPS physical activity requirement. Ms. Paterson noted that PK students do not check out books or have PE.

## 6. General Topics - Brief Overview & Updates

- **Building Maintenance Issues (exterior and interior)**
  - **Priority Concerns (e.g., security related):** As noted in emails on the Maury listserv, there are lock issues on a few Maury doors, which poses a safety concern. Maury has work orders with District General Services (DGS), which handles maintenance issues for all DC government buildings. All work orders are prioritized according to urgency, and there have been long waits among schools - including for responses to Maury's work order requests. Sometimes there have also been quality control issues, with DGS signing off on incomplete work orders. Parents have been active in engaging DC Council members and the DCPS central office. However, Maury also needs to have backup plans in recognition these issues will not be solved in the short-term. For example, with HVAC issues in the past, the school may bring in spot coolers or space heaters. Principal Payne Chauvenet noted we have to be prepared with backup plans because Maury won't always be the top priority for maintenance requests. PTA co-president Shavanna Miller noted that the PTA now has a community advocate role that can also help with elevating these concerns. Melissa Hoppmeyer will be spear-heading that PTA community advocate parent working group. Richard Parker noted

the LSAT's past advocacy efforts, and offered to coordinate with that working group on behalf of LSAT.

- **Teacher Parking:** Recent construction on 12th Place NE has impacted a few teacher parking spots. Principal Payne Chauvenet noted the neighborhood has been generous to donate visitor parking passes, but there are limited spaces - particularly close to the school. Under a new DDOT program, area schools can apply for an allotment of visitor parking passes. Damian Popkin, Maury's cluster representative from the DCPS Communications and Engagement Office's Community Action Team, reported that the DDOT parking program is live, and offered assistance to Maury Operations lead Patrick Koontz on the application process. Mr. Popkin noted that there will be a \$50 fee per parking pass, which will be valid for the entire ANC (not just for the area around the school) from August 15th to September 15th of the following year. Teachers would be responsible for paying the fee. This program will give Maury a certain number of passes based on a formula, but would not meet all needs. Once the application is approved, the school will have to determine how the parking passes received are allocated.
- **Current COVID Protocols:** COVID protocols have been relaxed. Students and staff who test positive will be out for 5 days, and days 6 through 10 can return with a mask if there are mild or no symptoms. A 10-day quarantine is required for serious cases. There are no mask requirements and no close contact tracing. This [centralized website](https://dcpsstrong.com/updates/) (<https://dcpsstrong.com/updates/>) provides information on COVID cases for each school. Notifications on positive cases will otherwise only come to the affected classroom. Weekly testing for Pre-K is also discontinued. All students will be required to test to return to school after long school breaks.

## 7. Topics of Concern

- **Traffic Safety (e.g., crossing guards) & Calming Measures:** Many parents have expressed concern about crossing guards missing from posts, especially during dropoff and pickup. Principal Payne Chauvenet discussed the issue with the crossing guard manager she has contact with and was told that a crossing guard lead will fill in when the assigned guards are on leave. A member observed that uncertainty of whether a crossing guard is at post or not can make parents nervous about sending kids to school on their own on a daily basis, and raised the possibility of an email to the listserv if no crossing guard is present that day. Principal Payne Chauvenet says it may not be possible to have the manager send notice to families/listserv and that the school staff would not have capacity to do this. She encouraged families to utilize the walking buses, which are managed

family to family. A member noted that the PTA volunteer committee may also be asked to help to address this issue.

- **Compliance with Immunization Requirements:** About 60 letters went out to Maury student families who are non-compliant on immunizations. Families have been generally responsive in taking care of immunizations and coming into compliance. In some cases, it was a matter of having sent the paperwork to the wrong address. Starting next month, if students do not have requisite paperwork on file with the school, they will no longer be able to attend school. A member noted that the Children's National Medical Center is hosting pop-up clinics around the city, which are a great resource for immunizations.

## **8. Community Questions & Comments.**

- A Maury Parent raised a question about the 5th grade capstone experience. *What is the status of the capstone event for 5th grade? Space Camp has not happened since pre-pandemic.* Fifth grade teacher (and LSAT member) Maria Cali responded that Space Camp is, indeed, retired. The 5th grade will have a Camp Frazier overnight trip during the fall. There is brainstorming among the 5th grade community to decide on a plan for future trips. If that plan goes well and the project is successful/desired, it may be repeated. Alternatively, it could be that the new approach is to have each 5th grade group decide at the start of the year. The desire to create a capstone project remains.
- In relation to fundraising for the 5th grade capstone project, there was a question about coordinating fundraising activities across the school.
- It was noted that there is a new PTA committee focusing on school community events that will be free to the community. The committee has a budget. They are coordinating with other committees and groups.

## **9. New Business.** There was no new business.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:13 pm.

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

