



MAURY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL LOCAL SCHOOL ADVISORY TEAM

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

Meeting Minutes: Tuesday, November 14, 2023, 4 pm via teleconference

School Leadership Present: Principal Leah Hassler

LSAT Members Present: Emily Cramer, Courtney Myers, Tiffany Myers, Richard Parker, Shavanna Miller, Amy Toner, Stacia Cedillo, VanNessa Duckett, Katelyn Mazonko, Lauren Mooney, Emily Paterson, Patrick Koontz, and Elizabeth Nelson

LSAT Members Absent: Steve Beam

DCPS Guests: Mr. Eric Bethel, Instructional Superintendent, Cluster V;
Ms. Chyanne Eyde, Deputy Chief, School Planning, Office of the Deputy Chancellor;
Mr. Damián Popkin, Community Action Team Specialist Clusters 5 & 6

The meeting was called to order at 4:02 pm (EST) by the Chair.

1. Previous Meeting Minutes. There were no changes or corrections to the minutes of the October 10, 2023 LSAT meeting. Accordingly, they were approved and adopted.

2. Introduction of Guests. Principal Hassler introduced Superintendent Bethel and Deputy Chief Eyde. CAT Specialist Popkin was also welcomed.

3. Community Comments. There were no community comments.

4. LSAT Focus Topics

• Comprehensive School Plan (CSP)

Principal Hassler provided updates:

Instructional

- ▶ The school recently held a professional development session on neurodiversity, which was the first of three planned sessions.
- ▶ Data: mid-year testing will take place in January; teachers continue to regularly monitor students' academic progress
- ▶ Superintendent Bethel noted in particular that BOY data showed tremendous growth among Maury's Black students in foundational/early literacy.

Culture of Achievement

- ▶ The school's in-seat attendance is at 96%, a 1% increase from this time last year
- ▶ Chronic absenteeism is below 11%, a 3% decrease from this time last year
There is disparity in subgroups, e.g., rate for Black students is 25%, and the school is looking at targeted supports
- ▶ Field trips: Most grades have already taken two field trips this year

Shared Leadership

- ▶ School leadership is currently conducting professional development surveys, which indicate that PD provided so far this year have been well received

Family & Community Engagement

- ▶ Strong attendance/engagement at APTT night and parent-teacher conferences
- ▶ School leadership is looking at how to measure family engagement, including at various events, including efforts to identify who and why families might be choosing not to attend events, programs, and activities at the school

- Budget-related: Enrollment projections

Deputy Chief Chyanne Eyde provided an overview of the DCPS enrollment projection process and Maury's projections. See attached slide deck.

Slide 1: DCPS total enrollment since 2017

Slide 2: Maury Enrollment since 19-20, showing consistent growth in enrollment from 457 in SY2019-20 to current 549 (October Count Day enrollment) and projected 558 SY2024-25. She noted that building capacity is 613, so school is at 91% building utilization.

Q: Is there a threshold at which building capacity is taken into account as part of enrollment projections?

A: The Office begins to check in with a school when it reaches 90% building capacity. The risk is reaching 100% building utilization, so rates are monitored particularly if a school's enrollment is trending upwards

Slide 3: DCPS SY23-24 Count Day data for entire school system, showing all grades having year-over-year growth except 7th, 9th, and 12th

Slide 4: Enrollment projections are part of a larger process:

- ▶ Enrollment projections are developed using recent trends in audited enrollment
- ▶ School budgets use enrollment projections as one input
- ▶ Schools are expected to meet enrollment projections and growth goals
- ▶ Reported enrollment, the pre-certification results of "count day" are used to draft the next set of enrollment projections

Slide 5: Methodology – Three inputs in "entry grades"

For more information on projections visit:

dcpsbudget.com/budget-model/projection-methodology

1. Re-Enrollment:

Average re-enrollment rate x # of student in rising cohort

2. New In-Boundary Students:

Average number of in-boundary students who have enrolled in previous years

3. New Out-of-Boundary Students:

Average number of out-of-boundary students who have enrolled in previous years

NOTE: Deputy Chief Eyde shared that K is hardest to predict as there are many variables to take into account.

She explained that data is used the same way for all grade projections using enrollment increases or decreases

Slides 6 & 7: Methodology – one input in “non-entry grades”

In non-entry grades, 1st grade and up in most elementary schools and education campuses, projections are drafted using a **Grade Progression Ratio**, or “cohort survival rate”

Q: What is the formula, if any, for adding teachers based on size of a class cohort?

A: The number of teaching positions or class size is not part of enrollment projections to avoid any opportunity or impression that numbers may be manipulated to impact number of teaching staff. The Office’s purpose and goal is to provide the most accurate enrollment projections that it can.

Slide 8: Petitions and comments are due Nov 21

Once petition period closes, the projected enrollment projection process ends and moves into the budget process

Slide 9: Key takeaways

- Projections are an input for school budgets and schools are expected to meet them in the audit
- Principals will review projections from Nov 6th to 21st
- LSAT chairs can review and comment on projections starting Nov 9
- ▶ Questions?: Email dcps.planning@k1.dc.gov

- Update on Maury’s request to DCPS for supplemental funds to hire an additional 5th Grade teacher based on large size of current 5th grade cohort (54 students – 27 students per class).

Superintendent Bethel shared that a letter would be sent tomorrow (Nov. 15th) to the current 5th Grade families stating that the request has been denied. He shared that DCPS’ position was that enrollment projections were accurate and that the school had received a budget for SY23-24 that was sufficient to hire a third 5th Grade teacher. [The letter was subsequently sent out as outlined. A copy of that letter is attached.]

Remarks: The LSAT Chair shared that he respectfully disagreed with DCPS’s rationale for denying the requested funding. He noted that Maury’s original SY2023-24 budget allocation resulted in the school having to cut four positions in its budget submission to DCPS. He noted that Principal Payne Chauvenet met with the LSAT and then quickly petitioned DCPS for supplemental funds, which were granted and thus enabled the school to restore three of the four positions. He pointed out that DCPS did not provide funds requested to retain Maury’s Math Interventionist. He shared that the loss of the Math Interventionist has been hard felt throughout the school and has deprived instructional support for those students who most need it. The Chair also noted that we have wonderful Specials teachers who teach the entire student body, and who play a vital role in maintaining the Master Schedule.

These sentiments were echoed by one of the PTA Presidents.

Q: A teacher member asked about grades that consistently have large class sizes – will they become considered for staffing allocations?

A: Principal Hassler answered that grade projections help this and that several grades are at this “cusp” size

5. General Topics. Prior to the meeting, Principal Hassler shared that maintenance requests and work orders continue to be submitted to DGS and school personnel continue to follow up with DGS regularly. She also shared that school leadership is working with the PTA around advocacy, including tonight’s de-escalation training.

6. Advocacy Opportunities

There are a number of school-related advocacy opportunities this week and coming up later this month - several of which could have significant and long-term impacts on Maury. Please see below:

- **Student Assignment and Boundary Recommendations School-Specific Meetings.** The Office of the Deputy Mayor for Education is holding meetings with school communities that may be significantly affected by a boundary and feeder pattern revision. Currently, meetings with the Capitol Hill Cluster School, Brent, and Maury have been scheduled. These school-specific meetings are open to everyone. It is expected that additional meetings will be scheduled for Ward 6 schools.

Maury’s meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, Nov. 28 starting at 6:30 pm

- **DC School Report Card**

The DC Office of the State Superintendent of Education (“OSSE”) is working in partnership with the DC State Board of Education (“SBOE”) to enhance the 2024 DC School Report Card site. They will be co-hosting two more virtual public engagement sessions:

Monday, Nov. 13, 6–7 pm: How and where should the DC School Report Card display school’s summative scores?

Monday, Dec. 4, 6–7 pm: What should the report card look like?

Information at: <https://osse.dc.gov/page/dc-school-report-card-resource-library>

- **School Funding Policy Survey**

The Office of the Deputy Mayor for Education is seeking input as they develop recommendations for changes to the District’s school funding policies. There is a survey at (<https://www.research.net/r/dmefunding>) to share what matters most to you in your student’s school, what is working well, and where things can be improved. The survey is about 15 questions and should take 5 - 8 minutes to complete. The survey is open through tomorrow, Wednesday, November 15, 2023.

- **DCPS Public Budget Hearing on FY 2025 (SY 2024-2025) Budget**

TONIGHT: Tuesday, Nov. 14 at 6 pm. Members of the public are invited to provide testimony. (Deadline has passed to register to testify.)

More information at: <https://dcps.dc.gov/budget>.

Questions can be sent to: ceo.info@k12.dc.gov.

- **School Facilities Sponsorship and Naming Amendment Act of 2023 Hearing**
Tuesday, Nov. 28 at 11 am. This act is aimed at encouraging financial and other support from private and philanthropic organizations for DCPS schools in exchange for naming rights for interior parts of DCPS properties, e.g., auditoriums, libraries. For information and to sign up to testify, go to: <https://lims.dccouncil.gov/Hearings/hearings/179>

- **Teacher Retention Hearings**

Tuesday, Nov. 21 at 2 pm. Hearing on Council Member Robert White’s bill to provide educators mental health days, bolster flexible scheduling, study increasing paraprofessional pay, give high need schools wellness coordinators and more. It’s also a hearing on Council Member Henderson’s new bill to provide student loan relief for educators.

Tuesday, Nov. 28 at 4 pm. General hearing on teacher and principal retention. Topics may include teacher evaluation, testing amounts, teacher professional development, housing support, a new WTU contract, and other efforts to support teacher retention.

You can sign up to testify at these hearing at: <https://lims.dccouncil.gov/Hearings/>

- **School Nurse Community Meeting**

Tuesday, Nov. 28 from 6 to 7:30 pm at Northeast Library, 3307 7th St., NE.

Amidon-Bowen parents, Sarah Buckley and Brian Riley, have organized a community meeting to discuss the implementation of the cluster staffing model for school nurses.

What will be discussed: The newly implemented “Cluster Model” to deliver school health services- what it is and is not. What questions do we have for leadership?

For questions, comments, concerns, and to RSVP, email: Robert Allen, BSN, RN
DC Nurses Association interim vice chair at rga.rn@hotmail.com

7. Community Questions and Comments.

Q: An LSAT member asked Principal Hassler for clarification regarding timelines with respect to budget and enrollment

A: Principal Hassler noted that schools received their specific enrollment projections last week, and petitions (any requests by a school for changes to the projections) are due by November 21.

A: Damian Popkin noted that there are different timelines between enrollment and budget. School budgets are based on enrollment projections, and budget discussions are held closer to when DCPS releases budget allocations for the next school year, typically early February

- An LSAT parent member shared that she appreciated the APTT format, having

found it helpful for learning about what's happening in the classroom and noting that Kindergarten conferences felt frenetic by comparison. She suggested that consideration be given to using the APTT format for more grade levels.

- It was shared that, with respect to future LSAT meetings, if there is a DCPS Central Office content expert, we can request that they attend our meeting.
- Deputy Chief Eyde was thanked for attending the meeting and for explaining the DCPS enrollment projection process.

8. New Business.

- The committee will continue the budget conversation at its December meeting. At that time, Principal Hassler will be able to update the committee on the school's enrollment petition.
- The next LSAT meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, December 12. The idea is to host the meeting in person at 6 pm – all in agreement. The suggestion was made to hold meetings at a mix of times and mix of locations – perhaps virtual at 6 pm and in-person at 4 pm instead.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 5:15 pm (EST).

The next LSAT meeting is planned to be held on Tuesday, November 12 2023.