



MINUTES: SEPTEMBER MEETING OF FULL MAURY PTA

Thursday Sept 21, 6p, in Maury Multipurpose Room

83 in attendance + exec + LH +

Find announcements Handout at the end

PTA EXEC

Each executive office has two officers elected in alternate years. Senior officers are listed first.

CO-PRESIDENTS

Amy Toner (AT), Shavanna Miller (SM) | maury.pta.presidents@gmail.com

CO-VICE PRESIDENTS

Lora Nunn (LN), Erin Hurley (EH)

CO-TREASURERS

Clark Bosslet (CB), Michael Weiss (MW, absent) | maury.pta.treasurer@gmail.com

CO-PARLIAMENTARIAN

Karli Maloney (KM), Coutney Backemeyer (CY)

CO-SECRETARIES

Elizabeth O’Gorek (EO), Kari Klinedinst (KK) | maury.pta.secretary@gmail.com

CO-EQUITY CHAIRS

Talia Dubovi (TD), Sairah Saeed (SS)

PRINCIPAL: Leah Hassler (LH)

GAMES

To start the meeting everyone attending finds people from the area/country/states they’re from. Once they’re in those groups, we play a delightful game of trivia to which everyone knows the answers for everything –except they work to answer “what are the five stances at Maury.”

PTA INTRO

Goals

SM and AT give the goals of the PTA: general support for community, fundraising, communication, community building.

Talk about stuff we do: block party, affinity groups, etc

Fundraising

Clark talks about fundraising. He mentions the star events; Maury at the Market (the annual auction and party that raises upwards of \$100,000) the (upcoming, Sept 30) yard sale, t-shirts; bake sales. He says email him if you have questions to maury.pta.treasurer@gmail.com.

Clark says 70% of what we fundraise goes to support the 5.5 aides employed by the PTA, our biggest priority; we spend about \$120k on their salaries. Aides in grades 1-5 are paid by the PTA, they support the teachers to free them to teach. But we're investing in other stuff, like teacher appreciation, community building activities and events. Clark says he'll keep everyone up to date; there are discretionary costs, like Patrick asking for stuff. The yard sale overachieved by 50% so we had flexibility last year; he hope the same for this year.

SM: Notes that we are one of only 35 DC ptas that fundraises and one of only 10 that raise more than \$100K. Shavanna adds that we also have one of the lowest per pupil budgets from DCPS.

Q: has the pta considered equity across the city and Ward 6?

Shavanna says, we've considered this but no easy answer, heavy lift; Lora says that we do some stuff informally with area schools; Geo is introduced as W6PsPO rep for ward-wide work.

Amy emphasizes communication — website, room parents, calendar, newsletter, list serv.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

YARD SALE

AT: Donations are accepted after school on Weds, Thurs, Friday (see below ANNOUNCEMENTS). Saturday Sept. 30, volunteers start at 7a to put it out. Sign up — or just come help!

Q: how much does the yard sale raise? About \$15k last year; the bake sale raises \$4k alone. "But I'm sure we can do better!" Amy says

UPCOMING SPEAKERS AT MEETINGS

EO: given what has transpired recently around the school (referencing an Aug. 28 attempted carjacking a block north of Maury) and encounters between families and older children on the playground, the Maury PTA is working on two PTA meeting events. Email the secretary if you have additional thoughts or ideas.

The first is de-escalation training, which will be offered to families. This will help us have the words during encounters with people who are exhibiting aggressive behaviors, so we have tools — if not to calm them, to what to say that won't trigger the acceleration of the situation to a dangerous place.

The second is a wider meeting with public entities about the overall public safety situation. This could involved guests from DC Council, US Attorney's Office, DC Attorney General and Non-Governmental organizations working with residents at risk or returning from interactions with the justice system. This meeting will help us understand the systemic issues and how we can help address concerns.

AFFINITY GROUPS

Talia: Affinity groups are intended to be gatherings of family that share a similar background, identity or experience. They builds community and connection; we want to use it as a way to

bring more people into the PTA community. Reach out to Sarah and Talia. They're looking for a lead for your community; see what your group wants to do. We have vol for SouthEast, Latino, LGBT and Black families —but last group is looking for a cochair. Email the secretary if interested. sairahsaeed@gmail.com and talia.dubovi@gmail.com).

NEW FAMILY BUDDY SYSTEM

To keep families comfortable etc. Some families want buddies; it's just someone to reach out to if they need to ask questions. Reach out if you want a buddy or to be one. Hoping to match by the end of Sept. Easy lift: you just answer questions. Hope to match people who have recent experience with the grade they are entering. So far family, mostly pk3, pk4 and K just a few in 1,2,3. Do you want a buddy? Want to be one? Email the vice-presidents or the secretary if you are interested in being involved or see QR codes in announcements at bottom of minutes.

AMY TONER AND JULIUS (grade 4) INTERVIEW PRINCIPAL HASSLER

Our new Principal, Leah Hassler, Joined Maury ES in August 2023. This is a getting-to-know you interview with a grade 4 student and our PTA co-president. Answers are not verbatim.

What is your favorite Hobby?

She really likes to be active, biking or swimming —something outside.

What's most import to you as principal?

That students feel Loved, challenged, prepared

Seen as people; step outside of comfort zones; leave grade ready for next level

Mission for the school?

We offer a nurturing environment to our community for learners, foster community; develop world citizens.

Seek to provide excellent, equitable educational experience for every one of our students; raising educational rigor, refining to a simple pedagogy that supports all students.

How to support the school?

Just partner with us, parents + school == its a two way street. It's collaboration, communication, feedback. "we want to hear what's happening to you and we want to be sure its reflective or all what we want

Favorite movie?

"I don't know if I have a favorite, really. But, I recently saw barbie and laughed out loud like 20 times."

Where you grew up?

S CA near Florence

"The biggest thing it had going on was a Sonic drive thru"

One thing you wish all families at Maury knew?

I think a lot of families do know this: Maury is a family. It's a warm and loving place, that comes across. It's felt like that for me and hope it does for you

Favorite genre of books?

fiction; family stories, especially multi-gen families. She likes to see how they progress thru time

How do you get here (to work)? Do you walk or bike?

"I have walked several times" she doesn't live far; now weather has cooled off, she intends to walk or bike more often.

Talk about how \$\$\$ and aides help school?

Calls the additional aides an 'incredible privilege'

Make copies, small groups, support social and emotional development. They are an incredibly part of school and play an integral role. The aides have a huge impact on the experience here.

AUD ? For the Principal:

HOW DID YOU COME TO MAURY

Mostly taught in NC, then decided she was interested in school leadership, so she went to Boston. Got a Masters in school leadership. Wanted to settle in big city; came here 4 years ago with her significant other. Was at a charter ES as Assistant Principal and then a Principal before here. She came from a larger public district in SC nice to have infrastructure. Considers herself privileged to end up at Maury.

BIGGEST SURPRISE

For such a large-ish ES, she said it still feels small. People know each others' names; still collegial; not surprising but [schools] haven't always felt that way; the welcom[ing] experience and knowledge has been a gift.

WHAT CONCERNS YOU NOW THAT YOU'RE HERE.

"One thing that I'm thinking about is how to create unique experiences for 4 and 5 graders in particular." As Maury grows, LH wants to ensure those grades are supported and feel unique and special as seniors at our school.

MAURY'S GROWN. HOW DO WE MANAGE THAT WITHOUT BUSTING SEAMS?

What she's seeing is that growth is tapering off; so we have to consider how to handle our new normal, especially in terms of giving upper grades a "world class" experience.

WILL WE OUTGROW OUR SPACE?

If our projections stay where they are currently, shouldn't in next couple of years —we're at 550, so we don't anticipate it. Already, we don't have the space for another classroom.

SUPER GRATEFUL FOR ENERGY ENTHUSIASM; VIBE HAS BEEN GREAT AND THANKS LH. ASKS ABOUT 5TH GRADE CLASS SIZE STATUS. Will we get a teacher? How do we minimize disruption?

LH is optimistic about another teacher. She says our chances are strong. She's working with our instructional superintendent closely. In terms of minimizing disruption, she's thinking of how to on board —working with the 2 classes before transitioning. Something like 4th grade — in terms of subjects taught; making sure they work with instructional coaches to make sure they're ready on day *

FEEDER PATTERN IS IMPORTANT. HAVE YOU MET ELIOT HINE PRINCIPAL MARLENE MAGRINO? HOW CAN THOSE OF US IN MAURY AND EH HELP BRIDGE THAT FOR THE SCHOOLS?

She reached out to Magrino over the summer —they have stuff in the works. EH kids came last year to speak at PTA; our kids might go over there to preview. It's a priority to retain kids in feeder pattern, LH says.

LSAT PRESIDENT RICHARD PARKER | LSAT PRESENTATION

RP says they've about growth at LSAT part of LSAT. The LSAT (Local School Advisory Team) duty is to give advisory and support to the principal; has teacher, parent and community members. Meet monthly 2nd Tues at 4p. Virtually. Oct 10 is next. RP says it is a very data-based group.

Maury has experience very rapid growth, rapid enrollment [in past four years]; that has not been matched by DC budget. It is a struggle for school — how to balance \$\$ and people with equity. With DCPS new budget model we are one of lowest funded per capacity students because we don't have the needs points. So it's hard to get add another teaching position.

Richard encourages parents to reach out to council and DCPS to advocate for our school and more \$\$\$\$\$. We went into summer thinking we'd get a 3rd fifth grade teacher but then DCPS pulled it; now LH is working to get it back. But we have 27 kids in each class. Richard says we need to be angry because our children need more. We aren't asking them to take \$\$ from other schools but they can give more.

Q: do you have a form letter (to send re budget and staffing issues)

RP: we have done it. We'll send it again. We testify and send letters; but we gotta get in their faces. We're a privileged school so there isn't a lot of political appetite.

Q: NOTES Boundary study: will it affect us?

RP: probably not — focus seems to be on NW rather than us, but Miner is undersubscribed

DB: emphasizes parent involvement. A longtime Maury parent, he says this room is here because the Maury community pushed for it and the flawed analysis of Maury's future enrollment. DCPS projection was based on how man kids lived there at the time rather than how many kids would move here. The plan was for 350 kids. That only changed because parents pushed back. Point: pushing works.

DIO AWARDS

6 winners of our monthly Do It Ourselves (DIO) Volunteer recognition awards. Richard Parker, Mary Bell, George Blackmon, Will Handsfield, Courtney Myers and Lelaine Bigelow

Submit nominees for parents, staff or teachers who have gone out of their way to make Maury a better place to the co-president email address, including their name and a paragraph on why they should be recognized.

PTA Meeting HANDOUT

Sep 21, 2023

Agenda

Welcome/Maury Trivia | 7 Fast PTA Facts | PTA Happenings | Affinity Groups | New Family Buddy Program | Principal's Interview | LSAT | DIO Awards

Announcements


New Family Buddy System

We know that joining a new school is a big shift for a family, and you probably have questions. This year, we are trying something new: a buddy system for new families! We'll match you with a caregiver who knows the school and can answer questions, both big and small. We expect to match families by the end of the month.



 New Family



 Be a Buddy

If you're a **Maury veteran** interested in helping a new family transition to Maury, we'd love your help. Use this QR code to the right to sign up.

Affinity Groups

Affinity groups are gatherings of caretakers and families who

share a common identity, background, or experience. The goal of these groups is to create safe, culturally appropriate, and welcoming spaces for families to connect, support each other, and build community.

Affinity groups at Maury are designed to:

- Build connection and a sense of belonging for members through social and cultural events
- Hold space to identify issues of interest or concern through the lens of the group participants
- Connect to the PTA to help support an inclusive school community where group members are seen and heard

Membership in an affinity group is for families who identify personally with the shared background or identity of the group. The PTA would welcome allies and anyone who does not have a currently established affinity group to join the Equity Working Group (please reach out to sairahsaeed@gmail.com and talia.dubovi@gmail.com).

If you are interested in joining one of our groups that already has a volunteer leader, please reach out to:

- Affinity group for Black Families: we have a volunteer who is seeking a co-chair; please reach out if you're interested in helping!
- Affinity group for South Asian Families: Anna Kurien (akurien@gmail.com)

- Affinity group for Latino Families: Sandro Parodi (sandro.parodi@gmail.com)
- Affinity group for Military Families: Mary Bell (maryharding@mac.com)
- Affinity group for Jewish families: KateLyn Claffey Smith (katelyn.claffey@gmail.com) and Joshua Smith (jpsmith@gmail.com)
- Affinity group for Queer families: Harris Parnell (harrisparnell@gmail.com)

We are currently seeking volunteers to lead additional groups. As this is a new effort, we do not have a set list of specific groups that we hope to create – the number of groups and identities covered will depend on who volunteers. Groups can be led by two or more people to make this a lighter lift and we welcome your creativity about when, where, and how often to convene your group. The PTA Equity co-chairs will support you and be a resource for questions, feedback, and ideas.

If you are interested in leading a group, please reach out to Sairah Saeed (sairahsaeed@gmail.com) and Talia Dubovi (talia.dubovi@gmail.com).

PTA Community Support Efforts

The annual winter wear drive will start at the end of this month, followed by our Thanksgiving grocery gift card request in November, and finally our holiday gift push in December. Information will come out about these efforts soon, but in the meantime reach out to Kathy Loden at kathyloden@gmail.com.

Maury T-Shirt Sales

The PTA has made several big Maury T-Shirt sales. We now have a replenished supply of size small shirts. We also ordered adult

shirts and hoodies. They will be for sale during the Yard Sale from 9am - 11am.

Family Fitness Night

What is Family Fitness Night? It's a night for the entire family to participate in and learn about a variety of physical and mental health activities and programs in DC!

When: Thursday, September 28th, from 6p-7:30p

Where: Maury Elementary School, Multi-Purpose Space

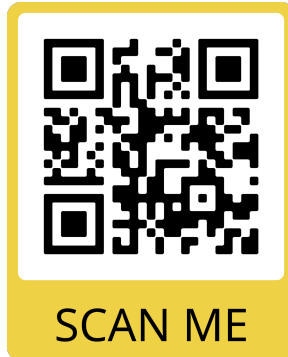
Why: Come before or after dinner for your chance to **Pole Vault** with DC Vault, Learn some **Pep Squad** routines with Ms. Hemphill, **Boulder** on the Maury Rock Wall, **Hula Hooping** with Ms. Bomba, and **more!** with special guests. Also stop by the info tables to learn about [CRYSP DC](#) and pick up some free disc golf discs, Health and Wellness with Ms. Delaney, and more. Healthy snacks and refreshments will be provided.

Questions, comments? Want to have info from your health and wellness organization included on the tables (or want to run an activity that night?) Please do not hesitate to reach out to lauren.falls@k12.dc.gov, Michael.Schuster@k12.dc.gov, or Sandy Lawrence, sandpan@gmail.com

Yard Sale

The yard sale will be held rain or shine in the Maury Multipurpose room on Saturday, September 30, 9:00 am - 2:00 pm. Until then, please consider signing up for a volunteer slot, start collecting items to donate, and spread

the word to your neighbors! Reach out Amy Toner (mom to JJ - 4th and PTA Co-President) at amysubee@gmail.com and Katy Ebner (mom to George - 4th, Freddie - 1st, and Henry - PK4) at katy.ebner@gmail.com with questions.



How to Volunteer

There are so many ways to help! Collect and sort donations after school on Wednesday 9/27, Thursday 9/28 (also Family Fitness Night!), or Friday 9/29. Or help with set up, sales, or clean up on Saturday 9/30. Use this [sign up](#) to join the fun! To contribute a baked good or volunteer at the bake sale, please [sign up here](#). Volunteer clearance is not required for this event.

How to Donate

We'll collect donations at Maury's Constitution Ave entrance on Wednesday 9/27 (3:15 pm - 6:00 pm), Thursday 9/28 (3:15 pm - 7:00 pm), and Friday 9/29 (3:15 pm - 7:00 pm). Not sure what to donate? Check out the list below:

- Clothing, shoes, accessories
- Baby and kid gear (booster seats, potties, etc.)
- Halloween costumes (these are our top sellers!)
- Toys and games
- Books

- Wheels (bicycles, scooters, strollers)
- Items for the Couture Corner (your fancy stuff!)

Please NO: furniture, appliances, open toiletries or cosmetics, soiled or broken items.

Key Upcoming Dates:

- **Thursday, 9/28:** Family Fitness Night, 6:00 p.m. to 7:30p.m.
- **Saturday, 9/30:** Maury Yard Sale, 9:00a.m. to 2:00p.m. (see below re: donation schedule)
- **Wednesday, 10/4:** Picture Day & Walk & Bike to School (Starts at Lincoln Park)
- **Friday, 10/6:** Whole School Morning Meeting, 8:45a.m. & Uniform Pass Day
- **Monday, 10/9:** No School (for students, teachers, or staff)
- **Saturday, 10/28:** Fall Festival

If you're donating items for the Yard Sale, please note the following schedule:

- **Wednesday, 9/27:** Yard Sale Donation Dropoff, 3:15p.m. to 6:15p.m.
- **Thursday, 9/28:** Yard Sale Donation Dropoff, 3:15p.m. to 6:15p.m.
- **Friday, 9/29:** Yard Sale Donation Dropoff, 3:15p.m. to 6:15p.m.

Congratulations, September DIO Award Winners!!!

Richard Parker, Mary Bell, George Blackmon, Will Handsfield,
Courtney Myers and Lelaine Bigelow