



# MAURY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL LOCAL SCHOOL ADVISORY TEAM

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

**Meeting Minutes** – Tuesday, December 12, 2023, 6 pm at Maury Elementary School

**School Leadership Present:** Principal Leah Hassler, AP Andrew Lardell

**LSAT Members Present:** Stacia Cedillo, VanNessa Duckett, Lauren Mooney, Patrick Koontz, Elizabeth Nelson, Steve Beam, Emily Cramer, Shavanna Miller, Richard Parker, Amy Toner

**LSAT Members Absent:** Courtney Myers, Tiffany Myers, Katelyn Mazenko, Emily Paterson

The meeting was called to order at 6:02 pm (EST) by the Chair.

**1. Previous Meeting Minutes.** There were no changes or corrections to the minutes of the November 14, 2023 LSAT meeting. They were thus approved and adopted.

**2. Community Comments.** A community member thanked the Maury community for ongoing advocacy efforts on behalf of Maury and encouraged efforts to continue.

### **3. LSAT Focus Topics**

- Comprehensive School Plan (CSP). Principal Hassler provided updates:

#### *Shared Leadership*

- Peer observations have been conducted, and the leadership team continues to engage in walk throughs on a regular basis

#### *Family & Community Engagement*

- Focus post-Thanksgiving has been on engagement with respect to DME Boundary and Student Assignment Study

#### *Culture of Achievement*

- Compared to this time last year:
  - In-seat attendance is up ½ percentage point
  - Chronic absenteeism is 4 percentage points lower overall
    - For SPED students – it is 3 percentage points lower
    - For Black students – it is 2 percentage points lower
  - The school continues to work with and to support families to identify and address reasons for absenteeism.
  - Behavioral referrals are down 30% overall (88 v. 63 infractions)
  - 3rd Grade is cohort with largest representation of referrals

#### *Academics*

- Mid-year testing will begin in January 2024
- School continues to track intervention support and progress in Tier 2 and Tier 3 interventions via the DCPS Panorama System

- Panorama Fall 2023 Survey results

Note: The survey asks questions that provide information on how students (Grades 3, 4, and 5 for elementary schools) are learning to interact with others, how they feel at school, and how happy they are with their school.

Principal Hassler shared that the results at Maury are consistent with last year's survey results in 5 of the 6 subcategories. In the subcategory of persistence, Maury's results were lower this year – particularly among third graders. It was suggested that the third graders might have a difficult time answering the conceptual questions based upon limited exposure to the concepts underlying the questions such as executive functioning skills. The school librarian is identifying books on perseverance (e.g., what it means, modeling perseverance) to add to the school library.

Q: How do Maury's Panorama survey results compare to other schools?

A: Overall, the results indicate Maury is in-line with other Ward 6 schools

Principal Hassler also shared that students are surveyed as part of IMPACT, DCPS's longstanding performance evaluation system for teachers. Those surveys are being given now. Student responses are anonymous. Teachers can choose to be evaluated 1 or 2 times a year. For grades 3, 4, and 5 (where teachers team teach), teachers are evaluated by only one class.

Q: Can the results of the IMPACT survey be shared with the community broadly?

A: Principal Hassler answered that IMPACT student surveys are not aggregated and are used specifically to inform teacher evaluations so nothing can be shared. Panorama data can be shared in the aggregate.

- Special Education and Intervention services

There was an overview and discussion of the IEP process and timeline.

Q: Given that the DCPS SPED specific budget allocations are based on actual IEP numbers, do you think that our SPED/IEP enrollment will align with the DCPS enrollment projections for SY24-25?

A: Principal Hassler replied that based on current information the DCPS predicted enrollment of students with IEPs at Maury for SY24-25 (and thus numbers impacting the SY24-25 budget) appear to be accurate.

- Budget

The Chair noted that our focus on the CSP and budget throughout the Fall is, in part, to prepare for the likelihood that the school (and LSAT) will be given a short turn-around time to submit the school's SY24-25 budget based upon the DCPS budget allocation which happens in mid-February. There also will be a short time period to submit supplemental funding requests. He noted that the school has had to make tough decisions in the past several years with respect to the school budget, and we may face difficult decisions again with the SY24-25 budget.

Information on the DCPS budget model is available at:

<https://dcpsbudget.com/updated-budget-model/> (last visited 12/14/2023).

It was agreed that the greatest shortfall attributable to Maury's SY23-24 budget was the loss of the math interventionist. That loss of a dedicated staff member to provide math intervention has been felt throughout the building this year. The next shortfall associated with the budget was the inability to hire an additional 4th Grade teacher and an additional 5th Grade teacher, resulting in large class cohorts in both grades this school year. It was noted that DCPS also denied the school's two supplemental funding requests for a third 5th Grade teacher.

Q: Would the school be able to provide a "New Math 101" training for parents so they can help their kids with the new math curriculum?

A: Principal Hassler noted that teachers send home workbook pages and associated Eureka guide pages home with students, and that other opportunities, such as STEM night, might provide opportunities

A: AP Lardell shared that there are virtual learning resources online to support Eureka math, and those can be shared with parents.

There was discussion on possible avenues to address the loss of the math interventionist position, including the following: hire a half-time math interventionist through DCPS, hire a math tutor as an independent contractor, and introduce volunteer parent math tutors. Principal Hassler shared that in order to be most impactful the school needs the most experienced math educators to work with the students who are furthest below grade level and who are in greatest need of intervention and support. Volunteers might be an effective proactive approach to keep students on grade level. She also noted that our SPED team has a large caseload, which is anticipated to grow next year.

Principal Hassler shared that she did not anticipate that the DME Boundary and Student Assignment Study and any recommendations coming out of that study will impact the school's SY24-25 initial budget allocation from DCPS.

Principal Hassler also shared that she did not anticipate any changes to the school's Master Schedule for SY24-25.

Q: With the growth in school enrollment and limited staffing resulting from the DCPS budget allocations, the school faced tough decisions last year regarding possible budget impacts on the Master Schedule. If DCPS's initial budget allocation for SY24-25 requires a reduction in staffing, would the school be able to maintain the current Master Schedule?

A: Principal Hassler stated it would be difficult to make the current Master Schedule work if we had to make cuts to the teaching staff.

There was discussion on how Maury's CSP priorities help drive the school's budget priorities and decisions, particularly closing achievement gaps at the school. It was suggested that the school and PTA seek out and obtain grants to support a math interventionist and provide other resources to help close achievement gaps. It was observed that Maury's loss of Title I status has made it more challenging to obtain grants, but that should not stop efforts to seek grants.

The committee recognized and discussed the positive impact that the PTA and Maury community provide through successful fundraising efforts. There was discussion around methods of raising more money and the allocation of PTA funds for teacher aides and to support school operations.

Teacher members shared that Maury's teachers and students greatly benefit from the PTA aides, and that any loss of those aides would present challenges.

### **3. General Topics**

- Issues related to student behavior and learning

Principal Hassler noted that behavioral referrals are down 30% from last year.

Q: In past years we added behavioral-related supports to the school budget, e.g., behavioral technician. Do you see the need for any additional budget allocations for any additional behavioral supports for SY24-25?

A: Principal Hassler: No. The school's wellness team is doing a great job in supporting the overall school and student body, and the data indicates that we are making progress in addressing behavioral challenges.

- School policies

There was discussion on the communication and enforcement of various existing and new school policies, and the community's compliance with school policies. Principal Hassler shared that priority focus is on safety and academics.

- Building maintenance issues

Business/Operations Manager Patrick Koontz reported that the school's HVAC issues have been mostly addressed. He noted, however, that there are outstanding work orders for various physical plant issues around the school.

### **4. Community Questions and Comments.**

- PTA Co-Presidents Shavanna Miller and Amy Toner shared that they along with the PTA Executive Board are drafting a letter with respect to the DME Boundary and Student Assignment Study pushing back on the process and rollout emphasizing the lack of community involvement. The letter will be shared with the Maury community in the form of a petition.

### **5. New Business.**

- A Maury staff meeting is planned to be held on the afternoon of Tuesday, January 9, 2024. It was proposed and agreed that our next LSAT meeting will be held virtually at 4 pm on Tuesday, January 16, 2024.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 7: 30 pm (EST).

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The next LSAT meeting is planned to be held virtually, starting at 4 pm, on Tuesday, January 16, 2024.