

MINUTES: NOVEMBER MEETING OF FULL MAURY PTA

Thursday Nov 16, 6p, in Maury Multipurpose Room

25 in attendance + exec +

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

CO-PARLIAMENTARIAN

Karli Maloney (KM, absent), Coutney Backemeyer (CY)

CO-SECRETARIES

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

CO-EQUITY CHAIRS

Talia Dubovi (TD, absent), Sairah Saeed (SS)

PRINCIPAL: Leah Hassler (LH, absent)

WELCOME/ICE BREAKER

Discuss with the people at your table a field trip that your student has gone on this year.

BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE

Eric Hanson is the new beautification committee chair this year. He has a student in Pre-K3 and signed up to volunteer with the committee and learned that Richard Parker was glad to pass on the role of chair. He is a DC Master Gardener and solicited input from teachers, parents, and PTA Co-Presidents for this plan with his biggest priority being improving the 13th street side. Packets of the proposal were on each table.

Three main areas of focus:

- 1) West side of the building near the teacher parking lot. The teachers would like a picnic table or something to accommodate space outside for them to sit.
- 2) Just outside the back doors of the multi-purpose room on the playground where there's mulch under an overhang next to the building.
- 3) Biggest focus is on the 13th street side.

- 1) West side - Eric found an option for a sturdy and weather appropriate picnic table for the teachers.
- 2) Playground - Shaded and with the overhang it would always be dry, plus it's likely that children will also trample any plants. Eric proposes to build some easy tables or benches for extra seating for kids. Again a durable focus with pressure treated wood and exterior paint.

3) 13th Street side - Multiple sections of this garden

-Eric proposes a section of native pollinators after talking with Ms. Conant and others. Kids could also learn about the plants and also be relatively hearty. Plants that will last and once established they will take care of themselves. Tried to design for minimal maintenance and watering.

-Next section is a sensory garden which includes plants that are interesting in texture, smell, and visually. It would allow for kids to explore - get in and touch and interact with the plants.

-One teacher requested fruit trees which would require a bit of labor but if only two trees it would be more manageable. Start small but will eventually bear fruit and last years and years.

-Woodland area with trees that last.

-Walkway next to the playground would have more flowers and annuals.

-Looking to add a few more benches to that side that he would build. Eric would like to create a sitting area for where a teacher could bring students out to gather.

-Additional hoses to help water and maintain all these improvements

Cost Estimate -

Costs are broken out by dense planting v sparse planting. All of it is a good faith estimate for the cost of goods since the labor will be free. There is still time to make decisions since this work couldn't start until the spring.

Questions:

1) I didn't see any azaleas? They could be a possibility and maybe with the woodland areas since not a native pollinator. The plant suggestions are only a starting point.

2) Is there a sponsorship deck? This presentation is what he has currently but is happy to create something to be used to request sponsorships/donations.

3) Capitol Hill Community Foundation grants season will start in the new year. They have mini grants that go on all year long. ? Yes, Eric and the PTA are aware of these.

4) I like fruit trees, but did you consider vegetables? The thing with vegetables is that they require regular maintenance and regular watering. Eric designed it so that it's maintained by one person. If we would like to move in that direction, it would require a dedicated group to maintain.

5) We had been advised about fruit trees being too close to the sidewalk so we should look into it before planting.

Shavanna reminded everyone that this is not something that we haven't budgeted for this year. If this is something we want to do, we need to figure out a way to fund it - sponsorships, donations, etc.

ANNUAL FUND

SM gave the update for Courtney McCaffrey who wasn't in attendance. We just kicked off the Maury PTA Annual Fund campaign, which runs through November 30. The Annual Fund is a big contributor to the PTA's annual budget, the vast majority (72%) of which funds the classroom teacher's aides for grades K-5. This is a way to contribute for those families who don't prefer to participate in the individual fundraisers. If we raise more than our goal, the extra funds can go towards other projects like the school beautification.

MAURY AT THE MARKET

Elizabeth Kaehler (EK) is the chair for M@M, the annual auction that raises most of the PTA funds. This year it will be March 9th from 7-10pm at the Eastern Market North Hall with a theme of "Making Maury Magic". More information

We need volunteers for multiple committees. The first meeting will be at EK's house on Tuesday, November 28th at 8pm. For additional information email her at Kaehler.elizabeth at gmail.com

- 1) Communications - Ensure that families know about the event
- 2) Donations - There is a silent auction with donations from classrooms and families and another person is needed who would be able to pick up the donated items.
- 3) Logistics - Help with details for the event such as food, table rentals, etc.

BUDGET UPDATE

MW reported there were no major updates. Our spending is tracking as expected. We have also hit our goal for uniform pass donations for the year. Great job Maury!

LSAT PRESIDENT RICHARD PARKER | LSAT PRESENTATION

RP will get minutes out tomorrow (Friday) from this week's LSAT meeting, which featured a DCPS guest who gave a presentation on DCPS enrollment projections for SY2024-25. Maury's projected enrollment for the next school year is 558 students, which is an increase over the school's current enrollment count of 549 students. RP noted that building capacity is 613, so if Maury meets the 558 projection, the school will have a 91% building utilization. He observed that DCPS is projecting another large cohort for Maury's 4th and 5th Grades 4 and 5, which, without additional teachers, would mean continued large class sizes for those grades. He also noted that the current enrollment projection for next year's kindergarten class is 84 students, which is lower than the current 93.

RP noted that DCPS, this week, denied the school's request for an additional (third) 5th grade teacher. DCPS's rationale is that the school had sufficient funds in its SY23-24 initial budget allocation for another general education teacher. RP shared that, at this week's LSAT meeting, he had told the instructional superintendent for this cluster that the rationale was not supported by the facts: Pointing out that the school had to cut four positions as a result of the original budget allocation; that Principal Payne Chauvent had immediately requested additional funds from DCPS to restore all four positions; and that DCPS approved funding for three of the positions but it did not approve our request for the funds necessary to retain the school's math interventionist. RP noted that the loss of the math interventionist has been felt throughout the building this year. Finally, RP opined that, based upon the current enrollment projections, he anticipates that it is quite possible that the school will have to make hard budget-related decisions for SY2024-25 once the initial budget allocations are announced (probably next February).

SM shared that she also thought it was a disingenuous response from DCPS because the school is regularly having to make decisions on cuts. She also shared that at the LSAT meeting it was noted that if any families can report evidence from the neighborhood on why the kindergarten numbers for next year

might be higher than projected (for example, new families moving in boundary who have kids who will be in kindergarten next year), please share that information with the school. RP followed up in support of SM's point, noting that we want to see accurate enrollment projections.

A parent shared that DCPS responds to consistent attention to a matter along with data that supports it. We are competing to keep kids at Maury for the fifth-grade year, and there is value in keeping kids in the feeder pattern for the school district. In the past, there have been people in our community, particularly the LSAT, who have supported these efforts with their data analysis skills. That is still needed. In support, RP mentioned we should also advocate for greater transparency and more complete data sets from DCPS. SM encouraged everyone to attend the monthly LSAT meetings, explaining that they are informative about the policy and functioning of the school.

DIO AWARDS

Eric Hanson, Amy Toner, Shavanna Miller, Lora Nunn, Elizabeth O'Gorek, Clark Bosslet, Bonnie Holod, Emily Rohlfs, Veena Srinivasa, Marion Smith, Gina Francesca, Elizabeth Kaehler

ADDITIONAL UPDATES

A parent provided an update on happenings at our feeder schools Eliot Hine Middle School and Eastern Hlgh School. We had a great turnout from Maury families for Eastern's homecoming earlier this month. Eliot Hine girls soccer and cross country took 2nd place city wide in both sports. Eliot Hine is collecting donations for Thanksgiving baskets for families in our neighborhood. Eastern is hosting a festival on December 14th and it's a great way to see your local high school.

George Blackmon encouraged us to take advantage of the chances to advocate for our school. This is his 4th meeting this week, including the meetings about the boundary study for other schools on the hill. And he wished us all a Happy Thanksgiving.

AFFINITY GROUPS

SS reported that many of the affinity groups have begun to meet.

- Latino affinity groups met last month
- Black affinity group met on Nov. 11
- South Asian affinity groups will meet on Nov. 19
- Jewish affinity group meeting for Chanukkah

A single parent affinity group is forming, so stay tuned for more details. If interested in participating in Muslim affinity group, reach out to SS.

Questions? Interested? Reach out to SS and TD! They will connect you to the right group or help you get a group started.

PTA Meeting HANDOUT

Nov 16th, 2023

Agenda

Welcome/Ice Breaker | PTA Happenings (Beautification Committee; M@M; Annual Fund) | Budget Update | LSAT Update | DIO Awards

Announcements

4th Annual Maury Wreath and Winter Sale

The 4th Annual Maury Wreath and Winter Sale is open and accepting pre-orders using the QR code below! We will have a very limited quantity of wreaths for sale on-site, so if you want to make sure you get the size and type you want, order here.

Friday, December 1st

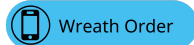
3pm-6pm

*Wreaths

*Baked Goods

*Maury sweatshirts for sale

*Music



PTA Community Support Efforts

Contact chair Kathy Loden to get involved at kathyloden@gmail.com.

No Uniform Pass Days

A special thanks to all the families that purchased the annual PTA No Uniform Pass last month, for \$36. **We met our goal for this fundraiser!** This fundraiser is a critical part of the monies we raise for PTA-sponsored Staff Appreciation efforts at Maury. Thank you for your generosity.

Holiday Gifting Policy

Please refer to the PTA gifting policy distributed via the listserv for the official PTA recommendation on holiday gifting.

Maury PTA Annual Fund

Chair: Courtney McCaffrey (cmrickert@gmail.com)

We just kicked off the Maury PTA Annual Fund campaign, which runs through November 30. The Annual Fund is a big contributor to the PTA's annual budget, the vast majority (72%) of which funds the classroom teacher's aides for grades K-5. The PTA will spend about \$300 per student this year, including teacher's aides, school and classroom supplies, events and activities, staff support, and educational programming. In the SY22-23 PTA Budget Listening Survey, 67% of respondents said they prefer making donations such as through the Annual Fund. We listened, and now we're asking for your donations! And remember: your donations to the PTA are tax deductible. The suggested donation is \$300 per student, but any amount you are willing and able to give is appreciated!



Beautification Committee

Chair: Eric Hanson (hansoneg@gmail.com)

Tonight's Beautification Committee proposal will be shared via the listserv after the PTA meeting. Thank you to Eric for putting this together!

Key Upcoming Dates:

- November 17th: 5th Grade Fundraiser: Babysitting Night, 6-9pm (SOLD OUT)
- November 17th: Make Up Picture Day & Sibling Photos; **3:15pm Bake Sale**
- November 21: No Uniform Pass Day
- November 22nd-24th: Thanksgiving Break, no school for students or staff
- November 28th: DME Boundary Study Maury Community Conversation, 6pm (via Teams)
- December 1st: Whole School Morning Meeting & PTA Parent Cafe, 8:45am
- December 1st: 4th Annual Maury Wreath and Winter Sale, 3:15pm
- December 5th: Maury Night @ Tunnycliffs, 5:30pm
- December 12th: LSAT Meeting, 6pm
- December 21st: No Uniform Pass Day
- December 22nd-January 1st: Winter Break, no school for students or staff

Congratulations, November DIO Award Winners!!!

Eric Hanson, Amy Toner, Shavanna Miller, Lora Nunn, Elizabeth O'Gorek, Clark Bosslet, Bonnie Holod, Emily Rohlffs, Veena Srinivasa, Marion Smith, Gina Francesca, Elizabeth Kaehler