



# 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, April 9, 2024, 4 pm via teleconference

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

**LSAT Members Present:** Danielle Brasure, Stacia Cedillo, Kaylee Mina, Emily Paterson, Patrick Koontz, Courtney Myers, Tiffany Myers, Richard Parker, and Amy Toner

**LSAT Members Absent:** Steve Beam, Emily Cramer, VanNessa Duckett, Shavanna Miller, and Elizabeth Nelson

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 March 12, 2024 LSAT meeting. Accordingly, they were approved and adopted.

**2. Community Comments.** There were no community comments.

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

- Comprehensive School Plan (CSP). Principal Hassler gave a short report on topics not covered at last month's LSAT meeting:

*Shared Leadership:* The school's professional development series on anti racism in lesson planning with Jasmine Bradshaw and the series on neurodiversity in the classroom and school with staff from Children's National Hospital have been completed. It was noted that the PTA will host parent workshops led by Ms. Bradshaw on the evenings of May 22nd and May 23rd.

*Family and Community Engagement:* DCPS Panorama Survey data on parent engagement will be coming out in a couple of weeks. Due to budget cuts, Maury will no longer be partnering with Flamboyant, the organization that facilitated and funded home visits and championed APTT. The school sought family feedback on family engagement structures for SY2024-25. It is anticipated that all parent-teacher conferences will be held on DCPS whole school parent teacher (family) conference days – with no change to Pre-K3 through 2nd Grade structure and adjustments for upper grades (3rd, 4th, and 5th) where there are multiple teachers per class.

- Budget – SY2024-25. Principal Hassler shared that there is nothing new to report beyond what was shared in an email she sent Maury families last month. (Attached as Addendum.) She noted that a few families have asked her if the Spanish program will be eliminated in light of the loss of the World Language (Spanish) teacher and she affirmed that is the case. A couple of LSAT parents shared that they had not received or seen that email, which may have impacted the amount of community conversations on the budget decisions including position cuts.

Q: Might it be possible to fund a part-time support position through PTA funding?

A: Principal Hassler shared that the PTA Executive Board is meeting with her this evening in part to discuss budget-related items implicating the need for PTA funds including funded positions.

- Enrollment, Lottery Results & Waitlist Movement

Principal Hassler shared that enrollment opened on March 29th and Maury currently has enrollment for SY2024-25 at 10% (about 50 families). She also noted that DCPS's new enrollment system, while more user-friendly, has been down at times – possibly impacting those who have tried to enroll.

DCPS Enrollment Saturday will be April 27, 2024. Principal Hassler asked that LSAT members, PTA room parents, and others promote the event as well as encourage families to enroll/re-enroll.

Q: What is the projected enrollment of the 5th Grade for SY2024-25?

A: Principal Hassler shared that current enrollment in 4th Grade is about 85 students and the 5th Grade projection is 55 students next year.

Q: Are there any plans to accept students off of the wait list for any of the upper grades?

A: Principal Hassler indicated that the purpose of adding teacher positions for the 4th and 5th Grades is to reduce class size. In that regard, she does not anticipate offering any spots in the upper grades off the waitlist unless necessary in order for the school to meet its whole school projected total enrollment number.

#### **4. Testing/Assessments**

- DC Science Assessment. Principal Hassler reported that this testing was completed today (with make-ups scheduled for the rest of this week), and that it went relatively smoothly.
- DC Comprehensive Assessments of Progress in Education (CAPE). Principal Hassler reported that testing will begin the Tuesday after Spring Break (April 23rd) – 5th Grade ELA kicks off the schedule – with one grade testing per day through May 17, 2024. Principal Hassler noted that testing only one grade per day is not ideal, but is the best approach given the available technology, i.e., functional computers.
- End-of-Year assessments. Principal Hassler noted that there will be end-of-year testing on iReady for Reading and Math as well as the DIBELS assessment for students in kindergarten through 2nd Grade.

## 5. General Issues

- Office of the Deputy Mayor for Education (DME) report and recommendations on “Strengthening School Safety in Washington, DC” issued March 25, 2024, available at: <https://dme.dc.gov/safetyreport> (last visited Apr. 12, 2024). There was a brief discussion on the report. The Chair identified three recommendations in the report that he suggested for current consideration: (1) that schools consider limiting cellphone and social media use, for example, by restricting cell phone use in school buildings (Priority 3a at pp.42-43); (2) that schools strengthen the capacity of school staff to implement conflict resolution by providing ongoing conflict resolution training for instructional and non-instructional staff, especially safety team members, with tiered support based on staff roles (Priority 3d at pp.45-46); and (3) that schools publicize the list of safety team staff (e.g., by posting it to their website) and make sure points of contact are included in relevant agency databases and routinely updated (Priority 4a at p.51). With respect to cellphone use, Principal Hassler shared that she intends to have a clearer school policy on the use of cellphones by students within the school building next year.
- Professional Development topics and resources  
The Chair noted that there has been a successful synergy between parents, teachers, and the school administration with respect to identifying professional development topics and identifying and obtaining affordable resources for high quality professional speakers/trainers. He cited, as examples, Maury parent (and current 5th Grade aide) Alison Stephen who first identified Jasmine Bradshaw for anti-racist education and his own request and suggestion to Principal Hassler with respect to training on neurodiversity and the contacts at Children’s National he shared and who presented the training at Maury this year. The Chair encouraged LSAT members and community members to talk with Principal Hassler to suggest possible professional development topics and, given the anticipated budget constraints, to help identify high-quality, low-cost providers.

**6. LSAT Elections – SY2024-2025.** The Chair explained that all LSAT members, except the community representative, are elected by secret ballot of the group they represent. Parent elections are conducted by the PTA in the spring, teacher elections are led by the WTU Building Representative in the fall, and elections of non-instructional school staff are supported by the principal. The Chair announced that elections for the four parent members for the SY2024-2025 LSAT will be conducted by the PTA with the assistance of Principal Hassler. Currently, the plan is to open nominations at the end of April, close nominations in mid-May, and then hold elections shortly thereafter.

**7. Community Comments.** There were no community comments.

**8. New Business.** Ms. Cedillo shared that she anticipates that this will be her last LSAT meeting before taking maternity leave. There are no plans to elect a teacher to fill that position on the LSAT given there are only two more meetings scheduled for this year.

**Adjournment.** The meeting was adjourned at 4:33 pm.

The next LSAT meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 14, 2024, starting at 4 pm.

## ADDENDUM

From: Hassler, Leah (DCPS) <[Leah.Hassler@k12.dc.gov](mailto:Leah.Hassler@k12.dc.gov)>

Date: Fri, Mar 29, 2024 at 11:13 AM

Subject: SY 24-25 Budget Update

To:

Families,

Last month, DCPS shared initial budget allocations for Fiscal Year 2025 (FY25) with principals, which are the funds that will support our school in the 2024-2025 school-year. All schools' initial allocations, including Maury's, can be viewed at [www.dcpsbudget.com](http://www.dcpsbudget.com).

While Maury's allocation is up by 1.1m since FY24, the costs of positions have gone up by 20%, which schools are fully absorbing. This means that despite our initial budget allotment being greater, we have less spending power. In collaboration with Maury's LSAT, our submitted budget includes the following:

### HIGHLIGHTS

- There will be 4 fourth grade classrooms (+1 general education teacher from SY24)
- There will be 3 fifth grade classrooms (+1 general education teacher from SY24)
- We are adding an additional special education teacher

### CHANGES

Due to budget cuts, we will be losing the following positions:

- World Languages (Spanish)
- Educational Aide
- Clerk
- Behavior Technician is only partially funded

Additionally, our educational supplies line was **completely zeroed out** (from \$18,000 last year), meaning we do not have any DCPS allocated monies to purchase supplies for classrooms.

Overall, we have used any increases to support our students by having smaller class sizes and additional supports. Although the budget is not final and is awaiting the mayor, we wanted to communicate clearly about what has been submitted. We hope this helps to make our budget process and decisions more transparent to stakeholders.

Maury anticipates needing the continued and increased support from our PTA in the coming year. We are incredibly grateful to have such an active and generous community, and truly value all that families are able to do to support our school.

We appreciate your partnership as we transition to next school year.

LH