



## **Summary of the Maury PTA Meeting (Sept. 17, 2026)**

### PTA Overview

The PTA leadership introduced itself and reviewed its role in:

- Supporting students, teachers, and families.
- Building school community through events and volunteer opportunities.
- Raising funds to fill gaps not covered by the DCPS budget.
- Working alongside, but separately from, the LSAT (Local School Advisory Team).

The PTA meets on the third Thursday of each month (except December), with childcare and pizza available. Meetings are also offered virtually.

### Fundraising & Budget

#### Annual PTA Fundraising Goal

The PTA's goal this year is \$235,000. Funds support:

- Teacher aides
- Behavioral health support
- School supplies
- Curriculum purchases
- Teacher professional development
- Community events and student programs

Maury was described as one of a relatively small number of schools that raises over \$100,000 annually through PTA fundraising.

### Upcoming Fundraising Events

- Annual Fund campaign launches immediately.
- Oct. 3:

- Yard Sale
- Bake Sale
- Teacher/staff art sale
- Family portrait fundraiser at the Arboretum
- Read-a-thon and Book Fair later in the year
- Various school community events throughout the year

### Principal's Report (Principal Leah Hassler)

#### HVAC Update

Principal Leah Hassler reported:

- Historic building HVAC replacement was completed over the summer and is working much better.
- The newer side of the building still has HVAC issues affecting several kindergarten classrooms.
- A missing compressor part is on order.
- The school is working with DGS and may request parent advocacy if necessary.

#### School Nurse Concerns

This was one of the biggest discussion topics.

Principal Leah Hassler explained:

- DCPS shifted from guaranteed school nurses to a "nurse tech" model.
- Maury began the year without guaranteed nursing coverage.
- A nurse tech is currently assigned, but administration has concerns about consistency and quality of care.
- Medication administration and student health support remain significant concerns.
- The school's goal is to secure stronger nursing support, ideally a nurse rather than relying on staff as backups.

Parents expressed concerns about:

- Medication administration
- Students with allergies and EpiPens
- Injury notification procedures
- Staffing coverage when trained personnel are absent

The school indicated that parent advocacy may be requested if discussions with DCPS health services do not result in improvements.

#### Academic Update

Principal Leah Hassler shared positive news about:

- Strong growth in ELA and Math scores on recent assessments.
- Family conferences are scheduled for October 13.

### Enrollment

The school is currently:

- 18 students over enrollment
- Approximately 587 students enrolled, approaching the 600-student mark.

### LSAT Updates

Key LSAT items included:

- HVAC issues and advocacy efforts.
- Enrollment and facilities discussions.
- New LSAT leadership:
  - Danielle Brasure serving as LSAT Chair.
  - Katie Burke serving as Secretary.
- LSAT meetings remain open to families except for certain budget-related sessions.

### Early Childhood (Pre-K) Curriculum Presentation

A detailed presentation was given by early childhood staff (including Ms. Paterson) about the Pre-K program.

### Key Points

The program uses:

- Creative Curriculum (play-based learning)
- Teaching Strategies GOLD assessments
- Heggerty phonemic awareness curriculum
- Building Blocks math curriculum
- Second Step social-emotional learning curriculum

Areas assessed include:

- Social-emotional development
- Language development
- Cognitive development

- Early literacy
- Mathematics
- Physical development

Teachers emphasized that:

- Learning occurs primarily through play.
- Children are assessed through observation during classroom activities.
- Social-emotional development remains a major focus of early childhood education.

### Community Events

#### Block Party

The PTA promoted the upcoming Block Party and asked for volunteers, particularly for:

- Face painting
- Event setup and support

### Volunteer Needs

Major volunteer openings include:

- Equity Co-Chairs
- Fundraising Co-Chair
- Volunteer Coordinator
- Website support (WordPress)
- Operations assistance
- Event support throughout the year

### Fifth Grade Program & Fundraising

Fifth grade parents and long-time staff discussed the special fifth-grade experience.

Highlights include:

- Ski trip
- Space Jam
- Capstone/outdoor adventure trip
- Trashin' Fashion event

- Fall Fest
- Car Wash fundraiser
- "Maury Space Jam" basketball event (new)

There was also discussion about the history of:

- Camp Fraser
- Efforts to retain students through 5th grade
- Building a more sustainable long-term fundraising model for future fifth-grade classes

### Other Discussion Topics

#### Staff Wellness Space

Teachers asked for donations of:

- Comfortable chairs
- Rugs
- Lamps
- Small furniture

These items will help convert an unused upper-floor room into a staff relaxation space.

#### Safety Concern Raised by Parents

Parents asked about policy regarding security and adults lingering off campus. Principal explained security protocol, which involves calling MPD and informing DCPS security.

#### Screen Time Policy

The principal clarified that:

- Maury's existing technology policy already aligns with newer DCPS guidance.
- Technology use is intended to be purposeful and instructional.
- The school emphasizes paper-and-pencil work and authentic learning experiences over excessive screen use.

#### Library

The new librarian is planning initiatives this year, including:

- A Book Fair at East City Bookshop (Oct. 19-25).

### Key Takeaways:

1. Nurse staffing and student health support are currently the school's biggest concern.
2. HVAC issues remain unresolved in some kindergarten classrooms.
3. The PTA needs volunteers and plans to raise \$235,000 this year.
4. Academic performance showed encouraging growth in math and reading.
5. The school is approaching 600 students and remains over enrolled.
6. Parents should watch for future advocacy requests related to nursing and facilities.
7. Many opportunities exist to volunteer, fundraise, and participate in community events.