

# MEETING MINUTES

Maury Elementary PTA, 600 Russell Road, Alexandria, VA 22301

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*Date | time* September 9, 2019 @ 6:15 PM | *Meeting called to order by* Jodi Zand, President | ~42 Attendees

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## President's Report – Jodi Zand

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- Jodi Zand welcomed attendees. There have been many activities underway getting ready for the new year. She introduced the members of the Executive Committee and provided an overview of the PTA and its activities. Volunteers are critical to the school's success and there are many opportunities. The PTA will launch a 100% volunteer challenge in which each family will be asked to volunteer for at least 1-hour.
- Future PTA meetings will be more interactive with speakers, town hall, and other formats. There will be less focus on PTA officer reports and more on engagement.

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## Principal's Report

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- Mr. Powell welcomed attendees and reported that the school year is off to a great start with a very smooth first week. There are new families in kindergarten and other classes. Maury custodians and building engineers have done an excellent job and the building looks great with many upgrades made over the summer.
- The High School Project initiative will have a large impact on Maury students in the future. There are three meetings on the Project that will be held in the next few weeks. If anyone needs information or has questions contact Mr. Powell.
- Powell provided a short overview of school statistics. At this time there are currently 403 students and three classrooms for each grade level, with a total of 18 homerooms. There were 382 at the start of last year. Overall student levels should not change too much over the next few years. There are very different demographics between Kindergarten and 5<sup>th</sup> grade, with minority population representations decreasing in the lower classes. This is attributed to redistricted city lines and should be in mind with the ACPS and Maury focus on equity. Maury has had many accomplishments last year, including winning the March Move2Learn Movement Challenge, teacher recognition and awards, and fostering new school and community partnerships. There are new staff at Maury.
- There were a number of new capital projects and improvements completed during the summer including a new roof and HVAC system, new furniture, etc. Projects pending include window replacement (next summer), flooring in the offices and some plumbing work. It was noted that the water source outside was broken and the project is being planned to fix it.
- Teachers will send out lessons at the end of the week with topics and subjects that were being taught in class. Safety and Security continue to be a focus with staff. Mr. Powell took training over the summer and there are consistent updates with staff and the community. This could be a topic for a briefing and discussion at a future PTA meeting.
- Mr. Powell reviewed goals relating to equity and achievement gaps from the past. Many have been reduced and the school will achieve fully closing these gaps for SY 2019-20. Staff is going through equity training based on programs set by ACPS. There will be continued PTA discussions, roundtables,

etc. on this topic as there needs to be purposeful progress towards improvement. Powell was asked about metrics and measurement on progress. He said the school looks beyond tests. It gets into lesson plans; looking at overall growth of child beyond SOL; teaching skills like collaboration, etc. The school looks at children from a holistic standpoint and wants to provide students opportunities and more experiences they may not receive otherwise.

- There were questions on average student class size. The state sets standard of a maximum of 22 students for Kindergarten, 24 for First/Second, then 26 for other classes, except in cases of accommodating military and homeless. Teachers collaborate to ensure all students have a seat at the table and improve what the school does for the kids. Anyone with questions can call or contact Mr. Powell with additional questions at 571-447-3031.
- The Campagna program is at full capacity and there is many new staff. There is a waitlist and they are looking to potentially increase numbers. Feel free to drop by with kids and ask questions. There are seven interested for the morning care session and 15 are needed to open up. Further information will be sent in the e-newsletter, along with clarifying information on the opening time for the school - the school opens at 7:30.

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### President Elect's Report – Fran Boller

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- Staff appreciation activities are underway, including a Custodian Appreciation Day that will be planned for October 2. Kids have been decorating 400 cardboard keys. On Sept. 18 there is a teacher appreciation taco day.
- There is an active sign-up for teachers that need supplies. Requested supplies are placed in a Sign-Up Genius that will be open for people to go in and make donations.
- The Fall Festival will be on Oct. 19 and this is a great opportunity to volunteer. This is a free event and there will be a bake sale and chili cook off.
- The Special Education meeting will be Sept. 11
- Laura McQueen is the room parent coordinator. In her briefing she said that additional information will be made available and the time commitment can depend on the teacher and the volunteer's schedule.

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### Treasurer's Report – Teresa Schofield

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- The audit committee met on July 20 and found no issues/exceptions. The EC approved the audit on September 5, 2019.
  - Motion to accept the audit: Kathryn Howell Dalton, with a second by Fran Boller, approved on a unanimous voice vote
- Schofield provided an overview of the proposed budget, which was sent out prior to the meeting. The school does well from a fundraising standpoint and the PTA is looking for more flexible options for parents to volunteer. The draft budget does have a deficit but there is a desire to spend down the positive overall reserve in the PTA account. The Gala is the biggest fundraiser and the school will hold a new Fun Run in the well. The goal for Spring into Action was reduced as it's closer to the Gala. Increased community outreach for Maury families in need. Questions were addressed on the discrepancy in Book Fair, why support for other PTAs was dropped and PTA funding for Upcycle for teachers and room parent supplies.
  - Motion to approve the SY 2019-20 PTA budget: Kathryn Howell Dalton, with Fran Boller second; approved on unanimous voice vote

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## Secretary's Report – Tom Schulz

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- Participants were encouraged to sign up for the PTA via a written form/check and the online form at [maurypta.org](http://maurypta.org) or <https://matthewmaury.memberhub.store/>.

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## VP of Communications Report – Joan Diehl

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- Parents can get information on Maury PTA and activities on the website and through the listserve ([Maury-subscribe@yahoo.com](mailto:Maury-subscribe@yahoo.com)). Parents can sign up for text updates as well by texting the message “@maurypta” to the number 81010. Please abide by listserve rules and keep topics to school-related issues. The PTA is working to share information from state and national PTA activities. Families can also follow on Facebook, using @MauryPTA
- A parent directory e-mail will go out in October. This is optional.
- Will we do Facebook live? We want to make this more interactive and discussion orientation. We may revisit this in the future.

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## VP of Fundraising Report – Pam Townsend

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- There will be a dine-out fundraiser event once a month. The first one will be next Monday September 16 at Dos Amigos and the next will be Los Tios.
- The Maury Gala moved from Fall to Spring. Stephanie Kirby will chair this year and feel free to send her an e-mail for suggestions, themes and to help.
- Spirit Wear is open for 2 weeks. These are approved for school uniform.
- There are changes to the Box Top program which now allows scanning receipts rather than cutting out the boxes.

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## VP of Programs Report – Courtney Pippin-Mathur

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- The upcoming dates of events included in agenda were covered. A guest reader has been scheduled for October.
- Walk to School Day will be on October 2.
- Reflections is a multi-media art competition. The tentative date for presentations is October 2.
- After school enrichment is through Baroody Camps. There is a large variety of options through three programs. This is separate from Campagna, but Campagna students can participate. Scholarships are available and registration is on Sunday at noon.
- The school play is very popular and can be difficult to get in to. This year, auditions will be held first to gauge interest and then do casting from there. This is for 4-5 graders and auditions will be held on Sept. 18-19. Registration for Baroody camps close on Sept. 22. The musical is 2-day a week commitment.

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## Immediate Past President Report – Emily Carlson

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- No Report

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## New Business & Discussion

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- No report

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## Next PTA Meeting

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October 7, 6:15 PM, Maury

Meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m..