

## JRM SAC OCTOBER 4 MINUTES

[May 2023 Masterman SAC Minutes PDF.pdf](#)

Roll Sheet Link- [Sign In Sheet: Oct 4, 2023 SAC Meeting](#)

Facilitator - Roll call of SAC members:

<b>Parent Members</b>		<b>Admin &amp; Staff Members</b>		<b>Community Members</b>		<b>Students SGA reps</b>	
Sam Vitiello (F)	P	Dr. Payne	P			Candelaria Beatty(HS)	P
Lauren Bell (S)	P	Ms. Solomon	P	Carolotta Stafford	P	Isabella Silverman (MS)	
Aubrey White (O)	P	Ms. Gray	P				
Michael Wang	P	Ms. Neu	P				
Kristine Ho	P	Ms. Geiger	P				
Anne Dorn	P	Dr. Alberti	P				
Marte Smith	P						
Eva Anderson	P	<b>Admin Team</b>					
		Ms. Harrison	P				
		Ms. Lennon	P				
		Mr. Gilken	A				

Sharing of Agenda- [JRM SAC - OCT 4 Meeting Agenda](#)

To submit a topic to be placed on the agenda next SAC meeting please use: [SAC Input Form](#)

### Executive Summary of Minutes:

- Student Participation increased in SAC meetings and SAC committee meetings and their perspectives are driving different conversations around SAC.
- Interim Reports for students will be distributed next week
- School Mission will be reinstated until such a time a new mission is evolved through the accredited Middle States Process which is currently getting started at Masterman
- HS SGA had elections and is planning many fall events - seeking chaperones!
- Status of the schedule - will Extended Advisory remain at the end of the day? When will there be a structured snack plan for 7th graders who are eating lunch at 9:15am?
- MS SGA is not underway yet - no faculty sponsor
- EC hours cut in half for teachers - looking to HSA for help
- Misinformation regarding the need for a 7 Period schedule at Masterman as a PFT requirement. PFT did not ask for it. Teachers do not support it and prefer an 8 period schedule. Schedule is under arbitration.
- Documentation that nearly all middle schools and many high schools have an 8 period schedule.
- Teacher vacancies in 5th and 6th and students falling behind. Updates. Teacher turnover concerns
- Native and Fluent Spanish speaking students in Spanish 1
- How will all qualified 8th graders be accommodated at Masterman?
- SAC committees are using [SDP SchoolExperience Survey Result for J. R. Masterman 2022-23](#) to identify concerns, discuss them in committee and address them as a community.
- Bathrooms were identified as being in disrepair and causing students anxiety over using them.
- The lack of access to outdoor recreational spaces and PE are a major mental health concern.
- School feels ready to administer digital SAT and PSAT exams next week.
- Request for open houses for both HS and MS

- Schedule concerns: loss of specials in MS, loss of dedicated science AP labs or labs scheduled during student lunch in HS, difficulty scheduling clubs due to lack of sponsors restricted by A/B schedule during HS lunch, loss of teaching staff to no- teaching positions.
- Students welcome the forum of the Ad Hoc Bell Schedule committee to learn about and voice their concerns regarding the 7 period A/B schedule.
- District Family Engagement Workshop Oct 21.
- School Communications, website updates and updating and availability of Community handbook on the website.
- SAC accountability: SAC is synthesizing all the input received from the community via [SAC Input Form](#) and sorting items by topic for committee discussions and presenting to admin and the school community with our recommendations: Volume 1: 8/30/23 - 9/27/23 - [SAC Input Form Synthesis, 9/27/23](#) This will be done on a monthly cycle.

### 1. Welcome and Approval of Minutes: [September 6 - SAC Meeting MINUTES Approved-3.pdf](#)

Approval of Minutes for Sept 6th meeting Motion to Pass: Sam Vitiello Seconded: Dr. Payne Motion Passed

#### **SAC update: Sam Vitiello**

Student participation has increased in both SAC meetings and in committee meetings.

Committees are up and running and we have student delegates interested in several committees.

SAC parent members, staff members and SGA leadership are working together in partnership and have open communication protocols established to stay on the same page.

Partnership with HSA with information sharing, technology funding and a SAC update being published in every newsletter.

Collaborative partnership with Administration with substantive discussions in preSAC meetings and portal communications to the community.

### 2. Rules and Norms- SAC - [SAC Purpose / Norms Slide](#)

**3. Pre-SAC Meeting Update:** SAC officers and Committee Chairs meet with Dr. Payne and administrators a week before the SAC meeting to discuss the agenda.

Items discussed: SAC updates, Fall Title 1, SAC's function in the school as the forum for substantive discussions like the schedule, School communication, Open Houses, Follow up on feedback from AS Gordon regarding community questions about school selection from the Ad Hoc HS admissions committee and the feedback about the schedule that was communicated with AS Gordon from the HSA after the last HSA meeting.

Committee Stuff Highlight; School Mission being reinstated until the next one is evolved by an accredited middle states process - Dr. Payne said yes. This year is the new middle states process.

### 5. Update from Principal Dr. Jeannine Payne-

Apologies that the Friday update went out on Monday instead.

Interim report cards will be distributed next week.

### 6. High School Update-Candelaria Beatty [SGA October SAC update](#)

- Updates on - Schedule meeting with AS Gordon and, Period Products, SGA Elections, Upcoming Events This past month, the 9th graders voted to elect their Freshman Grade Representative/Secretary: Owen Kuster!

Advisories have also elected their class representatives in time for SGA's first meeting on Wednesday, Oct. 4.

The High School Picnic is this Friday, Oct. 6. Chaperones are still needed to make it possible!

The Fall Masquerade dance will be on Thursday, Oct. 26. Planning is in progress and tickets will be on sale soon.

The Friendsgiving Potluck is scheduled for Nov. 21.

The next monthly SGA admin meeting will be on Wednesday, Oct. 18.

#### **4. Middle School Update- MS Reps - Zoe Soskin and Jocelyn Li**

They are former student government participants. The MS student government has not started yet as they don't have a sponsor. No information of when it will start. Class reps haven't been elected yet. MS student government fundraises and plans events for middle grades that are fun to participate in. Last year there weren't too many and they would like to do more this year when they get started. They plan the dance and they are also looking for new ideas for new programs like bake sales. If the MS student government gets started this year students should join as it is a fun club. Some other clubs available are Dungeons and Dragons, Ink drinker, CC, chess and art.

#### **5. PFT Update: Dr. Alberti**

##### **\*\*\*7 vs 8 periods**

EC Hours for Teachers: Teachers will be receiving EC/ Sponsorship hours in the next few weeks. With the current budget allocation much fewer extra-curricular (sponsor) hours are being allocated. HSA is stepping up to donate many hours to the operating budget. Process of working with administration to get a better idea on how many sponsor hours will be available for teachers.

ALICE training: Teachers completed ALICE training and it was a very shocking training, it is about an active shooter in the building. It is a very different startling protocol. There have been news stories and the new process is shocking and confusing. We can hopefully address this and can talk about it as a school community. Given that it's a very different way of interacting and dealing with a crisis if it were to occur at Masterman.

Misinformation regarding 8 period schedule: The current bell schedule with 7 periods instead of 8 was not agreed to by the teachers of Masterman, the building committee or the Teacher's Union in the school district. This schedule was put forward by administration and solely by school administration. Even though it may have been said that the union or others have said they need to have a seven period bell schedule, this is completely false. I have sat in on all of these meetings and at no point did the building committee or the union at any point say we should have a seven period bell schedule during the day at Masterman. In fact, the building committee filed a grievance with the administration saying that we wanted to maintain the eight period bell schedule, because we felt that best met the needs of the students in Masterman. So I just want to make sure that it's clear to all parents and everybody else here that the teachers and the union and building committee are not in agreement with the schedule, because I know there has been some misinformation that has been put out fairly recently on that issue.

#### **📌 Bell Schedule Various MS and HS- Michael Wang**

SAC members documented the Bell schedule of 50 Middle and High schools in Philadelphia and found most middle schools have 8 periods or more and some high schools too have 8 periods, not just the schools that have middle years program and HS program together. It is clear that the PFT does not require either Middle schools or High schools to have 7 periods. And the two schools that are very similar to Masterman - GAMP, and Carver are still on an eight period schedule.

#### **5. Committee Reports**

##### **a. Diversity, Equity and Inclusion - Co-Chairs: Carolyn Gray and Lauren Bell**

**Meeting time: TBD**

Committee has not met yet. Waiting to connect with the new Masterman Equity Coordinator who has just started at the school. Today the whole school celebrated Hispanic Heritage Month. They each did a lesson, watched a film and answered questions. This year teachers are doing community building. Monday the 10th is Indigenous People Day and the District has made curriculum resources accessible for all grades.

##### **b. Teaching and Learning - Co-Chairs: Kim Neu and Sam Vitiello**

**Meeting time: Second Mondays @ 8-9**

Teaching and Learning highlighted the 7 questions collated from 5th and 6th grade parents regarding teacher vacancies and the lack of timely communication regarding this critical issue. Which can be found here [☰ SAC Teaching and Learning Committee Meeting Report: 9/11/23 @8pm](#)

Administration Response: 6th grade teacher Ms. Kemp is currently being processed and there is no timeline for when she will start. Regarding 5th grade: Last set of interviews were the week of the 18th and no additional feedback since then. Admin reached out to the Office of Talent and they are going to republish the teacher pool and are looking for new respondents but there have not been any so far and they will do so again. The requirements for demonstration status teacher applies for leveling but not for hiring someone new on special assignment for the year. Admin will look at all the collected questions from the T&L report to address the issue.

Questions: Were any offers made to anyone since April for the fifth grade position. Admin Response: Yes, we actually had an offer for someone who decided later not to come. Subsequent questions added to T&L report.

Update from parent member of Site Selection committee: Since April when site selection committee formed, they have worked in a very cohesive and collaborative manner and looked at hundreds of resumes and reached out to everyone that was appropriate, even now and through the summer they were interviewing. Sometimes things are beyond our control but no stone was left unturned. And everyone's interest is to resolve as quickly as possible in the best way possible.

Teaching and Learning meeting takeaways: **Committee asks that teachers put due dates on assignments on GC**

1. Concern around the urgency in filling teacher vacancies: students are experiencing a lot of learning loss due to lack of consistent instruction in 5th and 6th grades.
2. Concerns around a staffing plan to address Mid-year sabbaticals and retirements to prevent learning loss when these teachers leave.
3. Teacher turnover concerns: experienced teachers leaving masterman for other District schools and seeking early retirement.
4. Concerns over cumulative learning loss and drop in student achievement due to teacher vacancies and lack of consistent instruction due to long term absences and use of subs.
5. World Language: Dual language pathway for language learning to ensure equity of opportunity for Spanish speakers. Continuation of French into HS for current 8th graders.

Parent Comment: We know in regards to the 6-3 and 6-4 for ELA and social studies teacher Miss Kemp was hired and we're just waiting for the HR red tape to kind of get cleared. Miss Lennon - you communicated on email that the plan is to help the other sections teachers plan and give assignments and work to keep these students on track. They haven't really been doing anything of that. Is it possible for you to actually detail that out in an email to everybody because there's a lot of parents who are obviously very anxious and asking - what is the plan to basically help those two sections not just completely fall behind.

[☰ SAC Teaching and Learning Committee Meeting Report: 9/11/23 @8pm](#)

**c. Health and Wellness - Co-Chairs: Carolotta Stafford and Eva Anderson**  
**Meeting time: First Wednesdays @ 6-7**

[Met for First time on Oct 3rd.](#)

Exploring mindfulness programs and programming around sleep hygiene, social media and device use. Exploring bringing these through WOW talk cafes to the masterman community. The agency has analysts that can train the youth that can participate and talk about topics that are important to them.

Partnering with DEI and C&C to create a buddy system for new youth/families and current families, a framework for which will be part of the report.

In reviewing the [SDP School Experience Survey Result for J. R. Masterman 2022-23](#) the committee identified the following issues that they would like to address for our youth.

1 Bathroom safety-youth don't feel safe to go to the bathrooms: A high percentage of students don't feel safe in bathrooms. A majority of the students don't feel that the school is clean. Students who don't feel they enjoy being in school. A large percentage of students perceive that teacher morale is low, and that the young people consider mental health to be a challenge, especially around bullying. They discussed parent feedback, safety improvements with the emphasis on discipline. The committee will explore the issues and, what's our student's responsibility and connection to those things. Making sure that the school stays clean. What can they do to be a part of that process, but also wanting to specifically find out what are the issues surrounding why our students don't feel safe using the bathrooms and seeing what we can do to address those concerns.

2. Recreational play space and it's connection to our youth's mental health: Concern was raised about a child having some issues around suicidal ideation because of them not having an opportunity to have that physical play space at school. Masterman student's access to adequate play space on the roof has fluctuated and we need to revisit just how we can move forward with ensuring that we do have recreational play space for the young people to work off some of that energy. October is youth suicide prevention month and so we want to make certain that we're getting resources out to both youth and their families around that. There is some confusion on when students are allowed to play what sport on the roof during recess and the staff are not all on the same page. A consistent policy and communication to the students and families would be useful to everyone.

2 Bathroom safety-youth don't feel safe to go to the bathrooms

**d. Climate and Culture - Co-Chairs: Aubrey White and Michael Wang**  
**Meeting time: Third Mondays @ 7-8**

1. Reinstating the former Masterman "Mission and Vision" statement. The Mission statement was the product of an accredited Middle States process that involved all stakeholders and in the preSAC meeting Dr. Payne agreed to reinstate it until this year's Middle States evolves a new one.
2. Issues with Admin's communication with the Masterman community - this is further documented in the synthesis doc with recommendations from SAC.
3. School Climate Issues: working with Mr. Gilken directly and he is attending our meetings.
4. School Selection: the concern over class size for the MS and HS due to the limited space in the building.
5. School Selection: the Algebra I criteria, and whether incoming 9th graders are ready to successfully complete Algebra II. and lack of choice in World Languages - referred to T&L

**e. SAC Climate and Culture Committee Meeting Report**

**e. Safety and Facilities - Co-Chairs: Joe Alberti, Marte Smith, and Kristine Ho**  
**Meeting time: Second Tuesdays @6:30-7:30pm**

Update: Several concerns regarding the state of the bathrooms have been raised and students are almost reluctant to use the bathroom. The bathrooms are in disrepair, there are clogged toilets in staff bathrooms, missing stall doors and locks, missing soap and soap dispensers, missing paper towel dispensers, build of grime, faucets permanently turned off when they leak, hot water flushing through the toilets. There is vandalism and the cleaning crew is new and might not be up to speed on protocols yet.

QUESTION: The cadence of traffic lights is creating a safety issue. Spring Garden Street lights has changed so that when you go down like 17 Street that light across street is not green as long and the lights that go directly down Spring Garden Street are longer so it is created like a safety issue with the kids trying to cross spring garden street but also the backup of the cars on 17th Street just dropping off.

**f. AD HOC Bell Schedule - Co-Chairs: Ester Roche Curet, Elana Solomon, Carolyn Gray, and David Neale**

**Meeting time: First Mondays @ 7-8**

Committee met for the first time just this Monday and did not have time to prepare a full report. Students, parents and staff members - more than 20 participated. Meeting lasted almost 2 hours, there is real concern around the schedule.

**Purpose**

- Examine the challenges and impact of the current schedule.
- Anticipate forthcoming changes with enrollment changes with the resizing of the school.
- Communicate to Masterman community
- Develop solutions to present to the school administration and the school District leadership. AS Gordon has been very committed to finding a solution with feedback from students.

Concerns: The concern comes up at every meeting and a lot last year too. The committee is trying to find homes for all the concerns by grouping them into areas of focus to address them systematically.

**Areas of Focus**

1. Scheduling challenges - clubs, lunch, sports, advisory is not working for certain grades and students are talking about how it is affecting them.
2. Loss of Teachers - Several teachers have been moved away from teaching into other roles and we don't quite understand what their current positions and what impact it is having on academics.
3. Academics impact - MS specials, HS electives - The MS loss of art, music, PE, Computers and Health education. MS grades have gone from multiple specials to one or two.
4. HS Enrichment - We are studying how options or pathways worked and how this was effective and supported student achievement, particularly the flexibility of that 8th period that also helped MS

**Next Steps**

Form sub-groups for each area of focus to gather information, develop solutions and report out to the main group for discussion.

**STUDENT VOICES regarding Schedule from different parts of the meeting:**

—"I could speak as a student delegate who went to the ad hoc bell schedule meeting. As a junior I actually felt like I learned a lot. And I'm really glad that this system is in place now. Because even as a student, I felt like yeah, I learned a lot from that meeting. And I just hope that we can, you know, collaborate and fine tune the schedule to make it better for two students and teachers throughout the year.

—" I totally agree with that. Just going to that meeting and hearing different concerns from different perspectives. I think that it's really important that we remember that Masterman is not just a middle school and it's not just a high school, but it's both and both student sometimes have similar interests, and sometimes their interests vary and it's important to remember to think and so, seventh grade may be eating very early and HS is eating very, very late and that's also not healthy and not conducive to learning. And I think that these long blocks of intense coursework without a break is also harmful. So I think that it's important to keep being creative and open to new ideas. And also looking back at things that have worked in the past and trying to bring them back. We talked a lot about options and that program, that enrichment program that students really benefited from and something that could enrich the experience at Masterman beyond what it is because Masterman isn't like other district schools, even if

there's certain regulations that we have to follow. It simply isn't because the students are different. And the students may learn better in a more flexible schedule because they are able to learn what they want to learn and they're able to do more things and, and yeah, so and the students do want to learn so I think facilitating that is important. And being creative is the best way to go about this."

—"Another concern was science lab and lunch and how that works with the high school because I think it is scheduled during lunch, but it's not really on the student schedule."

—"They used to have a lab period built into their schedule to do Labs 5 periods of instruction and 1 period lab, which are an important part of science classes. And now we don't, at least seniors, I'm in AP Chemistry, and we don't and we're expected because for the curriculum, we need to do a certain number of labs, and now we are expected to give up one of our lunch periods. If we don't, if we aren't able to complete the lab in class, which most often we won't be able to and so not only does it take away from instruction time but also time when we would have been eating or times we would have been leading clubs or participating in clubs like we're asked to give up part of our day that isn't for classes to do this lab and it's a problem and should be addressed."

**g. AD HOC Bylaws - Co-Chairs: Elana Solomon, Kim Neu, and Michael Wang**  
**Meeting time: Third Thursdays @ 7-8**

Hasn't met, yet.

**h. AD HOC HS Admissions - Co-Chairs: Anne Dorn and Jen Lennon**  
**Meeting time: Third Sundays @ 7-8**

[☰ Ad Hoc Committee for High School Admissions Sept 17 Report](#)

A. Families want information about what they can expect if they stay at Masterman for high school.

1. Open house for current 8th grade families, and open houses for external candidates for both HS and MS
2. Is there going to be an option to do French 2 and double up on Math next year?
3. Will course offerings for HS for 9th through 12th grade be made available on the website (discussed with Ms. Lennon on the Sept, 17th).

B. AS Gordon requested that we send a follow up email with our questions so that he could take it to district leadership. Has anything come from this process?

C. I'm trying to put together data about how the process went last year. Most data would have to come from the district, but some things Masterman can help me with:

a. I see some sending schools had lots of students apply and no one deemed qualified. Is this because their Algebra I class was deemed not acceptable? How do we determine that a student is ready to go into Algebra II?

b. What was the racial breakdown of this year's ninth grade class? (Important to know how satisfied or dissatisfied the district is with its progress on equity goals to date.

D. Next meeting on Oct 8 is how to apply to parochial and private schools information session: We have invited some of our alumni currently in these schools to talk to prospective families.

[☰ Private School Information Sheet](#)

**6. FACE Update- MiMi Gravely**

Invite to the family engagement conference on Saturday, October 21 from 10 to 1 there'll be a workshop, food and childcare, and I'll be there so you get to meet me in person. Also, I wanted to remind everyone that I do orientations for clearances, so that you can obtain them. You can email me or I am at Masterman SAC on Wednesdays.

**7. Home and School Update- Anne Albert HSA President**

## ☰ SAC Meeting 10-4-23 HSA President's Report

### 8. Old Business:

#### **Schedule issues: 7th Grade lunch/snack: Chelsea B.**

Referred to September minutes for specifics

There is still no structured snack for 7th graders eating at lunch at 9:15am and there  
“ I know that the survey the SGA sent to seventh graders and I don't think that was necessarily appropriate to ask 12 year olds to choose between a 9:15 lunch with snacking, versus a 9:50 lunch with no snacking. It is not like there is a good option to choose from. And I totally agree with the high school viewpoint that a late lunch for them is also not ideal. I think the Federal Guidelines sort of defines that lunch should be within that window of 10-2 for all students. I think that would be ideal for all students. If 7th graders are going to eat lunch at 9:15 we need a structured snack and clarity on how that would work.

Dr. Payne agreed to formulate a structured snack for 7th grade and communicate that to the Masterman community. Ms. Gray also outlined what was being done in 5th grade by all teachers to support the 5th graders who are eating lunch at 9:50.

#### **2022-23- Tabled for next meeting due to time constraints**

(Minutes from last year's SAC meetings are still being reviewed and should be complete by next SAC meeting)

- **Lack of consistent instruction and assessment of students in the classroom due to no permanent teacher: 7th Grade ELA and AP English for 4.5 months and associated learning loss.**
- **Roof not being fully open for students to access during recess:**
- **Building Security -**

1. Back door being open in the mornings prior with no security presence.
2. Lack of security personnel during school events - what is the process to request security for after hours? Do we have enough funding for security personnel for after hours?

### 9. New Business:

#### **A. School Website and Procedural Instructions: multiple parents: Summarized at meeting due to time constraints**

1. School website was updated only on 9/23 to reflect current faculty and current bell schedule. We had several comments regarding this. New secretary's contact info is still not updated. Community requests that this be done before the school year begins to enable a smooth transition.
2. Instructions on how to and who to inform at school when a **student is ill and will be absent**.
3. Instructions on the procedure **to sign students out** for doctor's appointments etc.
4. The **Community Handbook** link shared via the portal is no longer accessible - the message - 'in owner's trash'. Please update the website with a link to the Community Handbook. (Please verify that contact information in the handbook is up to date - an earlier version that came via portal had the contact info for a different school's secretary.) The Masterman community has no access to important information on code of conduct, dress code etc that the student's are required to adhere to.
5. A list of course offerings from 9-12th grades was supposed to be on the website by Sept 18 at the start of the school selection process. Prospective HS student applicants would like this information in order to make their school choice as all other schools give out this information . Could this please be updated.



6. School Profile: This is something college advisors are requesting to counsel students on where to apply to college. When will this be made available on the school website?

**B. PSAT Specific Questions: Jordan B. (also raised by 3 other parents)**

The PSAT's are going digital and families are extremely concerned about how the school is preparing to administer the electronic test, given that the electronic essay test for admissions 2 years ago had multiple issues. All PSAT related questions/concerns have been updated and shared with Ms. Harrison and Ms. Lerer, as of this morning.

Ms. Lennon update: College Board has changed PSATs to being digital. And so in the district, the whole district is adopting the digital platform. So the rollout plan just kind of gives you in a nutshell. So today, we wanted to first ensure that everyone had the proper Chromebook. The only students that we had a concern with do not have the proper Chromebooks or students that are new students, new district students that had a different an older Chromebook so we are swapping those out between today and tomorrow and before the end of the week. So as far as the proper Chromebook is step one, step two is now the platform, the blue book, all of that, which we're testing actually tomorrow, excuse me tomorrow or Friday. So the students have access to it, and then practice test lab on Monday and Tuesday. For all students who are taking the test Monday and Tuesday. It's not just Monday, we even are going to even have some of our seventh and eighth graders just to practice with the platform because it's now going to be in the students portal. And then the actual test will occur on Wednesday.

Dr. Payne update: We are confident that we are doing everything that we can to prepare for testing. It will be the first time that it's electronic testing, it will be throughout the district and if I'm not mistaken, the first time that this is carried out on this scale, all together. So everything is in the district, everything in the building, everything about the survey of equipment, everything about the schedule, the rollout, the information, all of that is out and I'm sorry, Miss Lennon. Yes, we are 100% confident about what's happening inside the building. And the only backup that we would have that we could attest to is I believe there is a makeup day that we could use. But that would be if there was some sort of failure, some sort of issue in the administration or in the system, because again, this will be the first time that has been carried out on this scale all at once throughout the district.

I know there was a blast sent out by our testing coordinator Miss Schapiro to ensure that the day of testing that families ensure that students bring a fully charged Chromebook and also bring the charger with this just in case

**9th Grade admissions:**

A community member brought up the point that Masterman was not being equitable by not allowing new students access to 9th grade admissions because of the newly restored pathway to allow qualifying Masterman 8th graders automatic admissions to 9th grade. It is the understanding of the Masterman SAC that 9th grade will be an access point for students outside of Masterman:\

Dr. Payne's Clarification: We have not been presented with a plan. As of right now. The organization of Masterman in the grades and the numbers has not been communicated to us. So all we are 100 I'm gonna say 99.9 that the only thing that we are assured of is eighth grade students who meet criteria will be offered spots in ninth grade. How big our ninth grade will be, has not been told that. So whether or not there'll be outside students, that's something that's been brought up in several circles. But again, we have not been told how large our ninth grade class will be. So it is my goal and it is the ongoing to have an opportunity for entry in both the middle school and the high school. But what that will look like, how many it will be, has not been communicated to us.

Dr. Payne also clarified that families are entitled to that information as they make choices in the school selection process and as they advocated for other things, this would be on the list of things also and they can contact Dr. Dawson if they wish to do so.

**C. Lack of PE/ Lack of Physical activity during indoor recess: Dhivya C. Tabled for next meeting due to time constraints**

**D. Cut in EC hours:**

EC hours have been cut in half for teachers last week. The lack of availability of club sponsors due to the new 7 period A/B schedule (teachers are rostered to teach other classes at that hour and unavailable to sponsor), is affecting the number of HS clubs that can operate. This combined with EC hour cuts puts student extracurriculars in HS in jeopardy. There is a lot of worry over how these reduced opportunities will affect student achievement and college portfolios.

Ms. Lennon Update: I met with HSA today and their budget committee and the Operations Officer and we came to a healthy agreement. The HSA will be putting out a statement on how the additional funds will be used, With the HSA contribution we are closer to getting back to our normal programming for the programs in sponsoring the clubs. The one thing that I do want to make mention of is yes, that is correct. The A/B schedule doesn't allow for the timing - It doesn't mean the club can't happen, it is just the amount of hours of the club will not be as frequent as it was in prior years. So the need for funding for those hours will be cut because there's not time allotted for them to fund it, especially if the club does not want to meet before or after school, and if they're meeting during their lunches because some teachers have alternating lunch schedules based on the A/B schedule.

**E. SAC Input Form Synthesised: Family Concerns: Aubrey White (SAC Organizer)**

The document linked below is a synthesis of input from the Masterman community via this [SAC Input Form](#) that has been schematically collated for a big picture overview and a place to highlight issues followed by **recommendations from SAC** based on your input.

Volume 1: 8/30/23 - 9/27/23 - [SAC Input Form Synthesis, 9/27/23](#)

We plan to do this monthly in time for each pre-SAC meeting so that all community input and concerns are presented to school administration in a wholesome package.

About the Input Form Synthesis & How to Use it:

- We understand a major role that we have here on SAC is to listen to the community.
- We also understand that our 1200 students in our school and so in order for this to be useful to SAC and also to Dr. Payne and the administration.
- We need to synthesize the input coming from the SAC input form and from the chat of this meeting and we're looking for themes.
- It's one reason we ask you to use our input form to capture patterns that are emerging in terms of concerns and issues. We all receive emails but it is easier for us to track these things if you also share this via the input form.
- The monthly synthesis says we heard X concerns. We're sorting them into topics. We're giving some excerpts not all because we recognize that neither SAC nor Dr. Payne or the administration can read a tome. We want to lift up some excerpts from the community.
- And then as SAC like School advisory, we are working to advise and think about being solutions oriented and to make recommendations related to the input.
- We also want to share back with you all what we're hearing just so that you know we are listening, and we're all sitting together and we're discussing it and we are having productive conversations with administration in the preSAC meeting.
- Last week when we sat down to talk through some of these things, which is one reason they don't all come here to this meeting.

- As of September 27. There were 25 submissions. Please take the time to click on that link and submit it. If you're talking to a friend about it, it doesn't get into our process.
- What we did was identify issues and sorted them into categories. This document is organized for easy navigation so you can click on any one of these and it will take you to the issue.
- If you do come down to an issue you'll see the number of mentions. Documented is sorted by what had the most number of mentions
- We're also trying to take things from email and take things from the chat and combine all of this to say this is all input. Some topics are assigned to committees, some are taken directly to school leadership.
- The form has a scheduled committee. We gathered themes, we listed some excerpts, and then we have some immediate action that we're recommending, and then some proposals for future actions. We discussed every single one of these recommendations with the administrators and was really productive conversation.
- There is a recap of all recommendations at the end of the document.
- This is just like a way that we're trying to take all of this make sense of it and share with the administration as something that that we think could be actionable, and we recognize that our role is to advise and that's it and you know, the administration make the decisions about what's happening next, but we wanted to do it in a way that was formal and for you all in a community so that you know that your voices are heard, we really care about them and we're working really hard to collect them and to sort them and we are really trying to take this very seriously and do it with integrity.

#### **F. SDP SchoolExperience Survey: Michael Wang- Tabled for next meeting due to time constraints**

The Office of Research and Evaluation administers the annual Philly School Experience Survey (PSES) to Philadelphia public schools in the District to measure six key topics related to school improvement: 1) School Climate, 2) Instructional Environment, 3) Family Engagement, 4) Professional Capacity, 5) School Leadership, and 6) Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion.

#### **SDP SchoolExperience Survey Result for J. R. Masterman 2022-23**

**Survey Findings:** With the exception of Instructional Environment, where the school rates well above other schools and School Climate where the school rates on par with other schools (which used to be much higher than other schools), all other areas are rated below or well below Network 1 and other schools.

**Survey response rate:** With this survey we have Students participating at 82%, Teachers at 75%, Parents at 24% and Support Staff at 25%. This shows that the data collected is pretty representative of the school experience particularly when it comes to students and teachers. As a base line any survey with a 30% response rate is considered excellent.

**SAC Priority:** Student needs will be SAC's first priority. Supporting teachers to meet student needs will be prioritized in tandem with that. SAC has reviewed the survey to set priorities for this academic year.