

JRM SAC Agenda for Jan 8, 2025

Approved Minutes Nov 6, 2024 SAC Meeting .pdf

Roll Sheet Link- Sign In Sheet: [Jan 2025 SAC Sign In Sheet](#)

Facilitator - Roll call of SAC members:

Parent Members		Admin & Staff Members		Community Members		Students SGA reps	
Sam Vitiello (F)	P	Principal Laurie	P	TBD		Kaddy Ren (HS)	P
Lauren Bell (S)	P	Ms. Solomon	A			Aimee Oyenyi (MS)	P
Aubrey White (O)	P	Ms. Gray	A			Noah Soskin (MS)	P
Michael Wang	P	Ms. Neu	P				
Dhivya Kaushik	P	Ms. Geiger	P				
Tracy Joslyn	P	Ms. Smith	P				
Stacy Leonard	P						
David Neale	P						

Meeting Start time: 6:00PM

Meeting End time: 7:21 PM

Sharing of Agenda:

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

1. Welcome & Norms: Norms of JRM SAC meetings

2. Approval of Minutes: Minutes for Approval Dec 4, 2024 JRM SAC Meeting

Sam motioned to pass; Aubrey White second. Minutes approved.

3. SAC process/business/updates:

1. Input from the SAC input form is being shared with principal Laurie and followed up on with various members of school administration/staff. Here are links to the monthly synthesis documents:

SAC Input Synthesis 24-25, Volume 3 (12/4/24)

SAC Input Synthesis 24-25, Volume 2 (11/6/24)

SAC Input Synthesis 24-25, Volume 1 (10/9/24)

2. Principal Laurie will meet with (DEI & H&W, Admissions and T&L committee chairs in January)

4. Update from Principal Gordon Laurie:

Announcements and Updates:

- Facilities Update the community on call with Victoria Flemming - An electronic reporting protocol has been established at school in conjunction with the Building Committee and staff are already using it.
 - Developed and rolled out a Google form for teachers/staff to report building issues (for example, broken lightbulb). Allows Building Engineer to track concerns and status of repairs.
- Heights Update: Heights has shared an overview of equity services for the Heights representative who will serve at Masterman for the rest of the year. The role will be staffed in mid-January. [Heights at Masterman](#)
 - New Heights individual will start on Jan 14th. They will work with the SAC DEI committee to integrate the new Heights individual into the Masterman community.
- Gifted Program: Our staff met with District Gifted program leadership.
 - Ms. Rowley and Amit continue to meet with district leadership on GIEP. They've received additional requests from Masterman families for gifted testing.
- NHS info for 9th and 10th graders so they understand what the expectations are to qualify.
 - Mrs. Solomon has provided information on how to promote the NHS for 9th/10th graders and how they can be part of all the NHS can provide
 - Increase communication

Still awaiting School Selection status updates:

- Number of 9th and 5th-grade applications? 9th - 1497, 5th - 565
- Has eligibility status been confirmed? No
- How is the District confirming Algebra 1 Criteria satisfaction for the 1497 applicants to 9th grade? Don't know.
 - Met with SAC and HSA members on school sizing.
 - A 1/9 meeting has been scheduled with criteria schools to discuss next steps.

- Opening the building earlier: MS students may enter at around 7:45AM during inclement weather, on a case by case basis.
- Admin meeting occurred this past Tuesday. Discussed upcoming testing and other student assessments.
- Welcomed back Masterman alumni today. Allowed students to meet with them. General consensus from alumni is that the Masterman curriculum adequately prepared them for college.
- Shout out to Mr. Roache and HSA as the alumni basketball game was a success.

5. Facilities Update: Check if anyone from the facilities office is attending the SAC meeting and offer them a chance for updates.

Old business:

Paint on the Roof

- Per Mr. Stephen Manna, no repairs have been completed due to inclement weather.

Fly bar (auditorium stage)

- Looking for a vendor to use PVC to be more safe. Mr. Manna to follow up with Maintenance by Friday (1/10).

Restocking Bathrooms: soap dispensers, toilet paper etc.

- Everything has been resolved. Hasn't heard any further problems.

Stall locks to be fixed

Staff bathroom 3rd floor pooling of water

From last meeting:

Lining for sanitary products disposal

- Per Mr. Anthony DiCaprio, sanitary dispensers have been purchased and installed. Lining has been installed.

New business:

Water Fountains

- Water filters have been installed/replaced in water fountains. 3rd Floor hydration station wasn't working last time.

Air Purifiers

- Question asked if HEPA air purifiers are still used at the school. Per Anthony DiCaprio, air purifiers should be in the classrooms. The Building Engineer can reach out to Facilities for filters.

6. High School Update- Kaddy Ren - SGA President

SGA January SAC Update

- College Application Fee Waivers:
 - Masterman is in a Title I school District where all students qualify for universal free lunch. All Seniors at Central and Palumbo are asked to check this box for the common app.
 - (students have been asked to fill a fee waiver form in addition to checking the box for qualifying for free lunch in the common app which seems unique to our school.)
 - Midyear reports how will grades be calculated (2 separate quarters - or cumulative scores from 2 quarters)
- Working on planning International Day Feb 10th-where students lead workshops on different cultures around the world. Assemblies
- Working on coordinating the feast of justice drive
- Student will bring in items for spirit week
- Met with Administration last week-discussed college fee waivers-push for all students to have knowledge of the fee waivers-best way to do is through junior seminar so they have knowledge of this before hand
- Laurie- senior students will receive a 1st quarter grade and a 2nd quarter grade-
 - The only class we have is Discrete Math from CCP as
 - Put on Google classroom to share with students

7. Middle School Update- Aimee Oyeniyi and Noah Soskin - Middle School SGA Co-Presidents

- For December, we had High School and Middle School Winter concert; gingerbread houses making
- Pajama Day, Bake Sales to help raise money for clubs causes
- Basketball tryouts were Jan 7th
- Musical Guys and Dolls rehearsals has begun
- Question about going forward with a update in a document emailed to Ms. Neu

8. Home and School Update- Anne Albert HSA President

☰ SAC Meeting 1-8-24 HSA President's Report

- Came close to annual goal of \$50,000
- Assisted with the Alumni basketball game.
- Supported with food to winter concert
- Jan 21st HSA Meeting-In-person at Masterman-free pizza,
 - 5pm-6pm
 - children are welcome;
 - get the word out to more people
- Jan 25th 1st Masterman Lunar New Year Celebration
 - Food
 - Crafts
 - Activities
 - Link to signup for tickets to register and to volunteer
 - Family Event
- Repeat Teacher Valentine-Teacher Valentine Fundraiser week of February 14
vp2@mastermansha.org
- March 7 Family Potluck Dinner social@mastermanhsa.org
- Auction April 5th -Chair person is looking for people to help get donations, attend and plan music
 - Shared email
- More events on the horizon!!!

9. Committee Reports

a. Climate and Culture (now includes Safety & Facilities) -

Co-Chairs: Aubrey White and Michael Wang

Meeting time: Third Mondays @ 7-8PM

Next meeting: TBD

C&C Committee Update: High level discussion of the Middle States (non-accreditation).

Committee Report [C&C December Meeting Report](#)

- Discussed reinstating the Middle States.

b. Teaching and Learning

Co-Chairs: Ms. Kim Neu, Dhivya Kaushik and Sam Vitiello

Meeting time: Second Mondays @ 7-8PM

Next meeting: Jan.13

T&L Committee Update: Discussing and recording questions for the senior survey.

Committee Report: No Report

T&L Follow ups:

- Request for supplementary data - AP score distribution for 23-24 - We are compiling data
- Request to include a couple of seniors to review survey and add/refine questions
- Facilitators attended the meeting
- Began creating a draft

c. Student Activity Committee

Co-Chairs: Ms. Elana Solomon and David Neale

Meeting time: First Mondays @ 7-8PM

Next meeting: Feb. 3

SAC SAC Update: We are continuing to address concerns with regard to clubs and other activities as they arise. We are constructing a document for new club sponsors that will help them understand the process of leading a club at Masterman.

Committee Report: [SAC SAC January Meeting Report](#)

- Beginning the work on guidelines for new teacher club sponsors.

d. Admissions Committee

Co-Chairs: Chelsea Badeau, Neha Vapiwala, Stacy Koilor.

Meeting time: Second Sunday @ 7-8PM

Next meeting: Feb. 9th

Committee Update: Committee reviewed the post-admissions cycle survey that was sent to students and parents last year. Committee discussed edits to the survey and the Committee plans to send the survey out in February after the current cycle closes. Admission decisions are expected to be released by the district later this month.

- Working on providing a community survey regarding the admissions process.

e. Health and Wellness

Co-Chairs: Dr. Lauren Bell and Stacy Leonard

Meeting time: Second Thursdays @ 7-8PM

Next meeting: Jan. 9

- Met with DEI in December
- Talked about the Middle States and how its important about bringing Middle and High School together.
- Breaking down about the middle/high school separation
- Discussed about how student enrollment/selection in high school went down
- Discussed teacher mental health
- Importance of inclusive language and potentially creating an educational handbook.
- Discussed how to more closely work with the new Heights individual.
- Next meeting is tentatively Jan 16th

f. Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

Co-Chairs: Ms. Carolyn Gray and Dr. Tracy Joslyn

Meeting time: Third Thursdays @ 7-8PM

Next meeting: TBD

Committee Updates for DEI & H&W:

The two committees are working together to address mental/emotional health of students and staff and equity/ inclusion topics. They had a joint committee meeting with all elected SAC parent members to discuss. The broad themes of Belonging and inclusive language (proper use of and training) were identified as 2 main broad objectives for the rest of the year. Committee Chairs will meet with the Principal to discuss these topics in detail in January.

g. **AD HOC Bylaws - Co-Chairs: Ms. Elana Solomon, Ms. Nichole Geiger, and Michael Wang**
Meeting time: None

Meet with the principal to review updates in Feb and then share with the whole school community for input.

- Will meet with the Principal in February to discuss draft updates to the Bylaws.

10. FACE Update- Joy McIntosh

11. Old Business:

- Admissions Criteria:
 - How will the Algebra 1 Criteria be verified for next year's cohort of 9th grade students?
 - No updates.
 - Criteria for 10th grade admission to be adjusted in district communication (include Algebra 2 and Language 1 (French or Spanish))
 - No updates.
 - Status on this for next year's 10th grade applications
 - No updates.
- Chromebook - parental controls and repairs/replacement
 - Students may be spending too much time on chromebooks; maybe homework maybe not
 - When the chromebook is in our school network; they are protected on what they can see
 - When they are home they are in control; internet service providers do offer parental controls to help keep the students safe
 - We will find a way to help support parents; we provide information on internet safety; but students will find a way around and concern is students will come across predators;
 - Looking into a workshop for parents
 - Reach out to Ms. Lerer for damaged chromebook
 - This generation of chromebook are reaching their end of life
- Grading:
 - Grade dumping: seniors (how will this affect midyear reports for college applications)
 - Grades issued without the work being returned to students or the sharing of feedback.
 - Grades are issued without updating Infinite Campus: students can't see their cumulative grade to assess where they stand.
 - Expectation is there should not be grade dumping

- School has a policy of entering grades on a timely basis. 2 grades every week for each type in the gradebook.
- Reinforce with teachers that grades are to start a discussion with students on academic performance.
- Grades don't automatically carry over into Infinite Campus from google classroom. Some teachers thought it happened (maybe it happened in the past) but now know that they have to enter is again in the Gradebook in Infinite Campus

12. New Business:

- **Topics submitted to SAC:**


- 9th grade - academic plan outline - language pathway and Math doubling up when and how?
 - Are we going to have 2 trajectory pathways for incoming and continuing Masterman students?
 - Complicated issue; 4 year language is an option for every student
 - Don't have an answer just yet
 - Waiting for numbers which will give a clear staffing picture
 - What we have to do to be the school it is
 - We are committed to the students being able to take vigorous classes they want to take
 - Want to have all the resources; perception that masterman gets whatever we want is not true; my job is to advocate for the students to the district
- Midterms - cumulative assessments have been planned for next week in some subjects. How is this different from a midterm?
 - Decision to not to midterms
 - Met with students today that this message has not been received
 - Cumulative test can be ok.
 - We said not to do midterms and that is what I will communicate with students
 - Next year we will have midterms and finals in every class
- Gym Department - Concern over turnover in the gym department and what that means for competitive sports and Health education at Masterman.
 - Lack of coaches last year, worry about the Masterman experience
 - The turnover of teachers for any reason brings a challenge
 - Coaching opportunities are filled
 - Teams are doing well
 - Moving to hiring a full time position to provide stability
 - We offer so much more than academics at masterman
 - Very confident the gym department will be able to provide support
 - Challenges about Teacher missing class to coach
- Sanctuary City: Has anything been communicated with school principals?
 Excerpt from Inquirer article Dec 16, 2024:
 “Watlington said the district is working with the Council of Great City Schools, a nonprofit that represents the nation’s largest school systems, to keep tabs on federal-level events with the coming presidential transition. And, the superintendent said, “the administration will fully and completely comply” with [the sanctuary schools resolution](#).”

Inquirer article link:

<https://www.inquirer.com/education/philadelphia-school-district-immigrant-students-sanctuary>

BoE/SDP Sanctuary School Resolution Link:

[-schools-resolution-20241216.html?query=sanctuary](https://www.inquirer.com/education/philadelphia-school-district-immigrant-students-sanctuary-schools-resolution-20241216.html?query=sanctuary)

 English_Welcoming Sanctuary Schools Resolution - June 2021.pdf

- Concerns about financial aid for students that are citizens but their parents may be undocumented
 - Some school offer full rides in that particular scenario
 - SDP has stated they are welcoming schools and have a policy; Mayor Parker has not said we are a sanctuary city
 - If any agent comes to our school to see a child; I would say no and my understanding is that ICE would not do that; they would avoid that embarrassment
 - No federal agent is allowed in our building certainly not for immigration purposes
- SEPTA and Sixers Arena: How will this affect Masterman students' commute?
 - Please share with SAC if this becomes a problem

Floor: