

**JRM SAC Minutes for March 4, 2026**

Roll Sheet Link- Sign In Sheet: [March 4 SAC meeting Roll](#)

**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)	A	Principal Laurie	P			Nabilah Chowdhury (HS)	P
Stacy Leonard (O)	P	Ms. Solomon	A			Harriett Benner (MS)	P
Dhivya Kaushik (S)	P	Ms. Gray	P				
Lauren Bell	P	Ms. Neu	P				
Tracy Joslyn	A	Ms. Geiger	P				
David Neale	P	Ms. Smith	P				
Michael Wang	P						
Yaling Xie	P						

**Meeting Start Time: 6:00pm**

**Meeting End time: 7:47pm**

**Sharing of Agenda-** [March 4, 2026 JRM SAC Meeting Agenda](#)

To submit a topic to be placed on the agenda for the next SAC meeting please use: [SAC input form](#) or write [jrmastermansac@gmail.com](mailto:jrmastermansac@gmail.com).

**1. Welcome, Introduction & Norms:**  Norms of JRM SAC meetings

**2. A. Facilities Update:**

Check if anyone from the facilities office is attending the SAC meeting and offer them a forum for updates. Thank you to the District Facilities department for their continued engagement in our community and their partnership.

Plumbing work happening in the school (two work orders currently open) the rest of the work orders have been closed. Work on the roof and the second floor bathrooms are the open items.

- Custodial staff provided outstanding support for the musical: Thanks to Ms. Love for leading the charge
- Custodial staffing status

Facilities provided additional support during the musical and that was extremely helpful.

- Salt Spreader for the school
- **Battery Operated Leaf Blower:** One of the crew working the musical from a different school suggested that the school should acquire one. Other schools use this to clean popcorn and trash from their auditoriums from under the seating area. Apparently it works like a charm. Given the size of our auditorium they recommended we get 2.

Principal Laurie said they can look into both the salt spreader and the leaf blower and provide them if they are helpful.

- Bathrooms:

Bathroom privacy strips have been installed to some of the stalls and more have been ordered to install across all girls bathrooms.

Positive feedback received from the community with regards to the email sent by Principal Laurie on the bathroom issue and accountability.

**B. Safety Update:** Mr. Roland Hayward if present or Principal Laurie

Principal's update on weekly meeting

Safety Assembly update

The school is still working on scheduling meeting time for the students. The principal is working with the City.


Tuesdays and Thursdays have demonstrations happening on a regular basis and it is expected that the size might surge in these times and Principal Laurie will be around to ensure safe passage of the students.

A student had a medical emergency in the classroom and so the school had to shelter in place to ensure that the emergency can be addressed. Additional support was brought in today (including SDP's Prevention and Intervention) and will come tomorrow to support staff and students. Staff handled the emergency well. Positive feedback from the community on the communications received from the school.

A seventh grade class was asked to go under the desks and scary comments were made to the students.

Principal Laurie requested parents from that classroom to reach out to him directly so he can follow up.

**3. Meeting minutes from last SAC meeting for Approval:**

 Feb 4, 2026 JRM SAC Meeting Minutes for Approval

Minutes motioned and passed.

**4. Principal's Update:**

a. Success of the Musical

Many staff, students and administrators attended and the musical was such a big undertaking and was a huge success. The production value was amazing. The credit card machine worked well and are asking for a second machine to speed up the process. Special shout-out to Ms. Neu for all her work to ensure it was a success and doing the heavy lifting for the musical. The building held up (office bathrooms and nurse bathroom were opened.

Ms. Neu - The students put in a lot hard work and incredible work and she thinks The Wiz was probably the best musical for the school.

b. Update on 2nd floor Boys bathroom vandalism and timeline for fixing and reopening the bathroom.

Students have been blocking toilets and urinals, causing serious flooding and electrical damage. An environmental study has to occur first before repairs may be made to ensure student and staff safety. The next step is to understand why this is occurring. The school has spoken with students to discuss student responsibilities and expectations, and to encourage students to report bathroom issues and concerns. The costs to the school for the repairs run in the thousands, and negatively impacts student life at the school for those students on the 2nd floor.

A parent attendee asked about the reporting process for any issues involving the school, and if there's an anonymous reporting process. Typically the student will notify the teacher.

The New BOE wellness policy affirms that collective punishment cannot be enforced. Students will have unfettered access to the bathroom and guaranteed access to recess/movement during the school day.

- c. The school budget will be in early March.

Budget from the district has been delayed to next week (was supposed to be delivered today). SAC budget meeting will be on March 13th.

Last half day for the students will be in March 13th and after that will be testing season (PSSA, Keystone and Finals)

The roof should be fully open soon given the weather is warming up and all snow should melt.

Question - How does a student report a bathroom issue? Principal Laurie asks students report to any adult in the building regarding issues and they can follow up on the issue and investigate and rectify as needed.

Last day for students will be June 11th with the new calendar update and will be a full day for students.. This will not impact the 8th grade graduation on Jun 11th. Per AP Graham, the calendar has been updated (<https://www.philasd.org/calendar/>).

Question - When will the dates for the finals be for students? Principal Laurie will talk to the cabinet and communicate the dates to the students.

## 5. High School Update- Nabilah Chowdhury - SGA President

### ☰ March SGA SAC Update

- In March, SGA is holding Feast of Justice Canned Food Drive.
- Spirit Week (March 19 - March 27). The school will split into Blue and White teams, and will engage in activities led by SGA.

## 6. Middle School Update- Harriett Benner: MS SGA

- The NJHS is hosting a Sock and Cereal drive. Information may be found in the Grade Google Classroom.
- Candygram took place and will be used to fund activities around the school.
- Lost and Found project is being worked on.

## 7. Pre-SAC Meeting Update:

March SAC member input meetings scheduled as per the bylaws:

- Budget input meeting from SAC and HSA scheduled
- School Plan SAC (Parents and Teachers) input meeting scheduled
- Title I meeting for parent community input scheduled
  - Per Principal Laurie, the Title 1 meeting is on March 10th at 6pm via Zoom.

## 8. Old and New Business:

### I. Teachers and Staffing Update/ Intros

- Climate Staff: One position open (we have a reliable sub)
  - Per Principal Laurie, the school utilized a sub but the role has since been rolled into the school's staff. The school is working on the budget for next school year.
- Custodial Staff: **Filled**
  - Per Principal Laurie, the custodial staff is fully filled.

- Building Engineer: Mr. Tom McKnight
  - Mr. McKnight has worked wonderfully with the school as he has handled issues involving puddling on the rooftop and his work during the Musical.
- Crossing Guard: Mr. Terrence Henryi
  - Per Principal Laurie, Mr. Henry is being considered for a role with the Climate Staff. So Mr. Henry may start his day as Crossing Guard then continue on with the Climate Staff.

## II. Academics

### Course Allocation — Juniors (for Senior Year)

- Course allotment has only been completed for juniors selecting courses for their senior year - This has been completed for all students now
- The allocation process has not been transparent or consistent
- Among juniors, some received their 1st, 2nd, and 3rd choices, while others with identical picks received only their 1st choice and were waitlisted for their 2nd and 3rd
- Students are seeking clarity on what metrics or processes govern course allocation
- No explanation has been provided on how the waitlist is established or what variables determine a student's ranking on it
- If the class is overloaded and a random lottery picks the students who get into the class as long as they are qualified for the class and the kids who do not get in as placed on a waiting list.
- Teachers also provide input on students who are on the bubble on whether they are qualified to take the class requested to determine eligibility.
- Counselors are also involved in the process to ensure students are not overloaded or overwhelmed.
- All students seem to be happy where they are currently with the courses they are.
- Principal Laurie acknowledges that communication regarding course selection to students and parents can be better and the school will continue to improve these processes and make them effective.
- Students should reach out if they have concerns

Qn : Was the 9th -10th grade selection announced /delivered?

The Principal will check with Mr. Gilken and Mr. Roache, and information will be passed on in the next Masterman Minute.

Qn Was there a presentation (on the course selection) for 9th grade parents that was recorded and available to watch?

<https://masterman.philasd.org/>

[https://drive.google.com/file/d/118lhwxPrJ1\\_G1tbDnwRkvqazWQ88v8EV/view?pli=1](https://drive.google.com/file/d/118lhwxPrJ1_G1tbDnwRkvqazWQ88v8EV/view?pli=1)

Qn : Request for updated Course offerings on the website? The current document is from 2024-25.

Principal Laurie said he will get it updated tomorrow.

- **Homework Deadlines**- school wide policy communication - update by principal
  - A proposal was brought to the Cabinet, and the decision was to simplify the process. Expectations were shared with the staff. The homework policy will be updated in the handbook over the next few days. Updates to the policy includes changing the homework deadline from midnight to the start of the next day; asking that teachers not assign homework after 4pm; during major religious holidays recognized by the community that there needs to be some flexibility and reasonableness. Principal shared the school homework policy [Homework Policy](#)
- **Musical Amnesty**: Clear parameters for amnesty for students participating in the musical were much appreciated. High school students asked for clarification for next year's policy, specifically on **quizzes**. Many teachers give pop-up quizzes, and this year there was some confusion about whether quizzes, in addition to tests, were exempt during amnesty week for student participants.

- The school will take this under advisement so that there are clear guidance and boundaries set on Amnesty. The administration will meet with the SGA.
- **Course Selection for HS:** Need for accuracy, clarity and clear communications on course progressions.
- **Health Syllabus:** Could health syllabus be communicated to parents like is done in other schools.
  - The Principal noted there is a Health curriculum and that it will be shared.

### III. Student Life:

#### Bathroom Use Protocol:

District Wellness policy recently passed by the BoE - update

- The student's mental and physical wellbeing are important. Withholding bathroom and recess should not be punitive. Seniors are able to self-manage bathroom use with their teachers.

#### Community Building:

HSA Lunar New Year Day Celebration: March 7th

#### Attendance/ Commute:

SEPTA delays and cancellations continue to affect student commutes.

- Student attendance is tracked daily, and the school acknowledges issues due to SEPTA. The school also acknowledges that students are challenged with having to come to school extremely early or slightly late. The school monitors SEPTA daily and hears from teachers surrounding their own commute to school.
- Question from the floor: a parent noted a struggle with attendance and noted the difficulties in correcting attendance issues. The Principal acknowledged this concern and the number of students at the school. Also noted there is an issue that teachers do not necessarily take attendance properly every day.
- Qn: how important is attendance for a particular period/class? Noted that subs do not necessarily take attendance, or that a student may be in the bathroom when attendance is taken during a class. Principal stated all attendance is important. Sub take attendance by hand and submit it to the school's office. Overall attendance is not connected with period attendance, but period attendance is reviewed by the school and individual discussion takes place with those with frequent period absences.
- Qn: will school opening for inclement weather continue? The Principal stated that the opening will continue.

### V. School Selection:

Update by principal:

- 135 5th graders from around the city (4 sections)
- Current 5th graders will move to 6th grade and no new classes
- 133 existing 8 grade students are continuing and 23 new students will join in 9th grade.
- 1206 students will be the total anticipated enrollment next year from 1220 this year.
- Consistency in the number of students and classes help with continuity for staffing and courses.
- Principal Laurie will get to decide on whether to admit students from the waitlist if there is any students leaving for any reason.

Qn: What would the proposed moving of middle school to Waring building do to the high school enrollments?

The idea is to expand access to criteria based schools. The current building of Waring is not large enough for all our middle school enrollments. If middle school moves to Waring Principal Laurie suspects the high school enrollment will go up. But he does not have additional information than what has been shared with the public.

### VI. Documents and Informational Resources that require updating/ School Communication:

- Handbook update: attendance and PBIS section
  - Correct the school handbook to reflect that Ms. Lambert is the attendance contact in all sections.  
 The handbook will be updated tomorrow.
- School Profile on Website
- Course Offerings on Website
  - Course offerings on the website will be updated.
- Title 1 meeting - update school calendar with zoom info

#### VII. NEW Business from SAC input forms:

- I. Wondering if you can provide advice on how to address lack of grading for certain classes/specific teachers for main subject classes (English and Social Studies). There are no or very few grades (all #/4 grades), being entered for the term. How can we request for this to be improved?  
 Expectations from administrators is that grades need to be updated every two weeks even though teachers have autonomy. Request parents to reach out directly to Principal Laurie when they are noticing lack of grades for classes as teachers are expected to grade on a regular basis.  
  
 Principal Laurie will communicate the grading expectations/guidelines with the community so everyone is aware on the expectations.
- II. The SAC previously has discussed parity of lessons/learning, opportunities, and grading across a grade band, as well as consistent weekly updates to grades. Any updates on the progress with these requests?
- III. Ongoing GIEP creation delays (since August 2025) + lack of gifted services. Are there any updates on this? Do you have recommendations for who else can we contact about this (no progress within the school)?  
 There are nearly 200 students with GIEP and only 2 teachers. Act 16 provides the legal obligations the school must meet but GIEP is not funded. So the school has to make budgetary discretionary decisions. The district has made a new hire, Mr. Klingeman, and the new hire admires Masterman.
- IV. Teachers giving exams on extended advisory day - worth 40% grade. Assembly this week. Students travel from 1st to 4th floor and assembly went over. Added pressure to complete pages. Testing portions moved to the next day then not then moved. In moment decisioning. Students expressing concern were dismissed verbally.  
 Request to the parent to reach out to Principal Laurie regarding this so he can address this.
- V. Floor

#### VIII. OLD Business from SAC input forms (In Info gathering queue)

- VI. **Advisory:** Thoughtful input around advisory/study hall: I think that the school community generally agrees that this is valuable, however, my thought is that the time could be more intentional, especially if we treat it as a shared responsibility between teachers and students. A meaningful start to the day, consistent across all Sections. A well-designed advisory (framework) can help students feel connected, organized, and aware of what's happening in their school community. (One Masterman)
- VII. **Grade field trips and end of year activities:** Clarification of process regarding how activities/field trips and end of year trips are organized for each grade and how that information is shared with parents.
- VIII. **Community Service Hours:** What qualifies as service, How students report hours, How to submit/track with Mr. Gilken

#### 9. Home and School Update-

##### SAC Meeting 1-5-26 HSA Report

VP thanked the community for all of the community contribution this year.

Upcoming Lunar New Year this coming Saturday, will include food, dances, and community engagement. Tickets may be purchased at the door.

The Auction. Depended on heavily by HSA to support the school.


The new gym bleachers

Beautification efforts for the building. The date is TBD. A teacher's wishlist is being circulated to the staff for the teacher's lounge.

**10. SAC Committee Updates:** *Committees will meet on Mondays or Thursdays at 7pm and the school calendar and SAC webpage will be updated. Committee reports on discussions will be shared with the community at SAC meetings. All are welcome to participate at committee and SAC meetings.*

- a. **Climate and Culture & Health and Wellness** - Co-Chairs: Dr.Lauren Bell, Stacy Leonard, Michael Wang

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

 SAC C&C/H&W Committee Meeting Report-Feb 2026

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86246374656?pwd=Le1BraReH0aFqher4MaLvCpOKSmb31.1>

Meeting ID: 862 4637 4656 Passcode: 876279

- b. **Teaching and Learning** - Co-Chairs: Ms. Kim Neu, Dhivya Kaushik, and Sam Vitiello

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

[T&L 2/9/2026](#)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://philasd-org.zoom.us/j/89170837993?pwd=VDFzZllyMDI1U2lyL0ttcGRYSUc2dz09>

Meeting ID: 891 7083 7993 Passcode: 143290

- c. **Diversity, Equity and Inclusion** - Co-Chairs: Ms. Carolyn Gray and Dr. Tracy Joslyn



**Meeting time: TBD**

- d. **AD HOC MS and HS Admissions** - Co-Chairs: Stacy Koilor, Neha Vapiwala, Mike Wang

Meeting time: First Mondays @ 7-8 in Oct, Nov and then Jan and Feb of 26

**General Information for reference:**

**Student performance data and metrics:**

1. School Plan Status: [Julia R. Masterman High School \[2140\] 2025-2026 School Plan.pdf](#)
2. School Snapshot June 2025:  Monthly Data Snapshot - 2025-06-30 - [2140] Masterman
3. Year end Grade distribution for last year for core subjects in all grades from [Qlik](#).
  - a. Can we get this for each core subject for each grade?
4. Three years PSSA data for Masterman: [PSSA range scores information from 2024-25](#)
5. Three years Keystone Performance Data for Masterman: [Keystone performance 2024-25](#)
6. AP score Analysis:  [SAC - MASTERMAN AP Score Analysis 2019-2025.pptx](#)