

JRM SAC Agenda for May 6, 2026

Roll Sheet Link- Sign In Sheet: [May 6th Roll](#)

Facilitator - Roll call of SAC members:

Parent Members		Admin & Staff Members		Community Members		Students SGA reps	
Sam Vitiello (F)	P	Principal Laurie	P			Nabilah Chowdhury (HS)	
Stacy Leonard (O)	P	Ms. Solomon	P			Harriett Benner (MS)	P
Dhivya Kaushik (S)	P	Ms. Gray	P				
Lauren Bell	P	Ms. Neu	P				
Tracy Joslyn	P	Ms. Geiger	P				
David Neale	P	Ms. Smith	P				
Michael Wang	P						
Yaling Xie	P						

Sharing of Agenda- [May 6, 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.

1. Welcome, Introduction & Norms:

Congratulations to the school and HSA for raising \$55,000 through this year's Masterman Auction.

- ☐ 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.

Second floor boys bathroom repairs

- Timing and reopening timeline.

The drain needs to be fixed. The bathroom can be reopened but they are debating if they open the bathroom and floods there will be significant damage. They are planning on reopening with some extra care and supervision. The work will impact the 17th St entrance so will probably only happen in the summer.

Roof and building work orders

- Are there any remaining roof-related work orders?
- Are there any other significant open work orders for the building?

No open work orders but a Building Improvement Project is going to take place for electrical work on the roof.

ID swipe machine

- Is the ID swipe machines working consistently to record student attendance when they arrive?
Cables from the machines go through a door to the auditorium. There is a proposal for a conduit through the wall so that they are permanently connected. Sometimes the cables are kicked and causes the machines to go offline. There is a BIF for the work.
- Have there been issues where the system is still set to the previous day when students arrive, causing swipes to be recorded incorrectly?

AC repair work is being scheduled.

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

School from another school let off fireworks in a train coach and led to panic in the train and platform.

Responsible students have been arrested. Impact to our students - two students injured, increased anxiety for students and impact of travel. Lt Hayward is going to talk to the students to talk to students about shared responsibility. Entirely avoidable circumstances that caused chaos and impacted the community.

Safety officer coverage

- Current safety staffing includes Officer Taylor, Officer Campbell, and Officer Thomas.
- Can Principal Laurie clarify when each officer is available and what the coverage model looks like during the school day?

Officer Campbell was reassigned. We have Office Taylor and Officer Thomas. There will be 2 full time SSO at the start of the academic year. Ask to provide and plan for knowledge to

Safety assembly

- Is there an update on the timing, format, and content of the safety assembly?

The assembly will now be a townhall. It is an opportunity to provide messages to different audiences. The intent is to provide audience specific guidance relative to their age.

C.SAC elections Information: organizer

We have had a good amount of interest in running for SAC. 9 individuals have self-nominated, so there will be an election. The ballot will come out tomorrow and have until May 21st to submit their vote. The votes will be provided to FACE. Results should be out after Memorial Day.

3. Meeting minutes from last SAC meeting for Approval:

[April 8th Meeting Minutes for approval](#)

Motion for passing the minutes was made and passed.

4. Principal's Update:

Thanks to the HSA for the auction and money raised makes a difference and their support of Teacher Appreciation week is very much appreciated. Thanks to all teachers both at Masterman and all over the country and world for the work they do with students in the classroom.

College Acceptances:

Update on the Valedictorian and Salutatorian. They were informed this week and the news has been shared with the community.

May 1st- College Day- all students wore their college shirts to school.

AP testing is upon us. PSSA testing has been completed. Keystones testing will be in a couple of weeks. Final exams will be after.

Budget Update: 2026–27 Staffing Implications

- Update on the final outcome of the additional district conversations regarding departmental recalibration, course needs, and staffing.
 - Final staffing implications for 2026–27, including whether there are any serious understaffing concerns for next year.
 - Update on any other significant staffing reductions or capacity concerns that may affect instruction, coverage, student support, or operations next year.
- Final tally of administrators and teachers by department, when available.
- Confirm whether the building substitute position is being reduced or removed.

A number of positions are coming to make the school whole. The school will add a PE position. Interviews with site selection took place this week. There is a possibility for a math position, but it has not been posted as of yet. The roster has been completed this week and will be shared with teachers next week. No understaffing is expected for the next school year. There may be a permanent sub-teacher position at the school, and the principal will be able to select the individual. Students will know their courses before the end of the school year.

Site Selection Update: 2026–27 Staffing

- Update on whether site selection has started.

School Plan Status Update

- If finalized, request for the plan to be shared with the SAC to add to the agenda.

School Plan has been finalized. <Dhivya to attach the plan once Principal Laurie sends the plan>

Title 1 Parent Compact and Family Engagement Policy Review:

- We will spend some time at the end of the New and Old business part of the agenda to review the Parent Compact.

Principal asks everyone to take the **Philly School Experience Survey** now at philasd.org/parentsurvey. The results of the survey informs decision-making at the district and school level.

5. High School Update- Nabilah Chowdhury - SGA President

6. Middle School Update- Harriett Benner: MS SGA

7 and 8th grade dances are being planned. The 8th grade dance is on May 8th and the theme is Spring Fling. Students can pay at school or online.

NJHS has informed their members on volunteer hours. The 7th and 8th combined trip, the 8th grade trip and the 8th grade graduation on Jun 12.

7. Old and New Business:

I. Teachers and Staffing Update/ Intros

- Climate Staff: One position open (we have a reliable sub)

- Custodial Staff: **Filled**
- Building Engineer: Mr. Tom McKnight
- Crossing Guard: Mr. Terrence Henry

II. Academics

Testing Update

- PSSA testing
 - The only major issue raised about PSSA testing this year was that, on the first day, not all students were able to get online at the same time and students started testing at different times. (This appears to have been a statewide issue)

District communicated with the schools regarding the issue and how to address them. PSSA is nearly complete other than 2 students everyone else has completed.

- Firefly results
 - Firefly results do not appear to have been shared consistently with families across grades.
 - Some parents received information or teacher feedback, while others did not receive results or guidance.
 - Can the school clarify how Firefly results will be shared with families and whether parents will receive guidance on how to interpret the results and support their child?

When will the firefly results be shared with the parents?

Testing coordinator - Ms Shapiro - Firefly results while not shared with the parents, all students were provided feedback on their performance on firefly and gaps.

Will Star and Firefly both be continued to be used? Ms. Shapiro indicated that both provide different data for teachers so they probably keep both in the classroom.

Will Firefly information be shared with families during the summer? Ms. Shapiro stated that the PSSAs and keystones may be a better indicator than Firefly. So Firefly results will not be shared but the PSSA and keystone results will be available in June and families can use that to plug gaps.

- AP testing conditions and technology preparation
 - It appears that the school was not able to secure an alternate testing location, 440 Annex which was considered as an ideal exam location and that AP exams will be held at Masterman.
 - Families have raised concerns in prior years about testing conditions, including noise and interruptions. As several AP exams appear to be scheduled from approximately 12 PM to 4 PM. How will the school maintain quiet conditions during dismissal and after school?
 - School provided clear AP testing technology update for families and students last week.
- Testing load for 7th grade Algebra I students
 - Families of some 7th grade Algebra I students have raised concerns that students are experiencing a heavy testing load, including PSSAs, Keystone testing, Firefly, and other assessments.

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- Algebra I placement for rising 7th graders

All 6th grade students took the test on Monday May 4th in the cafeteria. It was provided in consistent testing conditions and generally everything went well. The results will be released shortly. Admin will meet with the 7th grade algebra students to get their feedback at the end of the school year.

- When will current 6th grade students take the placement test for 7th grade Algebra I?
- How will families be informed about the timing, criteria, and process?

Course Selection / Roster / Course Progression

- 9th and 10th grade course selections
 - When will 9th and 10th grade students receive their course selections?

There will be two 7th grade Algebra I sections for next school year. There will be work around rostering rising 8th grade Algebra II students for next school year.

- Middle school roster / specials update
 - Thank you for the high school roster update.
 - Can we also get a middle school roster update for next year, including specials offered by grade, how many periods of each special each grade will receive, and any changes to middle school specials or scheduling for 2026–27.

Middle school specials for next year will be shared with the community.

- High school course progression
 - Need for additional visibility so families and students can make informed course decisions.
 - Clarify course pathways, prerequisites, and progression options earlier and more consistently.

High school progression document is being worked on. The high school draft will be looked at to see how it may be modified for middle school.

Middle school curriculum request to be shared with the families. More details provided below.

Parent Visibility into Curriculum / Academic Partnership

- Climate & Culture discussion included concern that middle school families often do not know enough about what students are learning, what units are being covered, or what skills students are expected to develop.
- Back-to-School Night provides some of this information, but not all families can attend, and families with multiple students cannot always attend every teacher's session.
- Explore practical ways to improve parent visibility and partnership around academics, especially in middle school.
- Possible ideas raised: brief principal overview at early SAC meetings next year on academic progression by subject; short grade-band or department-level explanations; quarterly teacher or team updates describing units covered, skills developed, and what is coming next; sharing this type of update before report card conferences.
- The goal is to help families better understand what students are learning and strengthen parent partnership around academic engagement.

Chromebook / AI / Technology Use

- Google usage reports for families: clarify whether families can receive information to better understand how students are using Chromebooks.
- Parent concern about the amount of Chromebook use and whether this may raise physical or mental health concerns. LM has been in the news with an opt out of technology for elementary students.
- Discussion of how students are using AI and whether additional student-facing instruction or guidance is needed.

Per a parent meeting attendee, *GoGuardian* is not available for school district families.

Request to have an anticipated time to complete the assignment but cannot mandate this of teachers. Most teachers post their assignments on google classroom so students and parents have a check list of things to be completed.

Field Trips / Experiential Learning

- Field trip planning and experiential learning (as a follow-up to the discussion at the last SAC meeting and the ideas Principal Laurie shared with the community).
 - Concern that some grades have many field trip opportunities while others, especially 7th and 8th, have very few.
 - Concern that there is also disparity within the same grade. For example, one 8th grade teacher may take students on several writing marathon trips while other students in the same grade never leave the building.
 - Question of whether students should have a more consistent experience across sections, especially if curriculum and learning opportunities are expected to be comparable.
 - Possible trip framework: consider one middle school trip day and one high school trip day per marking period; more consistent planned experiences by grade; clarify centralized versus teacher-driven planning; consider dean involvement; use common planning time; compare whether schools such as Central provide a more consistent experience across sections or grades.

There has been an inconsistency in the number of field trips across the grades, and inequities within grades as some classes may go on a field trip while another class does not. Per AP Harrison, they can open the conversation with the staff but the school cannot compel teachers to take trips.

Ms. Amit talked about how difficult it is to get parent chaperones in upper middle school and the logistical difficulties of trips. There were ideas being bounced around on how to get parents to complete their clearances and have them all on file and the practical challenges of completing the clearances.

Student Social Events/Activities:

- Parents raised the concern that No Spring Fling or Soph Hop dance was planned this year for 10th grade, which is a tradition in all high schools and one Masterman used to do every year.

Long Language Immersion / International Trips

- High cost and equity concerns
 - Concern that high-cost international trips may not be accessible to many families and may widen inequities in student opportunity.

- Consider whether shorter, lower-cost, or more broadly accessible models could reduce barriers and allow more students to participate.
- Academic and extracurricular impact
 - Concern about long language immersion or international trips scheduled during the school year, especially during March and other academically intense periods.
 - Concerns include missed instructional time, AP preparation, third-quarter grades, All-City, spring sports, NHD, Olympiads, debate tournaments, the musical, and other student commitments.
- Instructional and staffing impact
 - Concern that multiple teachers may be away from classrooms to chaperone a small number of students.
 - Consider whether these trips can be scheduled during spring break, summer break, or other non-instructional periods whenever possible.
- Panama trip planning
 - Is there clarity on whether the Panama trip will take place next spring?
 - If the trip is moving forward, can the school confirm whether it will be scheduled during spring break so students do not miss instructional time?

Musical Amnesty Policy

- Status of SGA feedback.
- Clarification of whether quizzes will be included in next year's policy.
- Determine whether a written policy will be shared before next year's musical season.

III. Student Life:

Microaggressions / Student Belonging

- Discuss whether there can be a unified reporting structure for students, parents, and possibly teachers so concerns can be brought to the school administration earlier and addressed directly.
- Since we have discussed the advantage of having a clear, transparent, and easy reporting pathway when students or families hear something inappropriate, biased, or concerning so constructive conversations in safe settings can occur to address this, can the school identify a point person for Dr. Tracy Joslyn (SAC DEI committee) to work with on developing a framework for reporting and restorative conversations?

There is a plan for Tracy Joslyn to figure out what would work for students and what would work administration and come up with a plan that can be implemented successfully. The school administration already met with the district to identify a way to engage with these issues and posters are being put around the school so students know how to report and how it will get addressed.

School Experience Survey / Climate Results

- Review climate-related results from the Student Experience Survey. (Are students still doing this quarterly?)
- Discuss what the results suggest about student belonging, school climate, and areas needing attention.

Request for the aggregate data from these surveys so the SAC Health and Wellness committee can review it.

Attendance, Grading, and Family Communication

- Attendance discrepancies and correction process.
- Period attendance and substitute attendance practices.

Administration looking at the processes and trying to implement the process to resolve incorrect issues.

Gifted Services

- Update on GIEP timelines and capacity.
- Are individual families receiving updates on where their child is in the process and when they can expect the next step?
- Is there a longer-term solution for the ongoing GIEP capacity issue?
- Does the school need additional resources or central office support to complete GIEP plans and meet timelines?

The workload is not sustainable for the two partially released teachers. There are just way too many requests. The paperwork is onerous and the implementation of it suffers. It is just a manpower issue with the caseloads.

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IV. School Selection and Enrollment

- Projected enrollment and waitlist status for incoming 5th and 9th grades.
- Language placement / survey process for new 9th graders.
- Waring / middle school transition implications.
- Any new district updates affecting enrollment or school planning.

V. Communications and Schoolwide Updates

Health Curriculum / Syllabus

- Status of sharing with parents.

Grading updates on Infinite Campus Expectations

- Status of communication to the school community, including grade update expectations.

Homework Policy

- Confirm handbook update reflecting revised policy and schoolwide communication 4pm HW posting deadline and Holiday HW policy.

School Profile and Course Offerings

- Confirm updates for 2025–26 on school website.

VI. NEW Business from SAC input forms:

- I. Floor

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

- II. **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)
- III. **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.
- IV. **Community Service Hours:** What qualifies as service, How students report hours, How to submit/track with Mr. Gilken

8. Home and School Update-

[SAC Meeting HSA Report](#)

9. Title 1 Parent Compact and Family Engagement Policy Review: With Principal Laurie.

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.*

- Chromebook / AI / technology use
- Microaggressions / student belonging / reporting mechanism
- School Experience Survey / climate results
- Parent visibility into curriculum / academic partnership

a. **Climate and Culture & Health and Wellness** - Co-Chairs: Dr.Lauren Bell, Stacy Leonard, Michael Wang **Meeting time: Third Mondays @ 7-8**

[C&C/H&W April Committee Report](#)

[Join Zoom Meeting](#)

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

Meeting ID: 862 4637 4656 Passcode: 876279

a. **Climate & Culture / Health & Wellness**

- **Potential move of middle school students to Waring**
 - Discussion of possible repercussions of moving middle school students to another building
 - Request for continued community input on the impact of this change
- **Preservation of the 5–12 model**
 - Concern that the 5–12 structure is one of Masterman's greatest strengths
 - Concern that splitting the model would weaken continuity, community, and school identity
- **One Masterman culture and cross-grade community**
 - Concern that students growing together from 5th through 12th grade creates a strong shared culture and sense of family
 - Concern that splitting the school would weaken One Masterman identity

- Concern that communication and whole-school planning are already difficult in one building and would be significantly harder across two buildings
- **Impact on signature programs and traditions**
 - Concern about the effect on peer counseling, the musical, and other cross-grade traditions and activities
 - Concern that moving middle school out would weaken the school's distinct model and make it feel more like a lesser version of Central
- **Impact on the music program**
 - Concern that the music program functions as an 8-year developmental pathway
 - Concern that separating middle and high school students would disrupt continuity and weaken the program
- **Expansion and school identity**
 - Concern that expansion at the expense of continuity would erode Masterman's small-school culture and distinct identity

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

Meeting time: Second Mondays @ 7-8

- Field trips and experiential learning
- Long language immersion / international trips
- Assessment and family communication
- PBIS clarification
- Attendance and instructional communication
- Class syllabus visibility
- High school course progression

[T&L](#)  SAC T&L Meeting April 13 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](#)