JRM SAC Agenda for October 14, 2026 (SY 2026–27)

Roll Sheet Link - Sign In Sheet: [October 14, 2026 sign in]

Facilitator - Roll call of SAC members:

Parent Members		***Admin & Staff Members***		***Community Members***		***Students SGA reps***	
Sam Vitiello (F)	P	Principal Laurie	P			Owen Kuster (HS)	P
Stacy Leonard (O)	P	Ms. Solomon	P	HSA Rep	P	TBD (MS)(Natalie Demarzio	P
Kristyna Carroll (S)	P	Ms. Gray	P				
Lauren Bell	P	Ms. Neu	P				
Liza Herzog	P	Ms. Geiger	P				
David Neale	P	Ms. Smith	O				
Michael Wang	P						
Yaling Xie	O						

Meeting Start Time: 6:00PM
Meeting End Time: 7:24PM

Sharing of Agenda: October 7, 2026 (SY 2026–27) JRM SAC Meeting Agenda
October 14, 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:

Norms of JRM SAC meetings

2. Facilities Update:
Check if anyone from the District 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.
Upcoming fire safety project (18 month duration tentative plan): Could improvements to schoolwide announcement audibility (PA system) be included?

It was noted that the volume of the PA system is difficult to hear depending on what room one is in. The principal noted that the PA system is a work in progress.

Mr. Anthony Greene: Update on Rm 311 - following up with the electricians foreman today. There will be no charge. Work will be done after hours or on a weekend (maybe a Saturday).

Auditorium/sound system update: per the principal, work will be done around to avoid disrupting the Musical. An additional quote will be made for comparison. Quotes are pending from the vendor. But requesting that the work is completed before the Musical.

3. Principal's Update:

Following up on the Facilities update: begun the process of installing a keyless entry system, which is staff facing. Allows the staff to tap their ID card. This is in part for school safety, access and security, and to ensure that morning activities still happen. Building Engineer and Admin will have an ID card. Provides an electronic log of who tapped into the building.

The next large scale calendar event is Oct 20th for PSAT for grades 9-11. School will be in session the full day, but lunch may be modified to minimize disruption. 5th and 6th grade will still have access to Specials.

Grades 7-8 will go to the Franklin Institute. Seniors will participate in a college workshop.

UPENN Materials Research Lab is working with the schools regarding summer opportunities in the STEM field.

HS and MS clubs are uploaded to the school website.

A parent raised an issue about seniors not being able to schedule appointments with their counselors with regards to college applications or having difficulty having confirmation that transcripts and recommendations will be sent on time to meet college application deadlines. Per the principal, working on a process and process improvements. Students from prior years have noted that they missed out on getting into the Honors program because they cannot apply on a conditional acceptance.Also noted that the number of counselor caseloads will increase from 40 to 80 students in the next school year.

The principal noted that many students applying for Early Decision or interested in QuestBridge have their recommendations submitted.

A parent raised whether there is a shelter in place due to the recent security incident? The principal detailed the building evacuation and sweeping process and provided that there is a specified relocation/reunification offsite location.

Commended the national merit scholars.

7th grade chaperone request went out to 7th grade families.

4. High School Update - Owen Kuster, SGA President

HS Fall picnic was a success and a great time for bonding between grades. Thank you to the chaperones.

Next event is Halloween Dance Oct 30th from 6:30 to 9PM. Looking for chaperones as they are a few chaperones short to hold the event.

Senior amnesty is Oct 29th to 30th to help alleviate senior stress before Early Decision.

Student Social Events/Activities: Better support of SGA community building activities

High School Picnic: Follow-Up on Parent Feedback

Trash Containers: Additional trash containers provided by the school to prevent a repeat of last year's cleanup issues.

Whole Foods Check-In / Check-Out: Parent chaperones walk groups to Whole Foods to buy food and are expected to bring them back to the picnic. However, students sometimes leave without telling their chaperone, leaving parents searching for students they may not know. Parent chaperones suggest a simple check-in/check-out system: Would it be possible to have two staff members at the ground-level curbside entrance, rotating responsibility so no one is assigned there for the entire picnic? Students would give their names before

going upstairs to shop and check out with staff when leaving the building, so their names can be crossed off the list.

Bathroom Checks: Could staff handle bathroom checks when students are unwell, take an unusually long time, or there are concerns about student conduct? Parents have expressed discomfort with being responsible for these situations.

ED College Applications: Amnesty dates for seniors for Nov 1 Deadline: Have the tentative dates been approved and communicated to teacher Thursday and Friday preceding deadline: Oct 29th and Oct 30th

Halloween Dance: SGA requests SAC support in recruiting 10 chaperones by October 14 so ticket sales can begin. Share the volunteer form through SAC communications; confirm event details.

Halloween dance Chaperone Form

Instructions on process: Quick Guide: How to Get Your Clearances to Volunteer

Clearances: Family & Community Engagement (FACE) – School District of Philadelphia.

5. Middle School Update - MS SGA
Looking for chaperones for the upcoming field trip to Franklin Institute for 7th and 8th graders.
Also seeking chaperones for the upcoming book fair on Oct 23 to Oct 30th..

6. Meeting minutes from last SAC meeting for Approval:

September Draft Minutes: Draft Meeting Minutes - September 2, 2026
Motion and meeting minutes passed

7. Old and New Business:

I. Teachers and Staffing Update/ Intros

Teaching Staff:

World Language Transition: Ms. Bago has left, and there is a tentative start date for a new Spanish teacher. Update? Ms. Juliana Quintero will be starting on Oct 19th. It will be permanent and full-time.

Math Leave: Coverage for the anticipated February leave. Given past difficulties with ESS placements, is there another way to secure a qualified math teacher? Working with Substitute Services for a teacher going on maternity leave to cover for Ms. Burge.

Other anticipated staffing changes?

School Safety Officers:

Climate Staff:

Custodial Staff:

Cafeteria Staffing:

Building Engineer:

Crossing Guard: The position remains vacant; the city has confirmed the position for our corner. Recruitment update and how the community can help?Working with the Department of Streets to fill the open position.

Building Substitute / Coverage: Losing Mr. Will as the building sub - could lead to teachers losing prep for coverage. Part of the budget cuts resulted in the loss of Building Substitutes across the district due to the end of COVID money. .

II. Academics

Testing and Admissions

PSSA and Keystone Results: Any update on release of the results to the school? November is the date where results will be released.

Masterman Google Calendar update: Spring 2027 PSSA and Keystone Testing: Can the testing windows be added to the school calendar, with specific dates when available?

School Selection: Timeline changed following the postponement of score release, any update from District on when scores will be released?

TerraNova: A September 25, 2026 letter from General George A. McCall Elementary states that the district is offering TerraNova to 4th graders and students new to Pennsylvania or the district because 2025–26 PSSA scores have not been released. The letter lists an October 19–30 testing window, with two days of ELA and two days of math, and an October 10 opt-in or opt-out deadline.

Will TerraNova scores be used for 5th grade admissions to Masterman?

Is TerraNova being offered at all elementary schools or only some? Some schools are using TerraNova, but the school will reach out to the district for more information.

Is a similar option planned for 8th graders applying to 9th grade?

Algebra Outreach: Status of Principal Laurie's outreach to principals at schools where 8th graders take Algebra, so Masterman can meet with those students.

Additional School Selection Follow-Up

Shadow Days: Dates and sign-up information sent to 8th grade parents from the beginning of the process. Signup to parents and students will be sent.

Algebra I Eligibility: How will course grades and assessment documentation be verified for incoming 9th graders?

Update Eligibility for 10th grade to include Algebra 2

Sibling Preference: Discuss advocacy for a future admissions cycle.

Curriculum and Parent Visibility

Ways to improve parent visibility into what students are learning. The principal is looking into providing a brief slideshow.

Field Trips and Experiential Learning

Are 7th and 8th grade teachers being asked about their field trip plans? The 5th and 6th grades have several trips scheduled.

III. Communications and Schoolwide Updates

i. Cold Weather / Early Entry: Any changes to start times or entry procedures?

ii. Health Curriculum / Syllabus: Status of sharing with parents.

iii. Infinite Campus Grading Communication: Status of the comprehensive message on grade update cadence, homework policy, Absence and make-up/missed work.

iv. Homework Policy: Teacher communication and handbook updates for the 4 p.m. posting deadline and religious-holiday homework policy.

v. School Profile updated documents for 2026: when will it be posted to the school website.

vi. Course Offerings: When will the updated document reflecting current course offerings be posted to the website. Work is being done to have the course offerings updated by Thanksgiving.

vii. Community Handbook: Review updates for SY 2026–27 and discuss a process for sharing proposed changes with SGA, SAC, and the public for transparency and input before changes/updates, recognizing that the final decision rests with the principal.

viii. Clubs and Sports: Middle school club list, Building Committee funding update, club review, and process for starting new clubs.

ix. Forms: Can medical forms and waivers move online, with an option to confirm unchanged information? FERPA opt-out form update.

IV. Enrollment and Space Follow-Up from Prior-Year Agendas

Current enrollment by grade and advisory sizes.

Enrollment caps for next year's 5th and 9th grades.

Rostering: Specials per grade per week and combined classes.

V. New Business from SAC Input Forms:

Input 1: Health Education Gap (Comment Only)

A parent reports that a past reduction in middle school daily periods eliminated some art, music, health, and computer classes. The parent is concerned that current 10th graders did not receive sex education and may have received only limited nutrition instruction. The parent says they do not think this can be addressed now.

Input 2: Computer and AI Use

A parent says students need more practice with handwriting and fine motor skills and that using Chromebooks for most assignments prevents this. The parent considers AI-suggested sentence completion in Google Docs inappropriate for young students, notes that it can be turned off individually, and asks how it can be turned off schoolwide or districtwide. The school is working with students in digital literacy. The school has discussed during cabinet meetings. Ms. Taylor and Mr. Beers have structured their classes well to avoid temptation of using AI.

Input 3: Teacher Objectivity in Class

A parent raises concerns about political viewpoints presented in class and asks that teachers remain objective, encourage critical thinking, and offer varied perspectives that respect the community's different beliefs, cultures, and religious practices. The parent reports that their child and peers feel they must alter their opinions to avoid lower scores.

Input 4: HS Selection and Masterman as Second Choice

If a Masterman 8th grader who qualifies for 9th grade at Masterman lists Masterman second and is not admitted to their first choice, will the student automatically be admitted to Masterman?

Input 5: Tests and Classwork During High School Tours

Could the school clarify how missed classwork and tests are handled when students attend high school tours during the school day? A parent reports that their child returned from a tour partway through a test, had limited

time to complete it, and received a low grade. Since many tours are offered only during school hours, what arrangements apply when students miss a test or arrive after it has begun, even when the absence is excused?

8. Home and School Update-

9. SAC Committee Updates: Meeting schedules will be confirmed and updated on the school calendar and SAC webpage. Committee reports will be shared with the community at SAC meetings. All are welcome to participate at committee and SAC meetings.

The next HSA general body meeting is Oct 27th at 5:30PM at Masterman.

Thanked families that participated in the Dues Campaign.

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

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,Sam Vitiello and TBD
Meeting time: Second Tuesdays at 7pm
Next meeting: Date to be confirmed.

https://philasd-org.zoom.us/j/89170837993?pwd=VDFzZldyMDI1U2IyL0ttcGRYSUc2dz09
Meeting ID: 891 7083 7993 Passcode: 143290

c. **Diversity, Equity and Inclusion -** Co-Chairs: Ms. Carolyn Gray and TBD
Meeting time: TBD

d. **AD HOC MS and HS Admissions -** Co-Chairs: Mike Wang
Meeting time: TBD