

Parent's Representative Council Meeting

Friday, December 9, 2022

9:30 AM – 11:00 PM

Meeting Minutes

Purpose

The general purpose of the Parents' Representative Council (PRC) is to advise the Superintendent regarding parental concerns about the schools, to provide a forum for parent liaisons from each school to have a voice in decision making and problem solving and to foster a spirit of cooperative community and parental involvement in the promotion of the Madison Public Schools.

PRC Meeting Dates

September 16, 2022

October 21, 2022

No November meeting

December 9, 2022

January 20, 2023

February 17, 2023

March 3, 2023

April 28, 2023

May 26, 2023

No June meeting

Attendees:

Superintendent

Craig A. Cooke, Ph.D.

PRC Chairperson(s)

Sarah Drought

Hand

Nicole Wiles

Polson

Tina Phelan

Brown

Eileen Kenney and Laura Francis

Jeffrey

Sarah DeBenedictis and Amy Sutherland

Ryerson

Hilary Axtmayer and Emily White

1. Welcome/Introductions

Sarah Drought called the meeting to order at 9:35 a.m.

2. Superintendent's Report

Craig A. Cooke, Ph.D.

Dr. Cooke provided an update on the school building project. Construction will not begin until 2024. Estimates received have come in over budget. Enrollment is predicted to go up slightly due to families moving into Madison and a projected increase in the birth rate. A construction firm was selected this week for Brown School and work will begin as soon as students leave the building for the summer.

The 23-24 School year budget will be shared with the PRC in January. Transportation fuel and custodial supplies will be increasing, as well as health insurance, which will be increasing substantially. We do not anticipate the need to request additional staff.

A discussion ensued regarding the shortage of paraprofessionals. Questions were raised regarding the State reading program (Right to Read). Dr. Cooke stated that Madison has applied for a waiver and the State has not approved the waiver requests of any local district. More information to come.

3. Scott Cochran, Madison Youth & Family Services

Scott Cochran provided an overview of the many services that MYFS provides to the community and the school district. Mr. Cochran has been with the agency since 2004 and the director since 2016. He also serves on the Academy Advisory Committee, noting the committee is seeking public input regarding the best use of the Academy School to create a Community Center.

4. Review of October 21, 2022 Minutes – Minutes were approved unanimously.

5. Round Table

Hand

Jan Scott

Our newly installed “Fab Lab” is up and running and offers students many hands-on opportunities to create a wide array of things. It is mostly utilized by students who are taking the required Independent Project curriculum. Students can present a funds request to Mr. Salutari to have supplies ordered via amazon. Mr. Rice took the PTO meeting on a virtual tour of the Fab Lab and had students showing their projects and all the technology available for use. PTO will be looking into using the “Fab Lab” to create a holiday token for the staff and hope that students can help with the creation of the gift.

The student blood drive will be Dec. 20th 7:30-12:15. PTO provides breakfast, lunch and sweets for students and teachers who donate. Students also volunteer to staff the registration table. One scholarship of \$500 is provided by the Red Cross to a student volunteer. Last year 36 pints were collected. 16 year-old students can donate with a signed parent permission form. First PTO meeting of the year was held on October 4th by Zoom.

Jeffrey

Sara DeBenedictis

- In school Book Fair with a bonus Family shopping night was very well attended and had record breaking sales. We provided some scholarships for students in need to purchase books. Proceeds will be used to fulfill teacher wish lists and some new library items.
- 2nd round of workshops started November 7th and will wrap up this week.
- Lyman Pie & Cookie Dough pick up. Record sales again!
- 2nd General PTO meeting moved up to Nov 30th in the morning and was well attended. Instructional Coaches gave an overview of the standards-based report card process and Mrs. Frost gave a general Jeffrey update.
- Hosted a Glow Bingo family fun night in Polson cafeteria on December 1. Approximately 70 families attended and the \$3/pp “cover” was donated to Madison Food Pantry for total of approximately \$1,000!
- Preparations are under way for Jeffrey Holiday shop. Generous monetary donations and donated items helped us stock up! Such a special day for students!
- We gave special Thanksgiving chocolates to the staff in November and have ordered special mini- cupcakes for a holiday treat to leave in the staff lounge next week.

Ryerson

Hilary Axtmayer

- Successful Food Drive (supporting Madison Community Services Food Pantry) - more than 500 pounds donated!
- Successful Toy Drive (supporting Faith's Toy Drive and MYFS)
- Finalizing Winter Workshop Volunteers and plan to run on Thursdays in January.
- Beginning to plan for Give to Grow - big fundraiser benefit.
- Not able to be there today because we are hosting a holiday store where students can shop for loved ones. PTO will wrap gifts for students.

Brown

Liz Tucker-Plasky

At Brown, we had a great late October/November with the following events:

- First Annual Brown Trivia Night at James Madison House on October 26. We are as smart as our 5th graders it seems. Teachers provided questions on a variety of subjects and competition was fierce.
- Brown PTO sponsored an assembly featuring speed artist Rob Surette on 11/16.
- Hosted November general meeting featuring a discussion with the Guidance team. There's no December meeting.
- For December, Brown participates in the Blizzard of Giving, donating gift cards for shoreline teens aged 12-18. Ongoing activities include yearbook and monthly school store.
- 11/28-12/8: 1-2-3-4, We Declare A Penny War! 1st annual Brown Penny War in full swing this week. Put bills in and notate those online donations for your grade! Drop all those coins to sabotage your opponent's bucket! Winning grade will be announced the week of Monday, 12/12.
- Winter Book Fair this week; hosted an evening family event of displayed student artwork and book shopping for Brown families.
- Brown PTO volunteers hosting the first Annual Brown Holiday Shop scheduled for December 16. Students will have the opportunity to shop for 2 gifts (totaling \$5) on their own (or with the help of a volunteer) to pick out holiday gifts (2 per student) for their loved ones. Our volunteers will gift wrap each item so it's a big surprise!

Polson

Tina Phelan

- Career Day took place on 11/18, PTO provided light refreshments for our honored guests. (The kids enjoyed the keynote speaker, WTNH news anchor Laura Hutchinson. Various careers were represented, including a chef, electrician, firefighter, author, and more).
- The first round of spiritwear was delivered, and we made \$200 (\$5 per item). The next round closed on 12/3 and will be delivered before the holidays.
- We collected \$535 in donations at the Polson election day bake sale.
- We are looking for any legos that anyone may have to start up a new lego club.

6. PRC Subcommittees

- Assignment for the Political Action Committee has not yet been decided.
- Bus Driver Appreciation – Brown
- Custodian Appreciation – Ryerson

MYFS/MADE Liaison – Beth Skudder

1. MYFS is working closely with DHHS staff to continue to collaborate, develop and adjust the new Advisory program at DHHS.
2. MYFS participated in and/or co-sponsored a number of community events recently.
 - 3rd Annual MadPride celebration on the Green - 10/9/22
 - National Coming Out Day Family Event - 10/11/22
 - Red Ribbon Week with Demand Zero and Finding Hope movie and panel discussion - 10/27/22
 - Trunk or Treat candy give away - 10/31/22
 - Mad Dash adventure game with Scranton Library - 11/5/22
 - Election Day student civics projects - 11/8/22
3. Please see attached summary of the report of the pilot collaboration between Madison PD and MYFS in Spring 2022. The full report will be posted on MYFS website soon. Please share this summary with PTO.

7. Old Business - none

8. Future Agenda Items

Discuss QPR training through MYFS. Hope for 20-30 participants.

9. Adjournment