

Dr. Parent's Representative Council Meeting
Friday, September 16, 2022
9:30 AM – 11:00 PM

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	February 17, 2023
October 21, 2022	March 3, 2023
No November meeting	April 28, 2023
December 9, 2022	May 26, 2023
January 20, 2023	No June meeting

Attendees:

Superintendent	Craig A. Cooke, Ph.D.
PRC Chairperson(s)	Sarah Drought
Hand	Jan Scott
Polson	Tina Phelan
Brown	Liz Tucker-Plasky
Jeffrey	Sarah DeBenedictis and Melissa Donlan
Ryerson	Hilary Axtmayer

1. Welcome/Introductions

Sarah Drought called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

2. Superintendent's Report

Craig A. Cooke, Ph.D.

Dr. Cooke reported the start of the school year has gone smoothly and both students and staff are happy to be back. We have avoided some of the staffing shortages being felt in the State; however, we currently have an open special education position at the high school and a Spanish position at Polson. Dr. Cooke noted Spanish is one of the largest shortages in the State and neighboring districts also have openings. Currently working with 4 candidates. At the present time, Haddam-Killingworth (Region 17), Clinton, Essex and Guilford all have Spanish openings.

Dr. Cooke noted major enhancements have been made regarding school security and the response has been positive. Officers are already well-known to students and staff and at Brown and Ryerson we have extended the time the School Resource Officers are present.

Tecton Architects will be attending the October 21 PRC meeting to discuss the new elementary school-building. Good way to get community input and would like to hear from all buildings. Dr. Cooke passed out a flyer which will be finalized and distributed today.

The admin team is currently reviewing calendars for the next 3 years. We will need to incorporate a longer than usual summer in 2025 for the purposes of moving into the new school and to address any last-minute items. Looking to start early in 2024 and end early in June of 2025, with a later start in the fall of 2025.

Questions/Comments

Liz Tucker-Plasky spoke to the lack of homework since the start of the year, noting this was discussed at back to school night. Liz also commented on the extensive curriculum work done over the summer. Dr. Cooke added that he has not experienced this in his former districts and made mention of how often the curriculum is viewed on our website by other school districts.

3. Review of April 29, 2022 Minutes and June 10, 2022 Updates

April 29, 2022 was the last meeting of the 21-22 school year and minutes are included today for reference. The May and June meetings were cancelled. The June 10, 2022 updates were provided in lieu of the June meeting.

4. Round Table

Hand

Jan Scott reported

- Freshman Orientation and Back to School Night well attended.
- Received amazing number of donations and membership is up drastically. Last year, we had 50 families and our goal this year was 75. We received 168. Attribute that to now being set up in Venmo.
- First blood drive scheduled for December 20 and is open to students & staff (students from age 16 with parent permission, otherwise must be 17).

Jeffrey

Sara DeBenedictis

- Most of the PTO board is new and there are 2 treasurers
- Welcome Back teacher's "flower buffet" lunch very well received
- Digitized sign-ups were held during orientation with use of a QR code. Committee sign-up and classroom coordinators were chosen as well.
- Ice Cream social very successful last week (Kit-Kat Ice Cream Truck)
- In-person Back to School Night took place last night
- Upcoming Fundraisers:
 - Holiday family photos with Pamela Aldred Photography – Hammonasset on 9/24 and Bauer Park on 10/8
 - Lyman Pies starting at end of month for Thanksgiving delivery
 - Fall Book Fair
- Meetings: General PTO meetings 1st Wednesday every other month at 7 p.m. Executive PTO meetings first Friday every month at 9:30 a.m.
- Halloween event after school – PTO sponsored car for Trunk or Treat from 4-6 on the green

Ryerson

Hilary Axtmayer

- Back to School Night occurred last night – great turnout
- Teacher's lunch catered by James Madison House
- Orientation went well (candy themed)
- Lyman Pie fundraiser starting at end of month
- Scholastic Book Fair scheduled for October; trying to combine with a Halloween event for parents & students together (Trick or Treat in school)
- New board – many Kindergarten parents
- New website – using membership toolkit model

Brown**Liz Tucker-Plasky**

- Robust board this year with many PTO members from Jeffrey & Ryerson – have members-at-large.
- First meeting with Mr. Henderson scheduled for next week – will review calendar.
- Teacher's lunch well received.
- Spirit Wear very active - all online.
- Rented Madison Cinemas on October 10 (both theatres), middle of the day. Movie will be Goonies. Jeffrey & Ryerson are invited as well.
- Book Fair scheduled for the Fall.

Polson**Tina Phelan**

- Teacher's lunch catered by Horner's Nest
- Kit Kat Ice Cream Truck brought in for 6th grade orientation
- Prepaid phone (which stays with the PTO) connected to Venmo for monetary donations
- Four general meetings scheduled throughout the year; first meeting, Coffee with the Counselors, is October 20 at 9 a.m.
- PTO meets monthly with Katherine Hart
- Reminder Polson does not do fundraisers – hoping for a working budget of \$1,000

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

5. Old Business - none**6. Future Agenda Items**

Tecton Architects – October 21.

7. Adjournment – Motion to adjourn at 10:30 a.m.