

Parents' Representative Council Meeting
Friday, January 15, 2016
12:00 – 1:30 PM
Central Office – Hammonasset Room

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 18	January 15	May 20
October 16	February 19	June 3
November 20	March 18	
December 18	April 22	

AGENDA

Attendees

PRC Co-Chairs

DHHS

Polson

Brown

Island Ave.

Jeffrey

Ryerson

TCLC

Others:

Maureen Lewis

Katy Wallace

Paula Steere

Keiler Snow

Sara Hansen

Tina Phelan

Carol Ahlijanian

Melissa Gulish

Colleen Balkan (Polson)

Beth Skudder

Claudia Dunsmore

Jen Thompson

Carolyn O'Connell

Linda Paine

Nicole Wiles

Diane Infantine-Vyce

Christine Piteo

Katie Bonito

Meeting Notes

Meeting was called to order at 12:08 p.m. by Maureen.

1) Superintendent's Report

At the request of Superintendent Scarice, Art Sickle, Director of Administrative Services, joined the meeting. The Island Avenue PTO approached Doreen O'Leary about using a third party product called 3DCart to put the Island Avenue School store on-line for e-commerce purposes. Stacy Nobitz, Finance Director, informed Mr. Sickle that PTO accounts are separate from the school district; therefore, the PTO's must be prepared to take on the responsibility for "e-commerce". Historically, PTO's have not been allowed to create their own websites, due in part to the inconsistency of technological knowledge across the schools. For the past 10-15 years, the district has hosted the MPS website with the school secretaries posting to it. Beth Skudder suggested the elementary schools meet to discuss the issue and follow-up with Mr. Sickle.

Superintendent Scarice made mention of a Google contest that was held for the purpose of developing a Google logo. There is a local winner which will be publicized at the beginning of February.

Superintendent Scarice will provide dates that he will discuss the budget with the PTO's – elementary school dates to Beth Skudder, secondary school dates to Maureen Lewis.

The Board of Education will be voting on the recommended budget Tuesday night, January 19, 2016. Two public hearings are scheduled – February 23, 2016 and April 19, 2016 both at 7:30 p.m. at Polson.

2) Presenter: Beth Crowley, Director, Scranton Library

Beth Crowley discussed the library building plan and provided handouts. The project involves a \$14 million expansion, with a request to the town for \$12 million which will be voted on in September, 2016. The biggest issue is the lack of interior space; CT State guidelines recommend 1.5 sq. ft. of library space per capita. The Scranton Library has 0.9 sq. ft. Beth provided a history of the library usage over the last year and outlined what is needed. There has been a 50% increase in computer use, plus more wi-fi use (but no way to measure this). Children's Room and teen spaces are inadequate, no spaces for quiet work or group work for students. Historical elements of buildings will be preserved. A public hearing will be held on January 21, 2016 to determine if the Town will proceed. Beth would be happy to present to the PTOs to inform the community.

3) Review / Approve Minutes

Maureen Lewis asked for approval of the minutes. The following changes are noted:

- Add to list of attendees Jen Thompson and Samantha Pullaro
- Revise DHHS Roundtable as follows: International trips to Paris and Belgium are cancelled, and are replaced with Quebec City and Costa Rica, respectively.

Motion to approve minutes as noted by Tina Phelan, second by Katy Wallace. All in favor.

4) PRC Business

Maureen Lewis mentioned there is a Polson parent who had major surgery. She was hoping to get volunteers to help with transportation and meals. Maureen asked the group if they would be willing to make it a practice to help those in need through sign-up genius and also asked everyone to share with their PTO boards.

5) Subcommittee Reports

a) **Boxtops** – Brown/Carolyn O'Connell: nothing to report.

b) **Custodian** – Brown/Carolyn O'Connell: nothing to report.

c) **Art Show** – Island: April 20 at Scranton Library

d) **Transportation Council**; DHHS/Katy Wallace. Meetings at 10:00 a.m. in Hammonasset Room on 10/22/15, 12/17/15, 2/25/16, 4/21/16, 5/12/16. Bus Driver Appreciation event: April 26 in Hammonasset Room. Discussion re \$5 or \$10 gift cards for drivers, this year or next. PRC members will check with their boards re increase from \$5 last year to \$10 this year or next year and report to PRC at February meeting.

e) **Food Services Council**; Ryerson/Michele Menard. Meetings at 10:00 a.m. in Hammonasset Room on 12/10/15, 2/11/16, 4/7/16, 5/19/16 - nothing to report.

f) **MADE**; Polson/Jen Thompson. Meetings at 3:30 p.m. in Hammonasset Room on 2/3, 4/12, and 6:30pm in Senior Center Café on 6/14.

- Next meeting February 9 at 3:30 in the Hammonasset Room. Topic will be "Parenting Your Millennials in the Age of Social Media". Other meetings: February 23 and April 26 – 6:30 – 8:00 p.m. Refreshments will be served and child care ages 3+ will be available.

- g) **MYFS**; Mtgs: Polson/Paula Steere and Jen Thompson.
 - A program entitled “Feeding the Body and Soul of our Tweens and Teens” will take place Tuesday, January 19, 2016 from 7:00-8:30 p.m. in the Polson Auditorium.
- h) **Political Action**: Jeffrey/Tina Phelan/Nicole Wiles – nothing to report.

6) Roundtable

- a) **DHHS** – Katy Wallace will be speaking at the incoming freshman parent meeting January 25, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. at Hand. Katy mentioned there will be 2 vacancies on the PTO board next year – treasurer and secretary.
- b) **Polson** – next meeting January 25, 2016 from 9:00 – 10:00 a.m.
- c) **Brown** – book fair will take place February 1-5, 2016 – looking for parent volunteers. Movie night February 26, 2016. Julie Phelps working with Michael Ginsburg and Michael Kiefer to coordinate a session with 5-8 grade parents to discuss social apps. Gail Dahling-Hench asked that elementary PTO’s be invited as well. Scheduled to occur within the last 2 weeks of April.
- d) **Island Ave** – book fair will be held the week of February 1, 2016. Cultural Arts program on Abraham Lincoln will be held February 8, 2016. Jump Rope for Heart will be held the week of February 29, 2016. Next general PTO meeting will be held at 9 a.m. on January 21, 2016.
- e) **Jeffrey** – Domino the Great presented a Buddies Not Bullies magic show to all grades. The PTO provided an ice cream sundae bar during the recent staff meeting. Dana Hilmer will present to the general PTO meeting on January 21, 2016. The 8 week Crazy 8’s program has started. Six new students started at Jeffrey in January. 100th day of school will be celebrated February 2 – students are collecting 100 items for a number of local groups which community services will deliver.
- f) **Ryerson** – Domino the Great also performed. Holding winter workshops, over 100 have attended. Holding a spaghetti dinner at the Madison Sr. Center February 5. Tickets are \$10. Next PTO meeting on January 25, 2016 at 7:00 p.m.
- g) **TCLC** – first official PTO meeting occurred January 12, 2016; good turnout with 8 parents in attendance. Most are new to both the school and Madison. Next meeting TBD.

7) Wrap Up/Things to do/Share with your PTO etc.

- a) 1/19/16 7:00 – 8:30 p.m. in Polson Auditorium (Snow date 1/21) Feeding the Body and Soul of Our Tweens and Teens: Body Image and Self Esteem. Presenters: Dr Springhorn, Dr Nolfo, Marybeth Golja, Holly David. Appropriate for parents of boys and girls. **SEE PURPLE HANDOUT from December meeting
- b) Showing and panel discussion of movie “Most Likely to Succeed” at The Country School on February 4th. Information to follow via e-notify.
<http://www.thecountryschool.org/about/current-parents/most-likely-to-succeed>
- c) Families of students in Special Education classes are encouraged to sign up for the PAC-SE e-notify here: <http://www.madison.k12.ct.us/page.cfm?p=393>
- d) Tom asks for PRC support at BOE and town meetings (BOS and BOF) in support of the school budget

e) For your reference:

<http://www.madisonct.org/myfs/>

<https://www.facebook.com/MadisonYouthandFamilyServices/>

<http://www.madeinmadison.org/>

<https://www.facebook.com/MADE.in.Madison/>

**** NO SOLICITATIONS!**