

Parents' Representative Council Meeting
Friday, February 19, 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

Heather Conder-Johnson (Jeffrey)

Katie Bonito

Meeting Notes

Meeting was called to order at 12:05 p.m. by Maureen.

1) R.J. Julia Presentation

Lori Fazio, General Manager and Karen Rosenthal, Children and Young Adults Events Manager of R.J. Julia presented. Ms. Fazio spoke to the upcoming with Nancy Jo Sales, author of *American Girls; Social Media and the Secret Lives of Teenagers*. The event is co-sponsored with Madison Youth & Family Services and will be held on Tuesday, March 1, 2016, 7 p.m. at Polson Middle School. Dr. Kiki Kennedy, Assistant Clinical Professor, Department of Psychiatry at Yale University will also be in attendance and will moderate the conversation. The book is a culmination of the author's interviews with girls ages 13-19, focusing on social media and how it affects their lives. A \$30 ticket includes the book and reserves one seat; a \$35 ticket includes the book and reserves two seats. Tickets go on sale February 23, 2016. More information about the book can be found at:

<http://www.amazon.com/gp/product/B01AQNZPXC/ref=dp-kindle-redirect?ie=UTF8&btkr=1>

Beth Skudder suggested each PTO offer to buy 1 or 2 tickets for each school. Ms. Fazio stated she would be willing to offer a teacher discount, if a group of teachers were interested in attending. Beth asked Ms. Fazio to decide on a discounted cost for 2 seats/1 book.

Ms. Rosenthal provided a handout detailing the following programs:

- Authors to School Program
- One School/One Book Program
- Teacher Appreciation Program
- In-Store Shopping Days
- Book Fairs
- School Book Orders
- Summer Reading
- Teacher Nights

2) **Review/Approve Minutes**

Motion to approve minutes by Carol Ahlijanian, 2nd by Carolyn O'Connell. All in favor.

3) **Superintendent Report**

Superintendent Scarice reported on the following:

- The budget is moving on to the Board of Selectmen Hearing on February 23. The school utilization study will be discussed at the March 8 Board meeting and another public forum and tri-board meeting will be planned. The Board is hoping to make a final decision by the end of this school year. Three different options (6, 5, and 4) will be considered:
 - Option 6 – each elementary school will remain open and be renovated. Polson Middle School will also be renovated;
 - Option 5 – close Ryerson or Island and remodel Jeffrey and Polson; or
 - Option 4 – close all 3 existing elementary schools and build a new school on the LaSage property that would house grades PK – 2.

With all options, Brown would house grades 3-5 and Polson would house grades 6-8.

- Brown Middle School's fifth grade model will be changing next year, moving from full teams to two-person teams. Focus is to improve communication and create longer instructional blocks. Intent is to bring to grade 6 the following year.
- A later start time for Polson Middle School will be discussed at the March 8 Planning Committee Meeting. The intent is to align Polson's start time with Brown's start time. Superintendent Scarice, Mr. Salutari, Mr. Semple and Mr. Henderson have mapped out potential problems and possible solutions and are close to making a recommendation. If approved, this change would occur in September.
- The Brown Resource Officer has been promoted. This position is part of the Madison Police Department school security initiative. A replacement has been named and will start shortly.

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 6 at DHHS. Hospitality Committee will provide refreshments.

- 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. The PRC approved gift cards to be increased from \$5 to \$10.
- 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. Technology program last week.
- g) **MYFS**; Mtgs: Polson/Paula Steere and Jen Thompson. “Feeding the Body and Soul of our Tweens and Teens” took place Tuesday, January 19, 2016.
- h) **Political Action**: Jeffrey/Tina Phelan/Nicole Wiles – nothing to report.

4) Roundtable

- a) **DHHS** – Katy Wallace reported the Clinton PTO is interested in co-sponsoring an event, the showing of the film *Beyond Measure*, mid-October 2016. Clinton will take care of promoting the event; license fee is \$750 which they would like to split between a few towns. Beth Skudder suggested speaking with Mr. Scarice. Juniors throughout the State will be taking the SAT test, free of charge, on Tuesday, March 2. Katy reported a freshman parent is in place for treasurer next year; still looking for a secretary. Chorus Line will be performed in April.
- b) **Polson** – PTO meeting held on January 25 had a great turnout. Guest speakers included Teresa Davis, School Psychologist; Clair Keenan, School Social Worker; and school counselors, Charlene Doane and Donald Cramer. Tips for middle school parents regarding social and emotional development. Excellent discussion with interactive Q&A including social media, anti-bullying, health curriculum, emotional challenges. Next quarterly PTO meeting with guest speaker will be held Monday evening, March 21.
- c) **Brown** – book fair came in on budget. Mike Keifer and Officer Rosati will speak at the parent meeting on April 27 at 6:30 regarding using technology safely. Mike Ginsburg will do an elementary school presentation.
- d) **Island Ave** – Abe Lincoln visit cancelled; to be rescheduled. Wrapped up book fair – no figures as yet. Purchasing 54 copies of 23 titles of Nutmeg books for library. Next meeting scheduled for March 15 at 7:00 p.m. Movie night scheduled for March 18. District art show changed to April 5 beginning at 6:00 at the high school. Hospitality Committee will provide refreshments.
- e) **Jeffrey** – the Jeffrey PTO Board approved the proposal that the transportation gift cards will be increased from \$5 to \$10. Abe Lincoln came today. Movie night February 26. Winter workshops start on Monday, February 22.
- f) **Ryerson** – Spaghetti dinner held February 5, made approximately \$850. Talent show will be held March 4.
- g) **TCLC** – parent chat next Tuesday, February 23 at 9:00 a.m. regarding how to communicate with your child; speech therapist will be present. Next PTO meeting – February 23 at 6:00 p.m.

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

- a) 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>
- b) Tom asks for PRC support at BOE and town meetings (BOS and BOF) in support of the school budget.
- c) The dates for the public hearings for the budget are February 23 and April 19, both at 7:30 p.m. in the Polson Auditorium.
- d) RJ Julia community event – *AMERICAN GIRLS: Social Media and the Secret Lives of Teenagers*, by Nancy Jo Sales.

Motion to adjourn at 2:10 p.m.

**** NO SOLICITATIONS!**