

Parents' Representative Council Meeting
Friday, April 22, 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 (cancelled)
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 12:08 p.m. by Maureen.

1) Review /Approve Minutes

Motion to approve minutes by Tina Phelan, 2nd by Nicole Wiles. All in favor.

2) Superintendent Report

Superintendent Scarice reported on the following:

- Graduation will take place on the Madison Town Green, per the request of the graduating class, on June 10. Current plan is that there will be no tent in place, unless we foresee a weather issue.
- Polson's new hours are now official and will begin in September; 8:00 a.m. – 2:37 p.m. Superintendent Scarice commented he foresees some unintended positive benefits, (i.e. traffic issues, diminished activity on Green Hill Road, interscholastic sports schedule). For those students who arrive early, breakfast will now be offered and we will work with staff to be sure students are supervised.
- Governor Malloy has announced he is slashing funding to public schools. While chances are slim this will happen now, we need to establish a long-term plan. The Town and school district have worked collaboratively to develop a plan. Superintendent Scarice stated he has

been in touch with State Representative Noreen Kokoruda and Senator Ted Kennedy. The Town budget will now go to referendum on May 24, 2016.

3) PRC Business

4) National School Lunch Program

Art Sickle and Rita Boland discussed how the district receives funding for participating in the National School Lunch Program and how that participation limits us with food choices and portions. An agreement is in place with Chartwells to manage the district's food services under the program, as well as to oversee the lunch ladies (who are employees of the Madison Public Schools). The district would continue to work with Chartwells, but would modify the existing agreement without the National School Lunch Program. While healthy choices would continue to be offered, additional options would be introduced. The elementary school choices will look the same; however, we would offer more appealing bread, pizza dough & pasta. More choices would be offered to the older students. Portion sizes, which are currently the same for grades K-6, would be adjusted accordingly. Free and reduced lunch will continue to be provided to qualified families, we will upgrade the POS system and we would continue to maintain beverage restrictions. Although the district will lose national & state funding, we feel the proposed changes will help balance that loss. We are committed to staying within the guidelines of the Wellness Policy and Regulations and plan to present this to the Board on May 3.

5) Subcommittee Reports

- a. **Boxtops** – Brown/Carolyn O'Connell: nothing to report.
- b. **Custodian** – Brown/Carolyn O'Connell: DATE: May 25th 3:00 PM in Hammonasset Room. Brown to purchase \$10 gift cards (DD or Starbucks) for each of our 35 custodians. Total Cost \$350/6 schools. Each PTO (not including TLC) to reimburse Brown \$58.33 for their share.
- c. **Art Show** – Island: District Art Show: Was held on April 4 at DHHS. PRC Hospitality Expense paid by Island Avenue \$87.62. Each school (6) to reimburse Island Avenue \$14.60.
- 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. Katy Wallace reported she has purchased \$750 in Dunkin Donuts' gift cards. Each PTO to reimburse DHHS their share: TLC share \$20. All other schools \$121.67. Magda Grayson was extremely appreciative that the PRC has doubled the amount and has offered complimentary transportation for one field trip for each school. Principals should contact Magda for further information.
- 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. Program is currently out to bid. Carolyn O'Connell reported that she spoke with Julie Phelps regarding the recognition of food services staff with an end of year gift. Julie will support on a district level (as is done for bus drivers and custodians). It was decided to table this discussion for now.
- 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. High school survey regarding stress discussed at last night's meeting. Both high school students and parents were in attendance. MADE gave

tips for handling stress; parents asked that students have a 10 minute break during the school day.

g. **MYFS**; Mtgs: Polson/Paula Steere and Jen Thompson. Tuesday, April 26 – Parent Academy Workshop at Memorial Town Hall from 6:30 – 8 p.m., topic of which is stress & anxiety.

h. **Political Action**: Jeffrey/Tina Phelan and Nicole Wiles – nothing to report.

6) Roundtable

- a) **DHHS** – Katy Wallace reported next year’s PTO board is in place. The next meeting will be the final DHHS PTO meeting of the year on May 3 at 8:00 a.m. Parents of Polson 8th grade students are welcome to attend.
- b) **Polson** – the PUSH Physical Theater group performed today (similar to Cirque Du Soleil). Performance was tied into the PRIDE theme. <http://www.pushtheatre.org>
- c) **Brown** – Book sale scheduled for Tuesday, April 26 from 6 a.m. – 1 p.m. Teacher Appreciation Day at R.J. Julia on May 7. Two authors visited yesterday – Lisa McMann and Kevin Sands.
- d) **Island Ave** – Final spirit wear drive going on through beginning of May. Science Day – May 20. Teacher Appreciation luncheon – May 4. Ginga Brazileira, a dance company from New Haven, performed
- e) **Jeffrey** – Science Week occurred last week. Amazing Nano Brothers performed. Spring Fling is next Friday, April 29. Sugar cupcake fundraiser scheduled for May 5.
- f) **Ryerson** – Teacher Appreciation breakfast May 10. Working on next year’s board. Ryerson’s annual fund raiser, Give to Grow, will be held on April 29th from 7:00 – 10:00 p.m. at the Madison Senior Center.
- g) **TCLC** – Teacher Appreciation luncheon May 3. Field Day May 26. SEPTO Board selected and 501 is in place; however, SEPTO will not be up and running until September.

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

- a) Families of students in Special Education classes are encourage to sign up for the PAC-SE e-notify here: <http://www.madison.k12.ct.us/page.cfm?p=393>

Motion to adjourn at 1:37 p.m.

**** NO SOLICITATIONS!**