

**Parents' Representative Council Meeting**  
**Friday, September 16, 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 16	January 20	May 19
October 21	February 17	June - TBD
November 20	March 17	
December 16	April 21	

**AGENDA**

**Attendees**

**PRC Co-Chairs**

**DHHS**

**Polson**

**Brown**

**Island Ave.**

**Jeffrey**

**Ryerson**

**TCLC**

Maureen Lewis

Katy Wallace

Jen Thompson

Denise Fogleman

Sarah Drought

Stephanie Wheeler

Bee Gordon

Christine Piteo

Claudia Dunsmore

Julia Pildner

Chris McSweeney

Jennifer Greenwald

Nicole Wiles

Michelle Menard

Others: Grace Brueckner, IAS; Lisa Lee, Jeffrey; Dori Antonetti, Jeffrey; Liz Kench, Brown & Jeffrey; Diane Infantine-Vyce, Brown; Keiler Snow, DHHS;

**Meeting Notes**

Meeting was called to order at 12:15 p.m. by Maureen.

**1) Welcome/Introduction of New Members**

Maureen Lewis welcomed everyone back and all members introduced themselves.

**2) Superintendent's Report**

Superintendent Scarice provided the following updates:

We had a positive start to the school year and welcomed more students than anticipated. The district graduates classes of 300+ students and welcomes approximately 150 Kindergarten students every year. We are seeing more kids move into the district; decline is not as steep as projected. Teachers have been very busy this summer writing new curriculum and officially returned, one week prior to students.

**Food Services:** The district no longer participates in the National School Lunch program and we are the only district in the State that has left the program and uses Chartwells. We have received very positive feedback and are already seeing an increase in sales. We are fortunate to have a talented

director of food services who was once chef at Tavern on the Green. We've received requests from other districts to visit and view the program. A new Point of Sale system has been implemented, allowing parents to know their child's food choices and what they are paying for.

**Polson start time:** We have received great feedback from parents. Superintendent Scarice commented that he has experienced little traffic and DHHS traffic has been reduced as well. Green Hill Road is now a little more manageable in the morning.

**Facilities Utilization Study:** The study has been ongoing for the past two years. We have narrowed the choices down to 2 options, both of which involve closing schools, and the Board is coming closer to making a decision. Some facilities are very dated and do not match our instructional vision. Superintendent Scarice outlined the options, as follows:

- One option is to close IAS and fully renovate Ryerson & Jeffrey, change the grade configuration of Brown to grades 3-5, and Polson to grades 6-8. The challenge with this option involves a 4-year transition plan for the elementary school students.
- Another option is to close all 3 elementary schools & build a state-of-the-art school for the whole district, grades K – 2. As with the first option, Brown Middle School would house grades 3-5 and Polson Middle School would house grades 6-8. With both options, DHHS stays as is. Superintendent Scarice noted Polson is in need of a great deal of mechanical repairs, including a HVAC system.

Building a new school eliminates our youngest students being shuffled back and forth between schools. Additionally, we are committed to a plan for the buildings we will no longer use. Two potential sites for new construction are the LaSage property or the fields/land behind Ryerson. The board will not vote on a location, only the option. The renovation model costs more than building a new school. Closing all elementary schools will mean approximately \$1M saved year after year.

**Google Classroom Pilot** (an app under the Google “umbrella”): The district is in the process of developing its newest iteration of the districtwide Technology Plan. Keeping up with technology is challenging. Super Scarice commented that during his first year with the district, the goal was for all students to have Wi-Fi access. We are now onto the 2nd phase of the plan – growing the infrastructure. Latest iteration went from infrastructure to instructional technology. We have two instructional technology experts who assist teachers with programmatic decisions.

Google Docs has changed the way students & teachers interact. Students can share their work only with teachers and amongst themselves. No parent portal exists as with Finals site. Currently, 58 teachers implement the program. Superintendent Scarice asked the PTO to encourage feedback from parents. Superintendent Scarice also added the district asks much from our teachers, noting Google is less complicated than Finals site.

### 3) **Review /Approve Minutes**

Motion to approve minutes of May 20, 2016 meeting, with change noted, by Denise Fogleman, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Nicole Wiles. All in favor.

### 4) **PRC/PTO Goals**

Maureen Lewis provided an overview of the functions of the PRC and discussed the meeting format. The group serves as a liaison to and for the superintendent by sharing information with him and bringing updates back to the PTO boards. Mrs. Lewis spoke to the issue of how the individual

PTO's allocate their money and it was agreed that PTO budgets would be sent to Maureen for comparison, which in turn will help with spending guidelines.

Ms. Lewis will assemble "best practices" and reminded all PTO's to distribute by-laws to all members for review and possible updating. Ms. Lewis also distributed and reviewed the PTO subcommittee list and asked for updates. Each meeting ends with a "Roundtable" where one rep from each school provides updates.

#### 5) **Review PRC Member List**

The member list was distributed and changes were noted.

#### 6) **Review: PRC Subcommittee List / Responsibilities and Roundtable**

- a) **DHHS** – Freshman orientation was well attended. Back to school night September 15. First football game and pep rally September 9. Sr. picnic - September 9. First Executive Board meeting – September 27, first PTO meeting – October 4.
- b) **Polson** – Open house September 29. Back to school luncheon held for teachers. Just got PayPal.
- c) **Brown** – Orientation – August 31, Open House – September 22. Back to school luncheon held for teachers. Rita Boland gave presentation on Infinite Campus and Finals site this morning. Movie night planned for mid-October.
- d) **Island Ave** – PTO website has been established: [www.iaspto.org](http://www.iaspto.org). Now have PayPal. Topic for all PTO meetings have been chosen. Tiger Pass was discussed, the \$125 cost of which includes:
  - PTO membership dues
  - 4 Movie Night Admission
  - 4 Fall Dance Admission
  - 1 Yearbook
  - 1 IAS Tee Shirt
  - 1 IAS Snack Bag
  - 1 IAS Sticker
  - A charitable contribution on your behalf

Fall Festival – October 29, 12-3, \$5 admission. Adding a D.J., food truck and bake sale this year.

- e) **Jeffrey** – 9/24 fundraiser at Surf Club from 6:30 – 9:00 p.m. Tickets \$50 includes dinner by 'What's Cooking' and silent auction. Teacher luncheon held.
- f) **Ryerson** – Open House - September 21.
- g) **TCLC** – First meeting - September 28.

#### 7) **Review: PRC Member Expectations**

#### 8) **Wrap Up/Things to do/Share with your PTO etc.**

- 1) **Madison Special Education Parent Teacher Organization (SEPTO):** presenting the film *“Speechless”*. Madison Arts Cinema on Tuesday, September 20<sup>th</sup>. For information about this event or SEPTO, please contact:  
SEPTO Communications Director: Lisa Nee - [lisa@allennee.com](mailto:lisa@allennee.com)  
Facebook: [www.facebook.com/MadisonSEPTO/](http://www.facebook.com/MadisonSEPTO/)
- 2) **M.A.D.E in Madison.**  
Website: [www.madeinmadison.org/](http://www.madeinmadison.org/)  
Facebook: [www.facebook.com/MADE.in.Madison/](http://www.facebook.com/MADE.in.Madison/)
- 3) **Madison Youth and Family Services.**  
Website: [www.madisonct.org/469/Youth-Family-Services](http://www.madisonct.org/469/Youth-Family-Services)  
Facebook: [www.facebook.com/MadisonYouthandFamilyServices/](http://www.facebook.com/MadisonYouthandFamilyServices/)

Motion to adjourn at 1:37 p.m.

**\*\* NO SOLICITATIONS!**