

Parents' Representative Council Meeting
Friday, February 17, 2017
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 11	March 17	
December 16	April 21	

AGENDA

Attendees

PRC Chairperson	Maureen Lewis
DHHS	Claudia Dunsmore
Polson	Jen Thompson
Brown	Denise Fogleman, Chris McSweeney, Diane Infantine-Vyce
Island Ave.	Sarah Drought, Jennifer Greenwald
Jeffrey	Nicole Wiles, Stephanie Wheeler
Ryerson	Bee Gordon
TCLC	Christine Piteo, Candace Barnes

Meeting Notes

1) Welcome/Introductions

Meeting was called to order at 12:10 p.m. by Maureen Lewis.

2) Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Scarice reported that the Board of Education has adopted the district budget for next year. A major contributor to the 17-18 budget is the \$1M decrease in State funding from one year ago, which we anticipate will completely evaporate next year. The proposed budget included a reduction of 2.5 positions at Polson (based on enrollment), 1 reduction at the elementary level and 4 reductions at Hand. Although Hand will experience no decline in enrollment, Superintendent Scarice commented that Mr. Salutati is very skilled at filling positions and noted we will strive to accommodate Hand students with the courses they both want and need. Unfortunately, we will not know the amount of State funding the district will receive until after the budget vote in May.

State of CT mandates that school districts have a technology plan adopted by their Board of Education. The Technology Committee presented a plan to the Board in December which the Board adopted. The plan is predicated on the belief that technology is always changing, primarily on accessing the internet.

The district is planning for 6 tablets per classroom at the elementary school level (2:1 ratio) and 3-4 Chromebooks per classroom & middle school as well.

Last year, the structure of the Grade 5 model changed at Brown Middle School, whereby two person teams were developed, allowing for three 70 minute periods. We will roll the model up to Grade 6 next year with a slight change (mixing cohorts). Polson stays as is, but more choices will be offered in related arts.

The district has completely renovated our Language Arts, Math and World Language programs. However, our Science program is very dated. We are planning a dramatic shift in the next year or two by moving to an inquiry based framework which will require a great deal of training. High school will see the biggest change. We hope to bring in people from the field not so much to discuss job opportunities but to discuss what is happening in the field and what a student will need to learn.

3) **Review /Approve Minutes**

Motion to approve minutes of January 20, 2017 meeting, with changes notes, by Sarah Drought, second by Jennifer Greenwald.

4) **Subcommittee Reports / Updates:**

- a) **DHHS** – M.A.D.E.: No report.
- b) **Polson** – Food Council – Meeting dates: October 20, December 22, February 23, April 25. No report – no meeting.
- c) **Brown** – Transportation Council. Meeting dates: October 6, December 8, February 9, April 6. No report – meeting cancelled.
- d) **Jeffrey** – MYFS: April 5 – will be staging a teenager’s bedroom trying to find drug paraphernalia. Drug discussion will follow that evening at 7 p.m. May 17 – Ivorytown Playhouse – Stand Up and Speak Up about bullying. March 2 – Under Pressure – A Student’s Perspective” at Polson for parents grade 7-12. Students will be speaking.
- e) **Ryerson** – **Art Show:** No date for art show as yet.
- f) **IAS** – **Custodian Appreciation:** waiting on date.
- g) **TCLC:** Nothing to report.

5) **Review: Roundtable**

- a) **DHHS** – winter sports are wrapping up. PTO donated a 3D printer. Library has been reorganized. Volunteers are needed for Night in Hand.
- b) **Polson** – Screenagers shown on January 25 – very well received; 150 people attended. Follow-up scheduled for March 7. Donated funds to the library which will be used for new furniture as well as author Jordan Sonneblick’s visit. “What Do I Do If ... “ is being held March 1, 6:30-8:00 p.m. for grades PK-4 and March 15 from 6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. for grades 5-12 at the Town Campus. Focus is on social situations and behaviors. Run by MYFS.

- c) **Brown** – Boxtop drive raised \$1,000. Plan to sell water bottles at book fair next month.
- d) **Island Ave** – Island night at Moxies scheduled for February 22 and will continue through the end of the year on the 4th Wednesday of the month. School will receive 10% of any dinner ordered from an IAS parent.
- e) **Jeffrey** – first family math night held last night. Exceptional turnout with 50 families attending. Two math specialists assisted with preparations. Science month coming up in March; schoolwide kickoff assembly with the CT Science Center. Coology at end of the month. Mobile Ed reviewed by-laws – nominations must occur for any open positions, as all are considered open even if someone has plans on filling them.
- f) **Ryerson** – Rescheduled pancake dinner & pajama night to Friday, February 24 at the Sr. Center. Preparation for Give to Grow at the Sr. Center has begun. Vice President and Treasurer positions will be open next school year.
- g) **TCLC** – met with Dr. Battaglia. Due to the long wait list at the TCLC, the district will screen potential pre-school peers with preference going to those who are potty trained and have age appropriate communication skills. District is currently reviewing how our program will meet the needs of students with multiple disabilities.

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

1) Madison Special Education Parent Teacher Organization (SEPTO)

SEPTO Communications Director: Lisa Nee - lisa@allennee.com

Facebook: www.facebook.com/MadisonSEPTO/

2) M.A.D.E in Madison.

Website: www.madeinmadison.org/

Facebook: www.facebook.com/MADE.in.Madison/

3) Madison Youth and Family Services.

Website: www.madisonct.org/469/Youth-Family-Services

Facebook: www.facebook.com/MadisonYouthandFamilyServices/

Motion to adjourn at 1:30 p.m.

**** NO SOLICITATIONS!**