

Masterman School Advisory Council

April 23, 2013

Attendees:

Marjorie Neff	III.B.1 (Principal)	
Louis Borda	III.B.2 (PFT Building Rep)	
Kim Neu	III.B.6 (Department Head)	
Angelina Williams	III.B.3 (HAS President)	
Rita Marazzo-Haines	III.B.7 (Non-Instructional Staff)	(Not Present)
Hannah Kearney	III.B.4 (HS SGA President)	
Scott Philips	III.B.4 (MS SGA President)	
Donna Amit	III.C.2 (Teacher)	(Not Present)
April Claytor	III.C.2 (Teacher)	
Kathleen Dopkin	III.C.2 (Teacher)	
Nicole Geiger	III.C.2 (Teacher)	
Carolyn Gray	III.C.2 (Teacher)	(Not Present)
Barbara Horowitz	III.C.2 (Teacher)	
Jane Monaghan	III.C.2 (Teacher)	
Susan Stranix	III.C.2 (Teacher)	(Not Present)
Justin Weaver	III.C.2 (Teacher)	
Sam Garst	III.C.1 (Parent)	
Marian Gervasi	III.C.1 (Parent)	
Maurice Hampton	III.C.1 (Parent)	(Not Present)
Eden Kainer	III.C.1 (Parent)	
Laura Richlin	III.C.1 (Parent)	
Mathew Whitehorn	III.C.1 (Parent)	
Anndee Hochman	III.C.1 (Parent Alternate)	
Jeanne Ortiz	III.C.1 (Parent Alternate)	(Not Present)
Eli Levy	Student	
Marylou Finch	Parent	
Clair McCusker	Parent	(Not Present)

1. Meeting called to order at 4:50PM.
2. Motion to approve April 2nd meeting minutes with minor corrections by Mr. Borda, seconded by Ms. Williams.
3. Principal's Report on budget
 - a. Ms. Neff passed out a summary of the 2013 School Budget Guide, and summary of Masterman's budget the for 2013-14 school year, including a list of specific budget items being eliminated. Essentially, each school has received money for one principal and enrollment driven teachers, and allotments for special education and title 1. Masterman is losing around \$2M or 28% relative to last year's budget; this includes losing seven teachers. There is no money allocated for counselors, librarians, noon time aides, or secretaries. Allocation for school operations manager has been removed from the school budget, and will now be allocated from the central district. At the District level, there is no budget allocation for athletics, instrumental music or extra curricular activities. The Masterman budget is due back to the district on May 8th.

- b. Ms. Neff is working on how to reconfigure the program with 52 teachers vs. 59. A particular concern is rostering, to ensure that high school students get the required courses to graduate, and middle school students get courses they need. She also needs to figure out the Mentally Gifted (MG) and ABC enrichment programs. One possible approach is to switch from an eight period to a seven period day; while this would reduce the number of instructional periods to be staffed, it would also make rostering critical for high schoolers, in order to ensure each child has course credits to graduate. Finally, Masterman has lost two enrollment-based instructors, even though the enrollment has not changed; Ms. Neff is already trying to find out why this happened, and if they can be restored.
 - c. Ms. Neff made some predictions about what may transpire. She speculated that while some money will be restored, it is highly unlikely that the full \$300M gap in the district budget will be restored. Ms. Neff believes that councilors, athletics, music and librarians may be restored, but that it is unlikely MG or extracurricular activities will be restored. Currently, Masterman is allocated one counselor and "buys" two additional counselors.
4. A general discussion ensued between staff, parents, students and administration
 - a. Ms. Neu asked about retirees. Ms. Neff said that eight teachers and one counselor are retiring. However, retirees may not align with the required subjects.
 - b. Mr. Garst described the new budget process as prescribed by the SRC, where the budget does not include any speculative savings or revenue. The expectation is that some, not all, funding will be restored either from the city council, the state or from concessions from the unions.
 - c. Several parents asked what they could do. Ms. Neff suggested we call our state representatives and city councilmen. Mr. Garst asked if we should we fight for Masterman, or fight for the entire school system? Ms. Neff said it is not realistic to push for additional funding for Masterman, as the budget is a systemic problem.
 - d. Ms. Kearney asked about Advanced Placement (AP) courses. Ms. Neff responded that for seniors, we may need to limit the number of AP classes offered, and may need to raise AP class sizes. Historically, Masterman has paid for AP tests to ensure students get credit, but we will need to find alternative funding for the tests. Also, unlikely we can offer discrete math, through Community College.
 - e. A parent suggested that we talk with Susan Gobreski, who is heavily involved in education funding (and is a Masterman parent). She is likely to be able to suggest strategies or techniques for directing advocacy or protests. Ms. Richlin will reach out to Ms. Gobreski to see if she would be available to come talk to the SAC. There is a meeting from 8: 00 to 10:00, April 24, at the Philadelphia Youth Network.
5. Ms. Neff will share the budget information with teachers and parents. We will reconvene next Tuesday, April 30th, to review some budget scenarios Ms. Neff will prepare.
6. Meeting adjourned at 5:45PM.