

# Masterman School Advisory Council

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April 30, 2013

## Attendees:

Marjorie Neff	III.B.1 (Principal)	
Louis Borda	III.B.2 (PFT Building Rep)	
Kim Neu	III.B.6 (Department Head)	(Not Present)
Angelina Williams	III.B.3 (HAS President)	(Not Present)
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)	(Not Present)
Carolyn Gray	III.C.2 (Teacher)	(Not Present)
Barbara Horowitz	III.C.2 (Teacher)	(Not Present)
Jane Monaghan	III.C.2 (Teacher)	(Not Present)
Susan Stranix	III.C.2 (Teacher)	(Not Present)
Justin Weaver	III.C.2 (Teacher)	(Not Present)
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	
Elana Solomon	Teacher	
Carol Mistry	Teacher	
Chris Taranta	Teacher	

1. Meeting called to order at 4:55 PM.
2. Ms. Dopkin moved to approve the minutes of April 23, 2013 meeting, Mr. Borda seconded.
3. Principal's Report on the Budget
  - a. Ms. Neff passed out and reviewed the 2013-14 budget. Masterman is losing about \$500K from last year's anemic budget; this includes cutting seven teachers, all counselors, our librarian and our tech support person. Ms. Neff is going to submit the budget Friday.
  - b. In previous years Ms. Neff reviewed alternative budgets with the SAC. Because there are so few choices and the budget requires so many staff cuts, Ms. Neff only provided a summary of the budget rather than a detailed discussion. Ms. Neff discussed some consequences of the cuts:
    - i. The School Operations Officer, who is responsible for managing many financial accounts (student activity fund, purchasing, etc. ) would now be allocated centrally. We do not know who that person will be, nor how often that person will be working at Masterman. Without a full-time operations officer, Ms. Neff will need to shut down the student activity fund, as that is complex

and too time consuming for her to manage. A number of students had specific questions about the impact of this; it is likely to mean very few clubs and field trips.

- ii. Without a tech support person, Ms. Neff is likely to lock down the laptop carts. This does not impact the computer labs, but the carts are vulnerable to needing repairs and there will not be anything in the budget for a tech person in the budget.
  - iii. Without gifted support teachers, Masterman will be unable to complete gifted IEPs.
  - iv. Without councilors, Masterman will be unable to provide support services and college application support.
  - v. Without a librarian, the library will need to close.
  - vi. There are likely to be extensive program changes, including potentially switching to seven periods a day (from eight, currently). There will be no extra-curricular activities, no elective courses, sharply reduced AP classes, no gifted courses, no itinerant music instruction and no athletics.
- c. June 30 will be the effective date for any lay-offs. If money becomes available, the staff will be called back in order of seniority. Some teachers will be “bumped”- they will not lose their jobs but may be placed at another school. Other teachers may be “cut” - their positions have been eliminated district wide (e.g. assistant principals, secretaries).
- d. It was discussed that although there is a contractual obligation to provide one counselor and one librarian per 1,000 students, neither the School District nor the State are providing funding for this. The question arose as to who is liable and the consensus was that the School District is liable.
- e. There will be a central allocation of one school policeman, 1.3 days of nursing support, and a psychologist for one day per week. Ms. Neff is unclear of what changes will be for custodial and cafeteria services.
- f. The Home and School Association offered to raise money for student activities. It may be possible to get a parent volunteers to do some bookkeeping, but a volunteer would not be able to handle school district money (only student activity funds).
- g. The School District of Philadelphia has a \$300M dollar budget shortfall; the School District is asking City Council and the State to fill this shortfall, in addition to requesting concessions from several unions. Both the City and State budgets are to be approved June 30th (though, they are often late).
- h. Mr. Garst asked, if money is received later, how will it be apportioned? Ms. Neff believes that there is a list of priorities established by the district. If staff is to be rehired, HR will want to rehire as soon as possible.
- i. Mr. Garst asked about the role of parent volunteers. Ms. Neff replied that there would be liability issues for some positions (e.g. counselors). She said parents may be about to assist in the cafeteria but she is not sure how this would work. If parents handle money, they would have to be bonded and insured.
- j. If we do need to reprogram, Ms. Neff will request help from parents, students and staff.
4. There was discussion about what can be done to protest the budget.
- a. There are two petitions, one for music and one for athletics, that are being circulated. Mr. Borda argued that temporary funding fixes may let the City and State “off the hook”, and that a real sustainable funding solution should be found. In particular, Mr. Borda believes we need to work with City Council to get the State to do its part.
  - b. Ms. Gobreski, a Masterman parent and president of Education Voters PA, gave a brief presentation on advocacy strategies. Ms. Gobreski encouraged everyone to go to meetings, write handwritten letters and call legislators; she also handed out “Restoring State Support for Public Education 2013-2014 Budget”. Ms. Gobreski said petitions are helpful, but less helpful than letters. Ms. Anna Aagenes from Rep. Brian Sims office reiterated this, and suggested following politicians on Twitter.
  - c. Ms. Richlin is setting up an information table during report card conferences, to encourage parents to work on this cause.

5. Meeting adjourned 6:10 PM.