

J. R. Masterman School Advisory Council - Meeting Minutes

September 16 2014, 4:50 - 5:45PM

Attendees:

Jessica Brown	III.B.1 (Principal)	
Louis Borda	III.B.2 (PFT Building Rep)	
Tara Hayden	III.B.3 (HSA Representative)	
Alex Kwok	III.B.4 (HS SGA President)	
Alfredo Pratico	III.B.4 (MS SGA President)	
Kim Neu	III.B.6 (Department Head)	
Bernadette Kearney	III.B.7 (Teacher)	
April Claytor	III.C.2 (Teacher)	
Carolyn Gray	III.C.2 (Teacher)	
Mike Neights	III.C.2 (Teacher)	
Jane Monaghan	III.C.2 (Teacher)	(Not Present)
Steve Gallagher	III.C.2 (Teacher)	
Joanne Donahue	III.C.2 (Teacher)	
Nicole Geiger	III.C.2 (Teacher)	(Not Present)
Todd O'Neill	III.C.2 (Teacher)	(Not Present)
Andrea Appel	III.C.1 (Parent)	(Not Present)
Alison McDowell	III.C.1 (Parent)	
Anndee Hochman	III.C.1 (Parent)	
Mathew Whitehorn	III.C.1 (Parent)	
Meg Wise	III.C.1 (Parent)	
Sam Garst	III.C.1 (Parent)	
Bridget McFadden	III.C.1 (Parent Alternate)	(Not Present)
Yvonne Lee Clayton	III.C.1 (Parent Alternate)	(Not Present)
Ranim Albarkawi	MS SGA Vice President	

- 1) Meeting opened 4:50 PM
- 2) Mr. Garst gave a brief introduction to the responsibilities of the School Advisory Council (SAC). All present introduced themselves. Attendees then reviewed proposed meeting dates for the year. Mr. Garst will email dates to attendees, along with links to information about SACs.
- 3) Principal Report
 - a) Ms. Brown discussed results of a survey conducted last year in support of Middle States accreditation; the primary areas of concern are cleanliness, trash, facilities and nutrition. Ms. Brown walked through the building with School District facilities representatives during the summer, and got a sense of what the School District could address. One additional concern identified is the quality of drinking water, particularly the water used for sports activities.
 - b) The Home and School Association (HSA) has committed to purchasing a third support staff position, specifically for lunch time duty. Parent volunteers are helping with breakfast and lunch. The staffing is acceptable, but not ideal.
 - c) The music room was renovated over the summer, and there are now plans to complete a mural in that space.
 - d) Back to School night is Tuesday, September 23rd; parents will be following the Tuesday school day schedule. The HSA will have tables set up for membership, Masterman clothing

and volunteer help. September 24th, Masterman has partnered with Whole Foods grocery store on Callowhill; 5% of all purchases that day will be donated to Masterman.

- e) The student clubs and activities are still being sorted out; once finalized a comprehensive list of all clubs will be published.
 - f) Ms. Wise asked about changes to the dress code and policies about eating food. Ms. Brown indicated that the dress code has not changed, but is being enforced. Food is problematic, as it contributes to the vermin infestation, which is a key area of concern identified in the Middle States Accreditation survey. Additionally, the custodial staff has been reduced. Mr. Kwok, Mr. Pratico and Ms. Albarkawi made some suggestions to help students. Mr. Neights suggested that thoroughly cleaning under the auditorium would help, as it is infested. Ms. Brown said she would like to meet with the student representatives to discuss ideas.
- 4) Home and School Association
- a) Ms. Hayden reminded everyone of some upcoming events:
 - i) The auction is scheduled for Saturday, March 21st.
 - ii) A cleanup day is scheduled for Saturday, Oct. 18th.
 - iii) New parent coffee is Friday, October 3rd, from 7:54-9AM at Cafe L'Aube.
 - iv) Both family dinner and parents' night out will be scheduled soon.
- 5) Middle School Student Council Report
- a) Mr. Pratico gave a brief summary of middle school government activities. The middle school is planning a two week locker door competition, starting Oct. 14th. They are also deciding if they should distribute UNICEF trick or treat boxes or simply set them up in the school. The student government is also intent on placing air fresheners in every bathroom.
 - b) Mr. Pratico summarized work completed over the summer on the roof. The playground was restripped, new ping pong and fossball tables purchased, the backboards repainted and additional equipment purchased. A recess schedule may be developed as well.
- 6) High School Student Council Report
- a) Mr. Kwok said the high school student government is trying to boost participation in logo sales this year. The HSA has suggested incentivising participation, so students (or classrooms) get rewarded for selling the most clothing. There is also a contest to submit drawings to be made into logo wear.
 - b) The student government is exploring an international day, and may survey students to gauge interest. The event would help actually celebrate diversity, by allowing different groups to share food and culture.
 - c) Finally, the high school student government is holding a monthly townhall meeting with principal Brown.
- 7) Meeting adjourned 6:15PM.