

# J. R. Masterman School Advisory Council - Meeting Minutes

November 18th 2014, 4:55 - 6:10PM

## Attendees:

Jessica Brown	III.B.1 (Principal)	
Louis Borda	III.B.2 (PFT Building Rep)	Not Present
Tara Hayden	III.B.3 (HSA Representative)	Not Present
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)	Not Present
April Claytor	III.C.2 (Teacher)	Not Present
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)	
Todd O'Neill	III.C.2 (Teacher)	
Andrea Appel	III.C.1 (Parent)	
Alison McDowell	III.C.1 (Parent)	
Anndee Hochman	III.C.1 (Parent)	
Mathew Whitehorn	III.C.1 (Parent)	Not Present
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)	
Ranim Albarkawi	MS SGA Vice President	
Robert Sim	HS SGA Treasurer	

- 1) Meeting opened 4:55 PM
- 2) Approved minutes of October 14th emergency budget meeting, with minor edits.
- 3) Ms. Brown gave a brief principal update
  - a) 1st quarter grade reports completed yesterday (11/17/2014).
  - b) We have completed and are planning multiple technology budget purchases:
    - i) 66 chromebook laptop computers, split into two sets of 33. 24 have arrived to date.
    - ii) Two additional smartboards.
    - iii) High definition video camera
    - iv) 10 kindles for the library
  - c) Tomorrow (11/19) is a half-day professional development day for teachers, which will focus on technology implementation.
  - d) New counselor has been hired (pending final approval by SDP). The counselors will divide the student body alphabetically. Due to the college application process, seniors will retain their assigned counselors (Ms. Marcus and Ms. Abney).
  - e) Two noontime aides have started, one working in the morning and one at lunch. Because of the additional support in the morning, students can now arrive at 7AM.
  - f) Facilities work on the exterior of our building has started; this is the first step before plastering and painting indoors. New soap dispensers and paper towel dispensers have been installed in all the bathrooms.
    - i) Mr. Pratico mentioned that some of the bathrooms do not have trash cans. Ms. Nue expressed concern that the facilities workers failed to lock her door.

- g) Ms. McDowell asked about the high school application process. Ms. Brown is not aware of any problems to date. However, Ms. McDowell noted that the stated application requirements for some schools are not consistent; information from each individual schools seems to contradict what is published in the high school guide, and contradicts what is published online.
- 4) Mr. Pratico and Ms. Albarkawi gave a brief update on middle school student government
  - a) Operation Christmas Child has been successful at building baskets of donated gifts/supplies, to be distributed to school children.
  - b) Unicef trick-or-treat fundraiser raised \$364.
  - c) SGA is planning the pennies for leukemia fundraiser, which will run from the end of December to January. A yearly assembly is also being planned to kick off the fundraiser.
  - d) Pretzel sales will be conducted weekly starting next week, as opposed to bi-weekly.
  - e) Two fifth grade classrooms won the annual Halloween locker door decorating contest.
  - f) Mr. Pratico expressed concern at the lack of coordination between the high school and middle school government- particularly the development of a new logo design. Ms. Brown noted that some simple communication practices might address the coordination.
- 5) Ms. Brown gave a brief update from the last HSA meeting
  - a) HSA is planning to bring an exhibit, "Lest We Forget", to Masterman; this is a popup exhibit of artifacts related to slavery, and will be open to other schools.
  - b) An ice skating event is scheduled for Dec. 5th at Laura Sim's Skate House in west Philadelphia.
- 6) Ms. Neu presented an update on the Middle States Accreditation process
  - a) Two sessions have been completed with the students; the sessions are structured to include both high school and middle school students in each group (5th and 9th graders together, 6th and 10th graders, etc.). The purpose of the sessions is to discuss and reinforce Masterman's mission statement.
  - b) A presentation on grit and resilience was held last Friday (11/14/2014); this is the overall topic of the accreditation process, and was well received.
  - c) Middle States organization will visit Masterman sometime next fall, and a colloquium will be held sometime in the 2016-17 school year (in accordance with their process).
  - d) Ms. Hochman asked the student representatives of their impressions of the accreditation process and sessions. Mr. Kwok, Mr. Sim, Mr. Pratico and Ms. Albarkawi all thought the sessions were useful and engaging, and that the structure of the groups really facilitated sharing between the two student populations (high school and middle school).
- 7) Ms. McDowell spoke briefly about a meeting tomorrow (11/19/2014) about high stakes testing. She distributed a flyer, and urged people to attend the meeting if possible.
- 8) Meeting adjourned 6:10PM.