

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

April 21st, 2015, 5:00 - 6:00 PM

## 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)	Not Present
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)	Not Present
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)	Not Present
Andrea Appel	III.C.1 (Parent)	Not Present
Alison McDowell	III.C.1 (Parent)	Not Present
Anndee Hochman	III.C.1 (Parent)	Not Present
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
Shinryu Aoyama	HS SGA Vice President	
Sally Moore	Teacher	

- 1) Meeting opened at 5:00 PM.
- 2) Minutes of our March 17th meeting minutes was approved (with minor edits) by Ms. Geiger, seconded by Ms. Donahue.
- 3) Ms. Brown gave a brief principal update
  - a) Ms. Neu has won a 2014-15 Lindback Award for Distinguished High School Teacher, richly deserved.
  - b) Two Masterman students have won Gates Scholar awards- Ty Parks and Sokunvichet Long.
  - c) The movable partition wall has been installed in the library; the School District (SDP) facilities group will return to finish the ceiling. Initially Masterman was to pay for the finish work, it now appears that SDP will pay for this.
  - d) PSSA testing has started, and seems to be going well. Mr. Pratico said informal feedback on the PSSA tests indicated that the tests this year are easier than previous years. AP tests are scheduled for May.
  - e) Report cards will be printed and distributed Friday, and teacher/parent conferences are scheduled for next week. Students will have a half day on Wednesday, April 29th and Thursday April 30th.
  - f) Home and School Association will host the rescheduled cyber bullying presentation on Thursday, April 23rd at 5:30. This was originally scheduled for March 16th.
  - g) Saturday, April 25th is a service day; we are planning on painting and other maintenance work. On a related note, SDP has agreed to paint the stairwells, hallways and other common areas; Ms. Brown will involve students in the choice of colors.

- h) The mural outside the music room is proceeding; the artist is working with some students, and the mural should be installed soon.
  - i) Last year the HSA legacy fund was allocated to purchasing chromebooks; these have all been delivered, and each department now has a laptop cart. This year's legacy fund will be used to purchase new laptops for the teachers; the old laptops will be refurbished and used to building a laptop cart for students.
  - j) Ms. Brown announced the decision to hire an additional math teacher next year, instead of a science teacher as originally discussed. This new teacher will teach computer programming, possibly other enrichment courses, and provide some schedule relief for the other math teachers. Ms. Neu expressed some concern that Masterman was offering more math than the state required, and adding a new math teacher wouldn't benefit children who are not interested in additional math courses. Ms. Brown explained that the new teacher would not enable teaching more math courses, but would allow Masterman to begin to offer some computer courses; Masterman currently doesn't offer any computer science offerings, which is common in other high schools.
  - k) Mr. Garst asked about developing a strategic plan or long range vision for Masterman, in part to answer what kinds of teachers should be hired in the future. Ms. Brown agreed this would be valuable, but that it requires a real commitment of time; she may pursue a grant to purchase staff time next year to develop some kind of long term vision for Masterman. Ms. Wise pointed out that as a public school, Masterman does not really have control over many aspects, and that any strategic plan should be realistic about what is in our control.
  - l) Mr. Garst asked about the High School Spirit Week. Ms. Brown and Mr. Aoyama described how the annual Spirit Week celebration was too competitive, resulting in one student getting injured. Some events were canceled and others changed, and in the end the event was successful and fun.
- 4) Mr. Aoyama provided an update on high school student government:
- a) The student government wanted to express gratitude to teachers for Spirit Week. Next year, planning for Spirit Week will start earlier, and possibly hold some events in the gym.
  - b) Elections are scheduled for April 25th to 29th. In addition, there is a search for a new faculty sponsor for student government.
- 5) Mr. Pratico gave a brief update on middle school student government
- a) Pennies has raised over \$4,000, surpassing this year's goal. Ms. Grey's homeroom raised the most, and will be rewarded with a lunch party.
  - b) Carnival is still being planned. There has also been some discussions about spirit week, and whether to hold a dance or not.
  - c) Middle school student gov't elections are being planned; there are several positions with only one declared candidate.
- 6) Ms. Hayden
- a) The Masterman Auction was successful, although the final tally is still being... tallied.
  - b) The HSA and the SAC are going to hold joint elections this year. It appears that we are required to use paper ballots. Mr. Garst and Ms. Hayden both encouraged parents, teachers and students to try and entice parents to consider running for positions on the HSA or SAC.
  - c) There is an orientation meeting for incoming parents and students on May 12th. At that meeting, it would be useful to present to new parents the opportunity to volunteer on the HSA and SAC.
- 7) Ms. Neu gave an update on Middle State Accreditation
- a) Ms. Neu and Ms. Brown met with a representative from Middle States; while not guaranteed, Masterman's accreditation looks very likely. The actual accreditation would be in September 2015, and would involve a one day visit to Masterman.
  - b) In the last Middle States meeting for the year, the students will create a video as a part of a required assessment process.
- 8) Meeting adjourned 6:00 PM.