

J. R. Masterman School Advisory Council - Meeting Minutes

May 26th, 2015, 5:00 - 5:55 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)	
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)	
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)	
Meg Wise	III.C.1 (Parent)	
Sam Garst	III.C.1 (Parent)	
Bridget McFadden	III.C.1 (Parent Alternate)	
Yvonne Lee Clayton	III.C.1 (Parent Alternate)	
Shinryu Aoyama	HS SGA Vice President	
Sally Moore	Teacher	

- 1) Meeting opened at 5:00 PM.
- 2) Minutes of our April 21st th meeting minutes was approved (with minor edits) by Ms. McDowell, seconded by Ms. Hayden.
- 3) Ms. Brown gave a brief principal update
 - a) A Masterman Odyssey of the Mind team came in 5th place in the world competition; they received a citation at city hall.
 - b) The Masterman chess team brought back a trophy from a national competition.
 - c) Keystone testing is almost complete; advanced placement testing is complete.
 - d) Seniors are out of school, as they are working on their senior projects. They will be rehearsing at the end of this week, and presenting next week. Parents are welcome.
 - e) The middle school concert went well, with both jazz band and orchestra playing.
 - f) Finals start next week, high school students can leave for the day as soon as their finals are done.
 - g) Laps for education is June 5th; donors can choose where half their donation is spent, the other half will be directed to middle school athletics.
 - h) High school graduation is June 16th in the auditorium. Middle school graduation is June 17th at Benjamin Franklin High School.
 - i) High school seniors have been accepted at a broad range of colleges. About twenty seniors are attending University of Pennsylvania. And two seniors have been awarded Gates Millennium Scholarships.
 - j) This summer, we're going to complete some facilities work. The first floor foyer will be painted, as well as the stairwells.

- k) The school district of Philadelphia may receive a grant from WHYY for a media production lab, which includes computers as well as software to create video and audio presentations. Masterman may receive this equipment, but we'll have to find some dedicated (and secure) space to house the lab.
 - l) Ms. Brown is hoping to undertake some strategic planning next year, and is going to seek some funding (primarily to purchase staff time).
 - m) Masterman is searching for a math teacher, who may be able to help teach computer programming as well. If additional budget money is approved over the summer, Ms. Brown would like to add an Art teacher, an additional guidance counselor, and a chemistry teacher.
 - n) Reminder that June 3rd is a half day.
- 4) No high school update.
- 5) Mr. Pratico gave a brief update on middle school student government
- a) Middle school student gov't elections have been completed.
 - b) Spirit week is scheduled for June 8th - 12th.
 - c) 5th and 6th grade carnival is going on now.
- 6) Ms. Hayden gave an update on Home and School Association
- a) The Masterman Picnic is scheduled for June 6th, from 2-5 in Fairmount Park. The exact location will be sent later.
 - b) The HSA is continuing the tradition of asking 7th grade parents to help with 8th grade graduation, and asking 11th grade parents to help with 12th grade graduation. It is important to help defray the costs of the graduation and help volunteer.
- 7) Ms. Neu gave an update on Middle State Accreditation
- a) The middle states meeting was delayed until June 8th.
 - b) Ms. Neu and Ms. Brown attended an accreditation meeting at another school.
 - c) Next year, we are planning to continue the pairing of middle and high school students.
- 8) Mr. Garst led a brief discussion about possible SAC goals for next year.
- a) Ms. Hayden suggested that the SAC pursue more partnerships with outside organizations. This could help get Masterman more recognition, as well as financial and programmatic support.
 - b) Several people suggested trying to build a better relationship with the alumni groups. Currently there are two alumni groups, one dating from when Masterman was a middle school, and one more current group. Both are very small, informal and (apparently) rarely meet.
 - c) Ms. Brown expressed a desire to produce some kind of documentary about Masterman, explaining what Masterman is, it's history and community. This could be a part of the strategic planning and long term vision process, to help clarify and express Masterman's mission. Perhaps this could leverage the WHYY media lab?
 - d) Ms. Moore suggested embracing wellness and health awareness across the Masterman community. There have been some really promising and interesting approaches this year, including healthier snacks and more options for exercise.
 - e) Mr. Garst mentioned an earlier effort on admissions and recruitment, especially focusing on increasing minority and poorly represented groups. Several years ago, some SAC members visited area grade school counselors, to see if we could encourage applications from qualified students. Alas, it isn't clear that this accomplished anything.
 - f) Finally, Mr. Garst noted that the Masterman SAC bylaws aren't really in compliance with the School District's suggestions. At some point, the SAC might want to revise the bylaws.
- 9) Meeting adjourned 5:55 PM.