

Parent's Representative Council Meeting
Friday, September 20, 2019
12:00-1:30 PM
Central Office- Hammonasset Room

Purpose

The general purpose of the Parents' Representative Council (PRC) is to advise the Superintendent regarding parental concerns about the schools, to provide a forum for parent liaisons from each school to have a voice in decision making and problem solving and to foster a spirit of cooperative community and parental involvement in the promotion of the Madison Public Schools.

PRC Meeting Dates

September 20	January 17	May 15
October 18	February 21	June 5
November 22	March 20	
No December mtg.	April 17	

AGENDA

Attendees:

Superintendent	Tom Scarice
PRC Chairperson	Maureen Lewis
Hand	Keiler Snow
Polson	Sarah Valentine, Christina Morris
Brown	Tina Phelan
Jeffrey	Liz Plasky, Jess Maynard
Ryerson	Bee Gordon, Candace Brown

Meeting Notes

1) Welcome/Introductions

Meeting was called to order by Maureen Lewis at 12:07 and introduced Sarah Drought. Sarah will assist and provide backup chair support as needed throughout the year. In Wendy's absence today, Sarah will take meeting notes.

New and returning PRC members welcomed and Round Table Introductions were done.

Maureen gave an overview of how meetings are run, goals and benefits of PRC meetings. Meetings are scheduled for 12:00 – 1:30. Maureen added that a goal is to finish early when possible to be respectful of everyone's time. She will keep meetings moving along as quickly and as efficiently as possible. To help stay on task, meetings will follow an agenda. Please contact Maureen as soon as possible between meetings as special agenda items, questions and topics arise. Meetings may run longer when special agenda or guest speakers are added. She let everyone know that ideas for guest speakers are encouraged and welcome. She also talked about consistency in bylaws across PTO's and asked what people thought of having a treasurer's report brought to meetings. Team was receptive and a goal is for PRC team will work to bring consistencies among PTOs throughout the year when possible. Maureen provided her cell phone number and encourage open communication as any questions, suggestions, issues or feedback arise regarding PTO/PRC.

Maureen reminded PTOs to budget each year for PRC expenses including:

- K-12 District Art Show
- Custodian Appreciation
- Candidates Forum
- Political Signs (PTO's agreed to check inventory & report back)
- Bus Driver Appreciation

2) Review / Approve Minutes

Motion to approve the minutes from the June meeting by Tina Phelan, 2nd by Bee Gordon, all in favor.

3) PRC Subcommittee

MADE—Hand

- Keiler Snow attended the first meeting. Meetings will be held the 2nd Tuesday of each month. There are 2 new student representatives who are focusing on anti-vaping. They also talked about having Breath Week throughout the year to reduce stress.
- Food Services-Jeffrey
 - Jessica Maynard will identify a contact person and provide the information to Maureen.
- Political Action-Maureen Lewis
 - PRC will again co-sponsor a Candidates' Forum/Debate with The League of Women Voters (LWV) for any contested seats prior to November election
 - Maureen is working with LWV and political parties to agree to a date and shared that it may be two dates
 - PRC members strongly suggested only one date/one evening for all candidates. Team felt that one longer evening is preferable for volunteers and parents than two
 - PRC members are asked to host/attend and spread the word
 - PRC will again provide hospitality for the event (coffee, cookies, water) and PTO will share expense
 - Volunteers will be needed to serve on committee to review and select questions for Candidates. Must be kept highly confidential.
 - Questions for the Representatives—Tina Phelan volunteered to create a survey document to solicit questions from the community.

4) Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Scarice reported on the following:

- Reconfiguration Changes
Brown—the new model is going well. Bus routes have been challenging and they are still working out the kinks. Superintendent Scarice asked that if anyone hears anything to report it to transportation.
- Security Incentives
See it, Say it, Send it is a new app that everyone should have for emergencies. The app works with geo-fencing to alert anyone within a mile of the school that it has been evacuated.
- Hand has Campus Shield is a mandatory personal alarm locator for every staff member for 911 situations. If you press the button it will track you, and if 15 or 20 go off the district will evacuate the school and dispatch will send ambulance and police to the sight.
- Because of the reduction from 3 campuses to 2, there will be extended police coverage. Jeffrey, Polson and Hand have 1 police at each school all day and Brown and Ryerson have one 7:30-3:45.
- ALICE—New lockdown training. Alice is a new approach to lock downs that is more modern. All town employees are trained and the educational staff will be by the end of the year.
- Communication
Social Media has grown and a communication specialist has been hired to put out one story per week per school.

- **BOE**
The BOE has passed a policy that allows non-residents to pay tuition to MPS. The policy was put into place to prevent the loss of electives at Hand as enrollment decreases. Employees will be given a discount based on longevity of employment. Special needs services will be ala cart. Old Lyme is the only other local town that has a similar policy
- **Voting on Facilities Plan Tuesday night**
 - K-5 School on Green Hill RD close to Jeffrey and Ryerson, which will be closed
 - Investments will be made in both Polson and Brown as part of the plan
 - The goal is to get to a referendum in May. We wouldn't see any changes for 5 years.

5) **Round Table**

The group discussed the transfer of money due to the closing of Island Avenue. The team was agreeable to further discussion if needed. Maureen Lewis and Tom Scarice spoke about how a more universal approach as to how PTO funds are spent would be helpful. PRC team will work together throughout the year to continue this discussion and resolve concerns.

Ryerson

- Everyone is doing well with the transition
- A sense of community is happening
- The PTO purchased T-shirts for the kids

Jeffrey

- Had meetings all summer
- Entire year mapped out
- Chairs for all of the events in place
- Adult fundraiser at the surf club is coming up
- PTO bought T-shirt for all for the teachers
- 100 percent of field trips will be paid for

Motion to adjourn at 1:34 p.m.