

Parent's Representative Council Meeting
Friday, April 1, 2022
9:30 AM – 11:00 PM

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 24, 2021	February 25, 2022 (rescheduled to March 4)
October 29, 2021 (cancelled)	April 1, 2022 (rescheduled from March 25)
November 19, 2021	April 29, 2022
December 17, 2021 (cancelled)	May 27, 2022
January 21, 2022	June 10, 2022

Attendees:

Superintendent	Craig A. Cooke, Ph.D.
PRC Chairperson(s)	Sarah Drought
Hand	Keiler Snow
Polson	
Brown	Liz Tucker-Plasky
Jeffrey	Sarah DeBenedictis
Ryerson	Erica McMillian

1. Welcome/Introductions

Sarah Drought called the meeting to order at 9:35 a.m.

2. Superintendent's Report

Craig A. Cooke, Ph.D.

Dr. Cooke provided a staffing update, noting the district continues to be fortunate and is ahead of area districts. We continue to have para positions available and only a few retirements. There are three open positions in special education next year. We will be attending college job fairs next week.

The MYFS survey results are available online and show alcohol use/smoking/vape use is down; however, anxiety and depression have increased, with 10% of students indicating "severe". MYFS will be presenting at next Tuesday night's Board of Education meeting (April 5) and will speak to efforts going forward. Harassment and sexual assault have increased, as well as LGBTQ identification. A presentation was given last Friday (Jane Doe No More) at Hand; the speaker who presented was a sexual assault victim. Keiler Snow spoke regarding Wellness Wednesdays and noted that MYFS runs G.A.S.P. – a welcoming body that provides support to the LGBTQ community.

A discussion ensued with regard to why anxiety is increasing – where it is stemming from? Suggestions were made regarding how to prepare students for the change from Polson to Hand, from Grade 5 to Polson and from Grade 3 to Grade 4.

Dr. Cooke spoke to the School Renewal project. The town has requested that citizens be part of the Building Committee which will select an architect. Hope to close on land purchase next week.

Interviewing Owners Reps with the potential of 3 different companies for the 3 projects. Board is supporting community center - \$4M grant will assist with renovations.

End of Year Events

Make up events (i.e. Homecoming) are on schedule; winter sports have had successful season.

Sharing of budget information with PTO's – no major concerns heard.

3. Approval of March 4, 2022 Minutes

Motion to approve the minutes of the March 4, 2022 PRC Meeting (as amended) by Liz Tucker-Plasky, seconded by Keiler Snow. Unanimously approved.

4. Round Table

Ryerson

Hilary Axtmayer reported

- Square One fundraiser most successful one to-date
- Restaurant night at Grand Pizza
- Butter braid/cake roll fundraiser better than expected
- Second round of spirit wear wrapping up
- Give to Grow parent night scheduled for June 4 at the Surf Club
- Variety show scheduled for May 14 on the Town Green – open to the public
- Jen Gordon working on the yearbook
- Planning 3rd grade celebrations

Jeffrey

Sarah DeBenedictis provided by email

- Workshops continue to be popular and well attended! Spring workshops are being planned and will start the first week of May.
- Science month assemblies and programs supported 100% by PTO funds have been a hit!
- Each grade has been gifted funds to purchase items for the students from a Teacher Wish List

Looking forward:

- April 6th we will host our first in person General PTO meeting at Jeffrey since before the pandemic.
- Parents Night Out: Sold out event on April 30th
- Third Grade committee has been busy planning end of year celebrations. Jeffrey and Ryerson PTO's are co-hosting a Brown Play Ground Ice Cream social in May and have collaborated on the creation of yard signs celebrating our out-going third graders
- Yearbook is coming along nicely
- Butter Braid fundraiser running through April
- We are excited to plan an end-of-year school wide carnival for all Jeffrey families to take place in June.

Brown

Liz Tucker-Plasky reported

- Portrait fundraiser scheduled this month.
- Book Fair scheduled for May 3-5 (in person)
- Family fun night scheduled for April 14 at Madison Cinema, open to entire school. Kids will vote from 3 movie choices. Looking at March 17 (early dismissal day).
- Yearbook is done

DHHS

Keiler Snow reported

- Successful blood drive this week with 36 usable pints of blood collected. Looking at dates for next year. With parental permission, can now donate at 16.
- Starting to plan Teacher Appreciation
- Asking for nominations for 2 PTO Board positions
- Voting on bylaws next week
- Spring musical (Rent) begins tonight
- Hands Got Talent – April 28
- Spring Fling – end of April

National Nurses' Day – May 10

5. PRC Subcommittees

MYFS – Keiler Snow reported.

Jane Doe No More event will take place at 6:30 pm on Sunday, 4/3/22 on Green in Madison. Shining a light on Sexual. Money will be raised for care packages for victims of sexual violence receiving treatment in hospitals.

Sexual Assault Prevention Education pilot program continues. MYFS student leaders and Eric Becker, DHHS Football coach, have led a pilot program with DHHS team captains about sexual assault. A presentation was developed over the summer which will be shared with the captains of all sports. This program will be adjusted and improved given student feedback and is expected to be presented again next year.

The 30-minute break between exams has returned (December exams had only a 10-minute break due to shortage of bus drivers.) This is important for kids to have a break, snack, etc.

MYFS is grateful for community support of the new community center in Academy. MYFS is looking forward to approximately 6000 sf of modern, functional, flexible, easily accessible space to meet the increasing demands for their services.

The need for affordable housing in Madison, the Shoreline area and the State is extreme.

MYFS has a waiting list for clinical services.

As a follow up to the Developmental Assets survey results, MYFS will be meeting with the BoE on 4/5/22 to discuss next steps. This meeting is open to the public.

North Madison Congregational Church is presenting QPR suicide prevention training from MYFS on 3/20/22. Any other interested groups should contact MYFS to schedule a training.

The annual budget process is moving along. Please vote in the May 17th, 2022, budget referendum on the Town and School budgets.

There are openings on MYFS board. You can apply via link on Town's website: <https://www.madisonct.org/628/Board-and-Commission-Application>

6. Old Business

7. Future Agenda Items

8. Adjournment: Motion to adjourn at 10:40 a.m.

Polson

Kim Yahara provided the following by email:

Polson PTO is co-hosting with Brown PTO a parent presentation on online safety on April 11th from 6:30-8pm. Dr. Cooke will also be there to give a quick update on the school budget for next year prior to the presentation. Our Polson students will also have a presentation on online safety during an assembly on the same day.

PRC Subcommittees

MYFS - Keiler Snow reported. Madison Youth and Family Services very excited about the vote approving the Academy school renovation. Student leaders continue to work with team captains re: behaviors. Speakers coming in. Promoting Zones of Regulation group. State of Youth Presentation posted on the MYFS website – also more on the 40 developmental assets.

No updates on food or transportation councils.

9. Old Business

10. Future Agenda Items

11. Adjournment – Motion to adjourn at 10:35 a.m.