

Parent’s Representative Council Meeting
Friday, October 21, 2022
9:30 AM – 11:00 PM

Meeting Minutes

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 16, 2022	February 17, 2023
October 21, 2022	March 3, 2023
No November meeting	April 28, 2023
December 9, 2022	May 26, 2023
January 20, 2023	No June meeting

Attendees:

Superintendent	Craig A. Cooke, Ph.D.
PRC Chairperson(s)	Sarah Drought
Hand	Nicole Wiles
Polson	Tina Phelan
Brown	Eileen Kenney and Laura Francis
Jeffrey	Sarah DeBenedictis and Amy Sutherland
Ryerson	Hilary Axtmayer and Emily White

1. Welcome/Introductions

Sarah Drought called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

2. Superintendent’s Report

Craig A. Cooke, Ph.D.

Dr. Cooke shared the draft 2023-2024 calendar noting the district follows the LEARN regional calendar as closely as possible. Note: the April break will be April 8-12. This calendar will be presented to the Board in December.

Concern regarding exterior doors at Ryerson has been resolved.

Academy Building – would like input from the PTO leaders. Two committees have been formed – a Building Committee and an Advisory Committee. An owner’s representative has been selected and the architectural RFP is currently being worked on.

Jeff Wyszynski, Justin Hopkins and Kathryn Mease of Tecton Architects gave a presentation regarding the new school building. Bi-weekly meetings with administrators have taken place and input received to-date was touched upon. A visioning screening occurred on September 28, a community survey has been conducted (with over 200 responses received) and the next public workshop occurs on November 9 at 6:00 by Zoom. Schematics of the exterior of building and interior floor plans & spaces (gym, care, media center, grade levels, etc.) were shown. A meeting with Eversource has taken place; no fossil fuels powering the building

Kathryn Mease, Sr. Interior Designer, reviewed the evidence-based design, spoke to the key components of the building and reviewed the approach to making decisions. Also showed examples of access to outdoors & natural daylight as well as breakout spaces, learning corridors and stairs and outdoor classrooms.

A question and answer session followed. A presentation to the Board of Education will take place on November 15.

3. Review of September 16, 2022 Minutes

Motion to approve the minutes as amended. Unanimously approved.

4. Round Table

Hand

Nicole Wiles

1. First PTO meeting of the year was held on October 4th by Zoom. Updates included:
 - Nite-in-Hand (NIH) co-chair Beth O’Keefe called for volunteers and directed families to the SignUpGenius on the NIH website page. Families were encouraged to email NIH with questions at niteinhandmail@gmail.com.
 - Security specialists were introduced and provided an update on procedures for welcoming visitors to Hand. Visitors entering the building will be asked for their name and/or driver’s license and a background check conducted. If all is clear a badge with their photo will be worn, so that visitors are easily identified in the school.
 - Christine Coyle outlined her new position of college and career counselor.
 - Corey Rice and Dawn Fiorelli introduced the fabrication lab that was created in response to the independent project requirement for graduation.
2. TJ Salutari is celebrating his 10th year as principal of Hand. PTO recognized this milestone with a small gift.
3. Teacher appreciation – Halloween Candy Bar. Grab and go treats in the teacher room throughout the day.

Jeffrey

Sara DeBenedictis

- Family Photo Fundraiser with Pam Aldred – 3 dates in September/October with choice of Hammonasset or Bauer Park. Very well received!
- Lyman Pie & Cookie Dough sales were on par with last year’s outstanding numbers!
- 1st General Meeting – In person and Zoom with nearly 20 people in attendance.
- First session of before and after school workshops were super popular and successful. Second session will run for 4 weeks in Nov-Dec.
- Everyone is excited for our Halloween after school family even planned for the 28th.
- Fall Book Fair: online ordering opens 10/31. In person shopping 11/2-11/4.
- Next Board meeting set for Nov 4th at 9:30 AM

Ryerson

Hilary Axtmayer

- Successful pie/cookie dough fundraiser - met goal
- Spirit Wear underperformed (less than 50% of last year’s revenue)
- In the middle of the Scholastic Book Fair this week - huge hit! Family night scheduled for Oct. 26th plus trick or treating and stories with Mrs. Spooner

- -PTO will support \$10 per student this year for classroom special activities organized by room parents (crafts, ice cream etc.).
- -Overall budget on track to meet revenue goals

Brown

Liz Tucker-Plasky

(report provided in advance)

- We had a successful movie day watching Goonies at Madison Art Cinemas on 10/10
- Brown PTO just finished our first spiritwear orders with Zuse. It was a really good experience. They are easy to work with and very organized
- We are hosting a "Are you smarter than your fourth or fifth grader? " trivia event at James Madison House on 10/26 at 6pm
- Brown PTO is currently accepting yearbook cover drawings from 5th graders
- Brown PTO just voted to support Rob Surrette, speed artist, to come to Brown in November as an assembly for the entire school
- We are partnering with Jeffrey to support students who recently lost their father
- Our amazing volunteers are getting ready to start a Holiday Shop, similar to Jeffrey's
- We've had a wonderful response for parents who'd like to volunteer this year!

Polson

Tina Phelan

Polson hosted our first General PTO meeting, "Coffee with the Counselors". Parents and guardians got to enjoy pumpkin scones from Summer Hill Catering and coffee while our mental health staff shared information about the services available at Polson. We met our grade level counselors, social worker, school psychologist, and MYFS clinician. This meeting took place in the Library Media Center and there an opportunity for Q&A. It was well attended.

PRC Subcommittees

- Assignment for the Political Action Committee has not yet been decided.
- Bus Driver Appreciation – Brown
- Custodian Appreciation – Ryerson

MYFS/MADE Liaison – Beth Skudder

(Nicole Wiles provided the following on behalf of Beth Skudder):

Lots of news from September and October MYFS meetings.

Please get in touch with Beth Skudder if you have any questions for MYFS board, or ideas etc. Looking forward to building an even close collaboration between PTOs and MYFS.

bskud13@gmail.com and 203 253 9593

- Scott Cochran will reach out to Sarah re possibly attending a PRC meeting to explain what QPR suicide prevention training is. Perhaps PTOs and other community groups will offer to present a training.
- PrideFest was on 10/9. Very well attended, many students attended, volunteered and performed. Great community spirit! Thank you Madison!

- National Coming Out Day family event was on 10/11 at Polson.
- Trunk or Treat on 10/31/22 at 4-6pm on Madison Green. All welcome!
- MadDash coming up on 11/5. New event is a fun collaboration between Scranton Library and MYFS. Think the "Amazing Race", but downtown Madison. Puzzles, challenges, games. For Family units/groups of friends. Get a group of 3-6. Challenges appropriate for kids/adults of all ages. Registration required:
<https://live-scranton.pantheonsite.io/event/first-annual-mad-dash>
- Big change at DHHS - PAW is being replaced with Advisory groups. This new program has been developed, and will continue to evolve, with contributions from DHHS staff, student feedback and MYFS. Adult facilitators with student leaders, expect discussions re social/emotional issues.
- MYFS has a parenting podcast via iCRV radio: <https://icrvradio.com/programs/program/260>
Many episodes available on a range of topics. Please share widely!
- FYI for holiday projects at schools or just individually- MYFS is always in need of gift cards (any amount! to Stop & Shop, BigY, CVS, Walgreens, Walmart). Thank you!
- Madison received \$13,000 as a part of the Federal settlement re opioids. MYFS is working with the Madison Department of Health and our first responders regarding use of these funds.

5. Old Business - none

6. Future Agenda Items

Academy Building

7. Adjournment – Motion to adjourn at 10:30 a.m.