

**Madison Public Schools  
Parents' Representative Council Meeting  
Friday, December 8, 2023**

**MEETING MINUTES**

1. Welcome/Introductions

Sarah Drought

2. Superintendent's Report

Craig A. Cooke, Ph.D.

- Budget Update
  - Cost hits this year for some special education staff and health insurance. Goal is to keep the increase under 4%. There will be more details in January.
- Building Project/Naming Committee
  - Tuesday the 12th, there will be a public hearing to decide on 15 names. Naming committee will then narrow down to 3-5 names, with the Board of Education making the final decision in February.
  - Brown 300 wing, where the Kindergarteners and First graders, is expected to be completed this month. Library work will take place this summer.
  - There is no plan to redistrict.
  - There is a group of about 100 children who will have 3 school changes in 3 years. Those children will be in Brown for 4th grade, then move to the new school for 5th grade in fall 2025, and then off to Polson for 6th grade.
- Reading Waiver
  - We did not get the reading waiver, along with other similar districts. The district provided a packet of information to the State Department of Education supporting the success of the current reading curriculum we have in place. The Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent are prepared to fight the denial of the waiver. This change would not go into effect until Fall 2025. If we do not get the reading waiver this would mean that the reading curriculum we currently have would be replaced with a curriculum that has been chosen by the State Department of Education and would likely cost the district between \$400k - \$600k to purchase. The Assistant Superintendent will be meeting with PRC in January to give us more information.
- Kitchen staff
  - Our Kitchen staff will be moving from town employees to employees of Chartwell Services. This was a decision made by the kitchen staff union 2 and a half years ago. Chartwell is required to rehire our current employees and they will pay unemployment in the summer which is currently not being done since workers get paid on a 10 month contract. Moving over to Chartwell Services would ensure that our food services are always fully staffed and would provide cost saving for the district. This would function like our bus drivers who we contract through Durham Bus Services. Communication will go out to families in the district to notify and clarify of this upcoming change.

3. Review of October 20, 2023 Minutes

- All approved

4. School Update Report

- Ryerson
  - Scholastic Book Fair brought in \$10,400 in sales; allowing us to give \$5,200 in books to teachers and the library.
  - Family Bingo Night was a huge hit!
  - Extracurriculars - Session 2 ending next week. Next session is Winter Workshop, online registration opens this weekend. Planning to offer 8-10 options.
  - Charleston Wrap was a new fundraiser for us this year and we made almost \$2,000.
  - Thanksgiving Food Drive - delivered over 278lb of food to MFP last week.
  - Holiday Toy Drive - ends on Friday, will benefit MYFS and YCH
  - Paint and Sip Parent Night - at Art Matters. Did not have enough interest to hold event, but busy time of year and studio needed a lot of advanced notice on head count.
  - Einstein's Attic Shopping Day - this past Tuesday - low turnout (made about \$50)
  - Annual Holiday Shop - Wednesday this week (after expenses we made about \$1,700 in profit)
  - Bridgeport Islanders Ryerson Day on January 7 - tickets currently on sale
  - Junior Achievement planned for March or April
  - Variety Show - confirmed at DHHS in early May
  - Field Day - in process of designing our t-shirts
  - Give to Grow (annual parent party/raffle/auction) - confirmed at Surf Club in early June
  - Possible future activities - Restaurant Week in January, Movie Day in March, in-school assembly for third graders about the book Wonder and craniofacial abnormalities (SEL).
  
- Jeffrey
  - On 10/27 we hosted our Halloween Family Fun Night - we had an interactive Scavenger Hunt with crafts, activities, photo ops - with a chance to win a prize - and our mascot Cubby stopped by (in a Halloween costume!). We had over 220 children in attendance (we had 220 Scavenger Hunt cards and ran out)! We also had cider and donuts (donated by parents) and Halloween music.
  - On Halloween, we treated teachers and staff to candy in the lounge. We took class pictures at the Halloween parade and provided class pictures to all students.
  - We had our Scholastic Book Fair in early November - with in-school shopping and a family shopping night - we got about \$2700 cash back for teachers to refresh their rooms with whatever books they wanted.
  - Mid-November we said goodbye to Mrs. G and welcomed Ms. Solin (with flowers and some Jeffrey gear!)
  - We hosted a Chinese acrobatic assembly in school on 11/10- it was a great program that the kids and teachers loved.
  - On Veteran's Day, we displayed photos of our student's veterans in the entrance circle.
  - We showed appreciation to our school security officers with gift cards for lunch after the safety drill.
  - Before Thanksgiving, we treated our teachers and staff to a croissant/butter/jam station in the lounge ("merci beaucoup for all you do").
  - We hosted our first ever Cultural Fair on 11/15. We had 200 children RSVP (our max capacity) - and we had about 175 attending (with their parents). We had 12 cultures featured! Children were given a passport, world pencil, a map outlining all the stations/locations, and a boarding pass with their starting destination. They rotated to the next culture every 10 minutes and were given the last 20 minutes to explore any cultures they did not make it to during the rotation. It was a HUGE success. The parents that volunteered with cultural booths went above and beyond with their presentations/crafts/foods - it was incredible. The kids and parents in attendance absolutely loved it. It was a wonderful experience for everyone and we will definitely do this again next year!

- We hosted our first Kids Night Out on 11/30- we had about 60 kids in attendance (the max). It was very chaotic- and with alot going on this time of year we may skip this next year.
- We hosted an Einstein's Attic Shopping Day on 11/27 (Ryerson and Brown also did this on different days) - 20% of sales back to the PTO. We had hot cocoa and wrapping outside, but low shopper turnout- but it was good to support a new Madison business.
- We did a fundraiser with Blazing Fresh Donuts in Guilford- with a special Jeffrey donut for the month of November (10% back on sales of our donut- which was about \$30- but extremely little work and supporting local business).
- We are doing a fundraiser with Minted.com - any holiday cards/purchase with our code gets 15% back to the PTO.
- We are currently planning and working on sponsors for our Parents' Night Out - Apres Ski theme - at Stony Creek Brewery on 2/23/24 - would any other PTOs like to donate a basket for our raffle?
- We currently have a special winter logo item in our Spiritwear shop (a tiger with ski goggles).
- We would love help getting volunteers from Hand and Polson for our events (currently looking for Science Fair and Carnival in the spring). What can we do to get this distributed to sports/clubs/more interaction? Google doc here:  
<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1MicWSKbRGSkqSAd5dleKBLGs3ja-yITExVc2hTldflw/edit>
- Brown
  - We had our first general PTO meeting on 10/26. Brown Math and LA specialists gave an overview of the curriculum for this school year. We had around 8-10 parents in attendance.
  - Our next general meeting is scheduled for January 11 at 7 pm. The focus will be on internet safety as there will be many students with new devices post holidays! At 6 pm, the school will be opened up for anyone who would like a self-guided tour of the school.
  - The PTO sponsored an in-school party on Halloween for all the grades during their respective lunch/recess waves. Professional DJ and Brown Dad, Jimmy set up on the blacktop and played dance tunes, while parent volunteers ran several different games, and all students received prizes. It was very well received by everyone and we would look to do something similar again next year.
  - We also had a great turnout for our first Family Ice Skating night. Approximately 90 people came! The facility was great to work with and we are talking about planning a family Roller Skating night in the spring when they convert the surface for the season.
  - We gave a Lyman Orchards Pumpkin Pie to our November Brown Staff raffle winner.
  - Fall fundraiser (Believe Kids, online catalog) was good amount of funds for the small amount of work required on our end.
  - We held our Holiday Shop on Friday, December 1. We did get some donations, but bought the majority of the items. We asked that students bring in \$5 and they could shop for 2 gifts. All students were able to shop regardless payment. Parents were enthusiastic to come into school to help decorate, wrap and help the students shop. It was a really fun day!
  - Spirit wear shop was reopened for holiday shopping with a new Madison paw design for shirts and sweatshirts.
  - For holiday teacher appreciation we will have a hot cocoa and cookie/treats bar set up with parent volunteer "baristas".
  - Parent Trivia Night/Fundraiser scheduled for January 24 at James Madison House.
  - Workshops still in planning process for late January into February.
  - Yearbook is underway with cover art already selected and the committee taking photos and collecting pictures from teachers, etc.
- Polson

○ November Activities:

