

## **Masterman School Advisory Council**

Meeting Minutes January 20, 2016

Attending:

Luigi Borda  
Andrea Appel  
Alfredo Practico  
Ranim Albarkawi  
Nicole Geiger  
Joanne Donahue  
Jessica Brown  
Carolyn Gray  
Alison McDowell  
Marc Meola  
Tara Hayden  
Solomon Jones  
Kim Neu  
Xiaoyan Ming

### **Minutes Approved**

Alfredo moves to approve minutes; they were seconded by Tara and approved without changes. Alison McDowell has agreed to serve as secretary for the coming year.

### **Principal's Report-Jessica Brown**

Blended learning grant for six laptop carts for chrome books. Ms. Neu mentioned here are a number of things you can't do with chrome books, programs like Garage band that are not on there.

Ms. Brown is considering doing a regular blog from the principal. She has done a rough draft. Hopes to get the first one out soon.

Masterman student Kyra Williams being honored at the SRC as student of the month.

Musical for this year is the Little Mermaid. Currently rehearsing middle and high school. Practice for the play will be a full day on Monday, President's Day.

Legacy Campaign-\$48,500 initially raised. First plan was to use for faculty laptops. District ended up receiving money to cover lap top costs to be given to use in Feb./March. New plan is to gather list of needs from departments and purchase resources that are deemed priorities by the staff with those funds.

Purchased a 3-D printer out of funds from the Lindback grant. Came today. Will be in the computer room. Sophie Millstein, student, may be a good resource on figuring it out, since she knows how to work them. New Smart Board, also funded from the Lindback grant, installed in the Physics room.

Report card conferences will be on Feb. 24-25 from 1-3pm.

Andrea noted that we need to check on the website to update the days off and early dismissal-they may not be correct in their current form. Ms. Brown said a parent, an OM coach, is working with students on the tech and design part of the website.

Water filtration is an issue that will be discussed with Home and School. There is a system in place at Northeast High School and Central. Exploring the possibility to install them here. It may involve some retrofitting of the plumbing. Estimate \$1,000 for system + \$600 for retrofit, and installation will be covered by the District. Kids won't drink the water though technically it is potable. It would be a filter where you could fill a water bottle. There could be multiple units.

### **High School Report-Alfredo Practico**

Midterms now underway-two tests and then early dismissal.

Ski trip planned for Feb. 24 at Fair Creek.

Spirit Week will no longer be a one-day field day, but will be a week. Activities in the school building will not have an athletic focus. Instead, there will be trip to Lemon Hill as a culmination of the week with the athletic events, awards ceremony, and lunch. They are hoping to get more freshman and sophomores involved. May try to require a certain number of underclassmen participate in various events. Used to be Freshman/Juniors and Sophomores/Seniors. Goal trying to get everyone more involved.

### **Middle School Report- Ranim Albarkawi**

Working on two dances. 5-6 is a carnival theme, adding on and improving last year's theme. 7-8 graders will have a Mardi Gras dance at end of April. Deciding on quantities for decorations. Pretzel sales 200 per week and that is a good number-when they ordered more the pretzels didn't all sell. February-April student council will be moving to room 203, and Ms. Zuzga will be helping. Pretzel sales will be moved there as well. Starting plans for Pennies for Leukemia. Someone volunteered to buy a US flag to put on the roof, but we are working on logistics on raising and lowering the flag.

### **Home and School Report-Tara**

No December meeting. No news to report. Upcoming dates to remember: auction on April 9, major fundraiser.

### **Alumni Basketball Event Report-Luigi Borda**

Everyone happy it was at the school itself, because it used to be in off site. A lot of people filled out forms.

Participants were excited to be involved. Organizers felt this was the most successful so far. Hard to gauge, since neither Mr. Borda nor Ms. Brown had attended before. Andrea agreed to take a look over the forms and arrange reaching out to people to follow up on what was submitted. Interest areas: senior projects, tutoring, general volunteering. We could see about breaking up the list to make calls. Ms. Brown anticipates the event will grow. Next year's plan is to honor a different player with a plaque at half time. Andrea, opportunity to showcase what is happening in the school and what is needed. We don't have alumni coming into the school very often.

### **New Items: School Vision**

Ms. Brown indicated that a preliminary discussion about school vision will take place with select staff at the Feb. 26 professional development day. The focus of this meeting will be specific to Masterman. Questions might include what is working that is successful? How can we broaden that success? What isn't so successful? What can be done? Three areas to focus on would be academic, socio-emotional, and community. Discussion would take place in the morning with time for reflection. We want a doable number of themes to frame where we are going. The school was not able to secure an outside facilitator, so we are doing it on our own instead. Follow up activities may include a survey going out. We would like to put things out to the wider community, get feedback, and incorporate that data moving forward.

Alison McDowell raised the issue that in addition to evaluating existing conditions within the school, it would also be useful to consider national trends and recent changes in education policy that could impact the degree to which we can implement our vision. Recognizing that people have limited time to participate, the idea of creating a parallel working group to explore some of these issues that could report back to the SAC was discussed. The idea of having one or two evening meetings later in the year where materials or videos could be shared and discussed was put forward. The idea of having some ongoing roundtable discussions on topics of interest to SAC members at our school and other schools was mentioned as a way of opening up dialogue.

Alfredo mentioned that if the future of neighborhood schools was threatened that it might not affect Masterman, because it was a magnet school. He also brought up that schools that are not as high-performing as Masterman are often the targets of certain interventions.

Alison brought up the fact that Masterman is a part of a school District that is in a considerable financial bind. It is impacted by stranded costs when students move from neighborhood schools to charter schools. The new push for

online education means that a significant number of students could foreseeably move over into cyber charters, since those schools do not have caps and can take students mid-year. Eventually all schools, even Masterman, would be affected due to lack of resources. Tara concurred that stranded costs relating to possible cyber charter expansion could be a real financial concern.

Solomon expressed his feelings that the primary focus of efforts around developing a school vision be centered on what our own school needs and that outreach efforts should be secondary.

Alison noted that there are two ways of looking at Masterman's situation, either as an entity unto itself or as part of a bigger system. Ms. Brown noted that it doesn't have to be one or the other and that pursuing efforts in both areas was workable. The main constraint was the ability of people to devote time to these efforts, and she felt she needed to focus on the more discrete aspects of the internal school vision at present.

Solomon was concerned that any outreach done by individuals not be done on behalf of the SAC as a whole. It was agreed that any communications or outreach done would be as individual members and not representative of the group as a whole.

Andrea noted that it might be useful to have some selected bits of background information describing some of Alison's concerns. That could be shared in advance of the Feb. 26 meeting with staff.

Alison requested that we let the community know about the working group, so that if there were parents, staff, or students interested in working on this topic, they could express interest and be in touch. Ms. Brown said that any email content would need to be reviewed first.

#### **Middle States Update-Kim Neu**

There was a one-day visit November, and the person who came was very impressed. They are recommending us for re-accreditation. Masterman is continuing to work on building community once a month. They plan to eventually do a colloquium in the spring.

#### **Non-Profit Incorporation-Andrea Appel**

No real updates. Waiting on school vision before moving forward.

#### **Misc- Ranim Albarkawi**

5<sup>th</sup> floor bathroom next to the foosball tables-is it functioning? Is does function, but it is usually locked. Ms. Brown said they use the water hook up for gardening. Ranim asked if there is a chance we could renovate the space? Use it for workshops? Store gardening stuff there?

**Next meeting, Tuesday February 9.**