

## **Masterman SAC Minutes**

March 15, 2016

Attending:

SAC Members

Jessica Brown

Louis Borda

Alison McDowell

Steve Gallagher

Andrea Appel

Kim Neu

Tara Hayden

Carolyn Gray

Alfredo Pratico

Charles Hayden

Nicole Geiger

Other Attendees:

Xiao Zhang

Marc Meola

Anne Bigler

Barbara Dallao

Kristin McKewon

Denise Connerty

Anne Bigler

Jeff Saven

Alecia Burke

Mike Carritier

Lou Bale

Rebecca Poyourow

Garth Connor

Simran Sidhu

W. Van Hugh

### **Approval of Minutes**

Lou Borda motioned, seconded by Tara Hayden-January Minutes Approved  
February Meeting cancelled due to weather

### **Principal's Report**

Budget-1 page hand out provided by Ms. Brown

1. More good than bad.
2. Extra teacher allotment-one teacher added to budget
3. Rest of budget is similar to current budget

4. 3 guidance counselors remain, 2 secretaries remain, 4 support staff/noontime aides, 4-day week school op to maintain the books (last year home and school added one more day of her service to up it from 3 days to 4 days) crucial role to maintain oversight on fundraisers, etc.
5. Anticipates Home and school still needed to raise money for extra support person.
6. Additional parent support needed to fund extra-curricular activities.
7. Home and school funds have been used in the past for supplemental purchases like library books, some online programs (Achieve 3000) and for the Young Playwrights Program, also contracted IT support to help Ms. Lerer while she is teaching.
8. We're not going backwards, but we are not back up to the prior levels that represent healthy levels of school funding.
9. She expressed appreciate to parents for their support.

Alfredo-Have you determined where the teacher will be placed?

Ms. Brown-Taking suggestions-ideas?

Students-Maybe the arts?

Ms. Brown-Interested in figuring out how to expand choices and what impacts the most students. Looking at offering some electives perhaps? An additional art teacher might be something to consider. 5, 8, and 10 graders could have an elective in art.

Barb Dallao-Issue around applying for AP classes. Is this an issue-addressing classes in high school that are consistently overbooked? Add a language?

Ms. Brown-probably not able to bring back a whole new language. Hard to manage six sections with just one teacher.

Garth Connor-Is this the budget we can count on?

Ms. Brown-For now. Yes, that is what we are going on. But budget hasn't been passed. It was what is loaded into the District system.

Another parent put in a plug for the arts. It's a dry spell. Nice to have a chance to relax and explore other talents during school day.

What would the situation be if Wolf is able to get what he wants for education in Harrisburg? What effect would that have?

Cigarette tax and real estate tax money came in and we have an additional \$75,000 in our budget. It must be spent by the end of the school year. Schools in the district got about \$60 per student.

Rebecca P.-what do staff members think about the additional teaching position?

Kim Neu-Supports putting resources into arts and/or electives. Art teacher would be a step in the right direction. We lose some 8<sup>th</sup> graders to schools that can offer more electives.

Louis Borda-He trusts the judgment of Ms. Brown. Not all teachers know what goes on outside their departments / grade levels. She has the bigger picture.

Ms. Brown: They held morning meeting with faculty members. Idea of electives being more a part of allowing kids to have choices was brought up.

Ms. Neu-that MG program was a nice option. Maybe bring that back?

Ms. Brown-That may be hard because there were five teachers dedicated to gifted programming that we no longer have.

Ms. Brown-we are very crunched for space. Ms. Neu-502 was an art room once.

Andrea Appel-What will we do with the extra \$75,000?

Ms. Brown-

- Had planned a large book order already.
- Science and Social Studies books. The Legacy Fund paid for some, but the cost was over \$100,000
- We could do the water filtration system for the whole school.
- Maybe adding a few more smartboards for rooms that don't have them, a few more projectors and bulbs that are very expensive.
- \$2,000 per department/grade for materials and books.

Denise Connerty: Art is a relief to this grind. Any way to get art for juniors? Her child is in 10<sup>th</sup> grade and would miss out. Ms. Russo the art teacher teaches the most in the school. We are trying to maximize art. Will have to figure out the rostering to see what works best.

Barb Dallao: If we ever go back to having a language in 7<sup>th</sup> grade what would it take? Or Latin?

Ms. Brown-at least two teachers if they start in 8<sup>th</sup> grade.

Parent observed language instruction once a week as it was done in 7<sup>th</sup> grade a few years back may not be that helpful.

Student-rostering, only one space at the high school level, seems like you don't have choices until 12<sup>th</sup> grade. Hard to figure out how to make it work time wise.

Ms. Neu-Masterman is requiring more than the state requires to graduate. Maybe that is where we could creation some options for electives. Issue of what can be rostered with the faculty we have.

Ms. Brown-It's a puzzle. What are our priorities, what are our restrictions? How does the roster reflect our priorities?

Ms. Brown-Last year we added a computer science class with the additional teacher, a math teacher. Talking with some teachers about doing some computer science in the middle school as well. In general a one-day a week class is less valuable for kids than having more time to go deeper. Right now we are somewhat limited in our capacity.

Marc Meola-When do you have to decide?

Ms. Brown-1<sup>st</sup> week of April.

If you have ideas email. They are also going to reach out to students.

Parent pointed out that we've lost a quarter of the FTE staff since 2011. Asked Ms. Brown what she thinks the biggest needs are?

Ms. Brown-Electives that have been taken away that help to alleviate stress from rigorous programming. Kids need an emotional break. It could help free up Ms. Kearney's roster and make the library more functional or free up teachers who are teaching seven periods a week to provide some study sessions for kids.

Rebecca P-Drama and public speaking are another type of activity that would be worthwhile and provide some outlets for social interaction and to develop more skills.

Ms. Brown: Philadelphia Young Playwrights-the school works with some students during the year. Submitting a grant to partner with Walnut St. Theater. Hope they get that.

Andrea Appel-Consider options to partner with art or language college students?

Ms. Neu / Ms. Brown-Could do partnerships, but students need certified teacher. Graduate students can help, but cannot teach classes.

Ms. Parker-As coordinator of high school gifted program they do some of these things via partnerships. What did she think of the MG program?

Adia Hayden-Program met once a week, you ask for preferences, small groups of kids who enjoyed the topics. MG field trip days. ABC workshops, you met two days a week. There were other ways to incorporate choices outside the fixed academic classes. High school may be less flexible.

Ms. Neu-It was great to have elective/gifted programming during the school day.

Tara Hayden-Two kids and had different experiences. The extras they used to have enabled kids who may not be the best in traditional subjects it gives them the chance to excel and be excited. It was a big loss. It also helped with socialization, the ABC class rotation, since it mixes up groups of students who may not spend time together otherwise.

Ms. Brown-That sounds like a fabulous program, but since then we've lost 5 teachers who did that and one person can't replace it.

Ms. Parker-She coordinates the enrichment program for the high school and oversees the senior projects. Parents are a big part of helping students find different opportunities to explore.

**High School Report:** Alfredo Pratico

Ski trip-went well, only two minor injuries

Jr/Sr basketball game yesterday

Fundraiser for Mr. Perkins' family

Play was last week

Spirit week planning in progress

High School All City concert a few weeks ago

High School decisions sent out and early acceptance college decision have gone out

**Middle School Report:** Given my Ms. Neu for Remi

Middle school dances-7/8 Mardi Gras theme in May, 5/6 Carnival dance in June

Reps for middle school council organizing for pennies for Leukemia in April

Pretzels selling out

Middle School All City Concert Wed.

**Home and School:** Tara Hayden

Auction April 9, Founder's Hall, \$30 advance \$45 at door-need support for HSA

April 30 clean up day with Comcast. For every 15 people we have out, Comcast will donate \$1,000. Need a big turnout. They welcome groups of volunteers.

Barb Dallao: Staff luncheon May 10. All donations of food and gift items welcome.

Ideal every family gives \$, brings food, and helps.

**Middle States Update:** Kim Neu

Recommended for accreditation. Workshops with kids-pairings, 20 questions. Fun bonding experience middle-high school students.

**SAC Update:** Andrea Appel

Updates about addition of specific duties. We can discuss this more in April.

**High School Enrichment / Senior Projects**

Ms. Parker

Enrichment is nice because it is cross-grade, mix of 9-12. Planning now for next year. Students generally like to sign up at the beginning of the year.

She coordinates, but it relies on a lot of help from parents and the community.

Fox Chase affiliated parent had speakers come in to talk about medical research.

Mr. Connor did environmental science.

Enrichment programs run once a week for 12 weeks. 3 sessions during the year.

Students can earn a quarter credit if they do all three.

Critical Theories-head of urban studies at UPenn/ Judge Restrepo-Law careers

Senior Projects mandated by state

Students out of school for two weeks at the end of May.

Must spend 60 hours: proposal (Feb), implementation (late May), portfolio review (June 6-parent can volunteer to do this, there are 100), presentation to panel and peers (June 7-10)

Parents are welcome to join in. More information on edline and a form for community partners: suggest sites, facilitate or organize an enrichment workshop, be a community partner. Enrichment is during 3<sup>rd</sup> period lunch or 8<sup>th</sup> period options. 20 pts for proposal, 40 pts for portfolio, 40 pts for presentation (10-15 minutes)  
nparker@philasd.org

Alfredo-His observation is that we have a really large number of student teachers this spring.