

**School Advisory Council Meeting
November 17, 2015, 4:45 p.m.
Masterman School**

In attendance were:

Jessica Brown
Bernadette Kearney
Louis Borda
Nichole Geiger
Andrea Appel
Ranim Albarkawi
Alfredo Practico
Kim Neu
Mike Neights
Steve Gallagher
Joanne Donahue
La-Toya Hackney
Charles Hayden
Alison McDowell
Yvonne Clayton
Xiaoyan Ming

Ms. Appel convened the meeting and presided over the meeting.

Joanne Donahue recorded meeting minutes.

Motion to approve last meeting's minutes.

Alfredo suggested a correction.

Minutes approved with changes.

Ms. Appel raised a question about where minutes are posted.

Ms. Brown will look into this.

Ms. Appel asked for a volunteer to be the secretary. No adults volunteered. Ranim volunteered. Is this allowed?

Ms. Brown gave the principal update, which included the following information:

The school application deadline was Friday. Masterman will receive and review applications throughout January. This is an online process. Parents will be notified by email in March.

Masterman has a new secretary, Tara McIntyre. She started last week and is new to the district.

Two students redesigned the Masterman website. The problem of the Mastermanner not being updated is being addressed. Extra pictures were added. Ms. Brown wants to add a small survey to continue to improve the site.

Senior Amnesty Week is Thanksgiving week. This allows time to work on college applications with no tests or big projects.

Vision planning – the facilitator can't do it. The announcement for a facilitator went out in-house. It will happen on the next full professional development day in February.

Grades are due tomorrow. 1st quarter is ending, 2nd beginning. Conferences are the 1st week of December: 2nd afternoon and evening, 3rd, afternoon.

The Book Fair is going on this week. Ms. Kearney shared that it has made about \$1,400.00 so far.

Family Dinner night was a success. There was a presentation about the rooftop renovations. Wall ball, shuffleboard, couches, benches, and a garden have been added.

Ms. Dowell asked about a new contract with a company called Infinite campus... Ms. Brown doesn't know anything about it.

Alfredo asked about the date of report card distribution. Ms. Brown doesn't have an exact date. Maybe November 30th.

High School Report by student representative Alfredo:

Halloween Dance – pretty good. Made a small profit. There is lots of money in the bank account.

Looking to do a Friends-giving. It will probably happen next week.

Canned food drive runs from the 1st week of Dec. through the 20th. There are bins on 1st floor. Prizes will be given.

The warm clothing drive started today.

Mr. Gallagher asked where clothes are being collected and who is in charge. NHS is collecting.

A question was asked: How much money is in the high school bank? Alfredo answered that it is about \$4,000.

There is a fundraising committee looking into how to spend the money

Middle School report given by student representative Ranim:

Trick or Treat for Unicef was successful.
Operation Christmas child toys were collected.

Ms. Appel asked if anything is ever sent home about the fundraisers? Answer - It's in the Mastermanner.

Pretzels are selling out every week.
Question: will the order be increased? Answer – maybe

Door decorating contest – Ms. Moore in 1st place, Ms. Gray 2nd place, Ms. Donahue 3rd place.
Dance committee - 7th and 8th Mardi Gras theme. There will be a photo booth. Price of tickets – 4 or 5 dollars.
Question- when? February or March

Children's Alliance – stuffed animals for kids going through legal procedures. Coming in to talk to the council.
Middle school council will have dinner with high school executive board sometime in December and discuss how to integrate fundraisers with each other.

Home and School – Ms. Hayden is not present. Mr. Hayden is here to report

There is no report.

Ms. Appel shared about a new idea that is happening - satellite meetings in various parts of the city in order to communicate more efficiently.

Ms. Brown shared that Home and School is working on a pie chart to demonstrate where the funds raised by HSA go.

Forming committees to increase alumni engagement.

Ms. Brown started off by saying there will be an alumni basketball game held at the school on the evening of Saturday, December 19th. Alumni plays alumni, money goes toward scholarships.
The question was raised: What can SAC have there to alert people to our needs: students, presentations, music?
* Ms. Geiger – our current basketball team will be there.
*Question: Has anyone been there? How big are they? Answer: no one present has attended one.

*Various ideas were discussed on providing fun and entertainment to entice the alumni association.

*Ms. Dowell asked: –What is the alumni association?

*The basketball game is the big event. There are small happy hours. Ms. Tait is the liaison.

*This is a networking opportunity. How can we build our relationship with the alumni?

*Ms. Dowell – Alumni were here when we were fully funded. Can we have a conversation about what that looked like and how we can return to that? Can we engage them in the vision? Can we have a fun and casual, yet productive and informative conversation?

* Ms. Brown asked– What careers the alumni represent?

*Ms. Appel asked – Do we have a career day? Can we involve them?

*Alumni is involved with graduation.

*Mr. Neights added that there are two alumni groups.

*The event is December 19th 5-9 Blue Dragon Holiday Classic.

*Ms. Dowell asked - Is there a movie about Masterman?

*The overall idea is to connect and engage with the alumni for future activities.

Some ideas to come out of the conversation were: capitalizing on alumni who want to reminisce – 3 favorite things about Masterman. Asking alumni if they would like to participate in career day. Keeping it simple. Knowing that these are the people we are most likely to get a yes from. We could create a simple form: Are you interested in... check off a box. Capitalize on their accomplishments.

End – let's work on creating a sheet and Mr. Borda will ask Mr. Roache about getting SAC a table at the event.

Other ideas for getting our needs met through corporations and nonprofits:

Ms. McDowell – public funding is key. Government relations-type work – we need long-lasting, sustainable funding.

Ms. Hackney – corporations can bring expertise and experience, not just funding. Hands on experience. Corporations would be happy to work with us, but would like guidance. This area (Philadelphia) is heavy on banking, technology, and pharmaceuticals.

Question: is the vision committee working on this?

Ms. Brown – yes. We don't need to wait until February to do this. Two science rooms are being renovated. Our physical science textbooks (8th grade) need to be replaced. \$20,000 - \$30,000. Home and School tried to find funds but they weren't awarded them.

Comcast is working with the Robotics Club. They donate a flat rate.

Mr. Gallagher asked a question. How do I make the contact? What do I say?

Ms. Brown answered: What do we want funded?

Ms. Hackney answered: You need a pitch. Can they sponsor a science fair? Make a presentation? They need to “brand” their donation. Websites have instructions, too.

Alfredo asked if it would be more effective if students were present.

Ms. Brown suggested that this might be a topic for a separate meeting.

Ranim asked if there is a company that can help fund new music instruments?

Ms. Brown mentioned that next year why is installing a listening and recording lab.

Ms. Appel mentioned that we want a committee to match our needs with specific corporations.

We will table this.

New Business:

1. An email was sent to the SAC committee from Susan Gobreski asking for a topic to be raised: *There should be staggered time frames for big projects and tests by the week.*

Ms. Brown responded that we have a “by the day” schedule. She hasn’t heard much feedback around assessment overlap.

Ranim doesn’t feel that it’s an 8th grade problem. She thinks it’s an issue of teacher awareness.

Alfredo feels that it is an issue. He feels that teachers will ignore the testing day or not give enough notice before a test or project.

Ms. Hackney suggested that maybe we don’t need to reinvent the wheel, just a reminder of the “by the day” schedule. Maybe the lack of school days this year is making the problem worse.

Mr. Borda suggested that we need to consider a project the same as a test. Assign a project due date the same as you would a test date.

Ms. Clayton suggested that quizzes be considered just as important, too.

Alfredo spoke about the amount of homework teachers give, saying that teachers need to remember that they are not the only teacher. Lots of homework plus lots of studying is stressful.

Ms. McDowell wondered if this has already been an ongoing discussion? We have had high stress conversations. She reminded the group that it’s a worthwhile discussion.

Ms. Appel added that some of this is for a long-term discussion. Some may be just a need for a reminder.

Ms. Brown said that she would bring this up at the next cabinet meeting. Tabled.

Ms. Kearney added that we shouldn't forget that children need time management skills. Projects are usually long-term.

2. There is an SRC meeting this Thursday.

3. If you want to change anything about the way the meetings are run, please send Andrea an email.