**Masterman School Advisory Council   
DRAFT Minutes from December 19, 2017**  
  
**Present:** Present: Jessica Brown (Principal),  Chris Taranta (PFT Building Rep), Kim Neu (Teacher), Louis Borda (Teacher), Carolyn Gray (Teacher), Alfredo Praticò (HS SGA Delegate), Darlene Leonhasson (MS SGA Delegate), Theresa Hannigan (Parent), Marc Meola (SAC Secretary, Parent), Karen Yvette Simmons (Parent), Maria Kim Yuen (SAC Organizer, Parent), Alison McDowell (Parent), Brian Peterson (Parent), Charles Barrett Adams (Parent), Judy Shelton (Parent), Laura Keane (Parent), Leslie Patterson-Tyler (Parent) Andrea Appel (SAC Facilitator, Parent)  
**Guests:** Stephanie Scott, Cameron Scott, Xi Ming, B. Dallao, Dawn Ang, Maria Ottinger, Nabeeha Parker, Sierra Street, Marjorie Brunner  
**Absent:**  Michelle Harrison (Vice Principal), Joanne Donahue (Teacher), April Gamache (HSA Rep, Parent), Rayshawn Johnson Sr. (Parent), Danielle Schuller (Parent).   
  
**Review of minutes** - Minutes of 11/14/17 accepted with no changes.

**Role of the SAC, SAC Google Folder** – SAC facilitator Andrea Appel reviewed the Role of the SAC document (located in the SAC Google folder) and referenced the School District One Pager:

"A School Advisory Council (SAC) is a peer elected, collaborative team that works to improve student achievement, effective teaching in the classroom, and parent and community engagement in the educational process."   
SACs have 3 main goals:  
- Support Academic Achievement   
- Improve School Climate   
- Strengthen Family Engagement  
For more information and resources on SACs, visit  
https://www.philasd.org/face/sac/  
  
**Transparency and Communication: 5th and 6th Grade Math Curriculum** – SAC facilitator Andrea Appel read a statement about 5th and 6th grade math curriculum changes (located in SAC Google folder) that noted that Masterman parents approached SAC officers with questions about the changes in math curriculum and that the changes were implemented without SAC involvement.  The topic was opened for discussion.

High School Student Government Association delegate Alfredo Pratico read a prepared statement from HS SG (submitted to Google folder) which opposed changes to the curriculum and advocated that changes in school curriculum be brought to the SAC.  Principal Jessica Brown responded by referencing conversations that were held over the past year between teachers, the principal, and the district math chair about concern around gaps being noticed in students making the jump from 4th to 6th grade curriculum and concern that these gaps in procedural and conceptual skills are being continued when students get to 7th grade. The changes in math curriculum are about making sure foundational concepts are covered so that students get to 7th grade prepared. The decision was made by careful consideration of data including formative and summative assessments, grades, standardized test scores.  Moving forward there will be weekly planning sessions working closely with a math coach from the district. It was stressed that Masterman is not losing an advanced curriculum and is in no way lowering standards or lowering expectations.

A discussion ensued with questions, answers, suggestions, and comments. SAC facilitator Andrea Appel summarized the discussion:   
1.    For the current new math book, Ms Brown is going to make sure we are using all the resources available.   
2.    For this math curriculum issue, SAC will be involved and in the loop.  
3.    Going forward, conversations about changes in curriculum and long term data driven issues are issues that should be brought to the SAC for input before final decisions are made.   
   
**Diversity Committee**   
SAC parent member Karen Simmons reported that the SAC Diversity Committee met on Dec 7 and plan to meet monthly. Everyone is welcome. Next meeting is January 10 in the Library at 4:00. As a subcommittee of the SAC decisions will be referred to and voted on at the SAC.  
Goals and plans include:

-Increase number of Black and Hispanic teachers  
-Use School parent resources to add diversity to the teaching and classroom experience.  
-Make diversity and inclusion a part of all classes and programming  
-Define a zero tolerance atmosphere  
-Create a confidential way to report incidents to one high level administrator who is responsible and accountable  
-Get an external facilitator (for the students to discuss and address issues of race in an open and safe environment, etc.-possibly Howard Stevenson)  
-Staff In-Service training scheduled for Friday, April 27th.   
-Karen Simmons and Charles Barrett Adams will attend the African American Cultural Committee (a high school student club) meeting on Wednesday, December 20th

Outstanding Information Request to Ms. Brown:  
-Student and Staff Demographics (raw numbers and percentages), by Race and Sex for the 5  year period.   
                -5th Grade Applicants  
                -Middle School and High School  
                -Applied and Accepted  
                -Applied and Not Accepted  
                -Accepted and Came  
                -Accepted and Declined  
Homework – Read Pew study of the city schools will be uploaded to the Google folder.

**Principal's Report** - Jessica Brown (Principal)    
Early decisions on colleges came in, including a Drexel Liberty Scholarship (full scholarship to Drexel).

Invited speakers from Temple University spoke about anxiety.   
Looking at getting a maker space so that students can make things.

**High School Report** - Alfredo Praticò (HS SGA Delegate) – The Thanksgiving potluck happened. School store is open. High school midterms are the 3rd week of January. For first time the high school held a recognition assembly to honor all student achievements during the fall sports season. Early Decision/ Action decisions released. January first deadline for regular college applications.

**Middle School Report** - Darlene Leohansson (MS SGA Delegate) –  Pretzels are continually being sold in room 208 every Tuesday for $.50. National Junior Honor Society (NJHS) was able to collect over 1,000 cans for a homeless shelter. Middle School Winter Concert was Thurs., Dec. 14, with a full house. MS All City Choir Performance was Dec. 5 at TPAC. MS All City Orchestra and Band auditions were in Dec., with results of seatings. 8th graders are wrapping up auditions and interviews for high school applications. Notified about high school acceptances in January.

**HSA Report** - none

**Jan 16, 2018** is the next SAC meeting.

Meeting adjourned.   
  
Submitted, Marc Meola, Secretary