Julia R. Masterman School Advisory Council Meeting

DRAFT Minutes from June 5, 2018

Present: Jessica Brown (Principal), Michelle Harrison (Vice Principal), Chris Taranta (PFT Building Rep), Kim Neu (Teacher), Carolyn Gray (Teacher), Joanne Donahue (Teacher), Barbara Dallao (HSA Rep, newly elected Parent), Alfredo Praticò (HS SGA Delegate), Darlene Leohansson (MS SGA Delegate), Rayshawn Johnson Sr. (Parent), Marc Meola (SAC Secretary, and newly re-elected Parent), Maria Kim Yuen (SAC Organizer, and newly re-elected Parent), Brian Peterson (Parent), Charles Barrett Adams (Parent), Judy Shelton (Parent), Leslie Patterson-Tyler (Parent), Andrea Appel (SAC Facilitator, Parent)

Newly Elected SAC members: Jane Lim-Shah (Parent), Mark Bowerman (Parent), Ann Pomerantz (Parent), Brian Leventhal (Parent), Barbara Dallao (Parent).

Guests: Michal Leventhal, Lauren Rowland (FACE), Shannon O’Brien (FACE), Xi Ming

Absent: Lou Borda, (Teacher), Theresa Hannigan (Parent), Danielle Schuller (Parent), Karen Yvette Simmons (Parent), Laura Keane (Parent), Alison McDowell (Parent),

Newly elected (Jane Lim Shaw, Barbara Dallao, Anne Pomerantz, Brian Leventhal, Mark Bowerman) and newly re-elected (Marc Meola, Maria Kim Yuen) parent members of the SAC-- introduced themselves. The terms for these members are August 2018 to June 2020. (The parent members whose terms are 2017-2019 are Laura Keane, Alison McDowell, Brian Peterson, Charles Barrett Adams, Judy Shelton, Leslie Patterson-Tyler, Andrea Appel. Staff and student members are listed above under “Present” or “Absent” and are elected or selected by different processes.)

Minutes – Approved with no changes

Principal Report – Environmental – Ms. Brown reached out to Francine Lock and another unnamed person in the School District after the expose (Inquirer/Daily News Toxic City/Sick Schools) on school environmental conditions. They responded quickly and performed an evaluation of the school. They want to work as a team, they want to be transparent, and they want to come to SAC to answer any questions either in person or by email. They did not find any hazards associated with asbestos. Mold and lead paint have yet to be evaluated.

Other updates. Laps for education fundraiser. Award ceremonies. Graduation for high school and move up day for Middle School.

A math teacher has been hired. He will fill the place of Mr. Neights. He has been a teacher at the Philadelphia School, is a Masterman alum, and studied undergrad at Tufts and grad at UPenn. The search committees are still working on hiring teachers in Biology and English. After June 1, we can no longer hire school district teachers. If we don’t find anyone there will be a vacancy and we will have a substitute. We had sabbaticals this year, not vacancies. Any vacancy you get a substitute. If there is no teacher hired over the summer and the spots are filled with substitutes then the recommendations for AP teachers (at least three years of experience and recommended AP certification) would not apply. We would be assigned a substitute. We have hired staff in the summer. The teachers who are leaving are Neights, Monaghan, and Solis Cohen. The recruitment office has their own recruiting strategies.

Counselors put together highlights of college acceptances. The college acceptances will be posted on the website. Rough notes of college acceptances include: Bates, Brown, Bucknell, Harvard, Princeton…Yale. 107 in senior class. 34 students into UPenn, 13 to Temple 13 to Drexel, 8 at Pitt. 100% will attend college but one gap year. 19 for early decision, $1.4 million merit, 4.0 or higher. A lot of sports championships. Today the school received 2 citations from city council; one for boys soccer and one for mock trial in AP government.

Questions and Answers: Update on math curriculum: grades have improved, teachers had very positive feedback. It is too early to look at hard data, it usually takes 3 years. Next year we will continue to have a math coach. Nothing has changed in terms of the 7th and 8th grade algebra 1 curriculum.

Masterman fell to #86 in the 2018 US News and World Report national rankings of high schools, down from #51 in 2017 and #46 in 2016. In the state rankings Masterman fell to #2 from #1.

Principal Brown responded – rankings fluctuate, it’s based on SAT scores, student-teacher ratio, doesn’t necessarily measure student learning. We can look at school curriculum. I’m not worried that we are #2.

Middle School Report. 5th and 6th grade dance, concert, talent show. End of year trip. The question was raised about lining up by gender for move up day.

High school report – finals, cookies, 6:00 is college night, last day is Tuesday, the high school is having a picnic, Elections happened for each class.

HSA report – this Thursday 6-8 final HAS meeting to discuss the budget and feedback from the strategic planning meeting. HSA sponsors both middle and high school celebrations. Update on the rooftop – rooftop is looking for morning volunteers for watering. President Judy Mester requested a motion that the SAC form a security committee.

Family and Community Engagement (FACE) presentation – Lauren Rowland and Shannon O’Brien from the School District office of FACE presented a history of School Advisory Councils in the District. A timeline of history of school advisory councils was distributed. SACs have been around for a decade or so. Chicago was well known for SAC groups. In Chicago they can make decisions for the building. In 2010, SACs in Philadelphia were more of a watchdog and accountability group, along the lines of, “let’s make sure these charter schools are doing what they are supposed to be doing.” With our new model starting in 2016 we are emphasizing collaboration, working together to improve the school. There are no district wide bylaws for SAC. An example of what you could put in your bylaws are bylaws from CW Henry. Other handouts included Policy 920, Outline of SAC meeting agenda.

A discussion and question and answer period ensued. Rough notes on this discussion follow.

Members were urged to visit the section of the FACE website devoted to SACs <https://www.philasd.org/face/sac/> and read the many materials devoted to SACs, such as the SAC Constitution, FAQs, Resources and Training Materials. Training on Budgets was requested.

Who is supposed to keep the secruity clearances? A locked cabinet in the office. Any parent who volunteers at all needs full clearances. But parents can volunteer up to two times without clearances. District policy – 5 pieces of paperwork on file. Volunteer code of conduct that’s not controversial. Child abuse history, FBI background check, certificate of orientation completion. Those 5 papers are non-negotiable. There’s been a grandfathered rule in the policy. It is up to the principal to make it more strict. Grandfathered is an asterisk. Who is the person who says, you don’t have your clearances? The principal. SDP is moving toward an online portal. The principal is legally responsible. Q. what does the district do to support parents to get clearances. Child abuse and something else is free for volunteers.

Go through the FACE website.

https://www.philasd.org/face/volunteer/

The FBI background check with fingerprinting does cost money. The principal does have discretion to let parents to volunteer with a supervisor present. District is committed to making sure it does not become a problem for undocumented. A lot of schools do volunteer banks at the beginning of the year. Is your office available to help a school implement a volunteer bank? Are there people in your office who can help set up a system? Yes. Not for all parents, but for all parents/caretakers who want to volunteer. Point parents/caretakers to the FACE web site. It’s a state system. ETA for the portal? Do not send any type of clearances over email. New student orientation good time to promote the clearances. Example – I’m coming in for a class trip – how does it work? Right now, people come in and go right to the auditorium. Different schools have different way of doing things.

There was a brief discussion of possible areas for the SAC to continue working on next year, including bylaws, budget, diversity, and alumni.

Meeting adjourned.