

Masterman School Advisory Council

October SAC Meeting Minutes 10.15.19

- **Roll Call**
- **Agenda –**
 - Moving forward, will use Robert’s rule of order.
- **SAC Officers for 2019-2020**
 - Secretary – Meena Ramakrishnan nominated. No other nominees, so approved.
- **September minutes approved.**
- **Showcase Presentation**
 - Showcase of instructional programming: a Masterman teacher will present at SAC meetings for about 20 min moving forward. A concern was raised about having enough time for SAC Committees to report out. The showcase presentations might try to align with the work of the Teaching & Education Committee.
 - Joe Alberti, 6th grade teacher, presented on “Genius Hour,” based on the core values of inquiry, research, collaboration, presentation and reflection. Genius Hour is asynchronous, student-driven, project-based learning that Dr. Alberti is incorporating into his 6th grade literacy curriculum. It is an idea taken from tech companies’ practice of “20% time” spent on free inquiry.
 - This strategy has been shared with other 6th grade teachers during **common planning time** and **grade group meetings**. Teachers can incorporate it as they see fit, and so far 2 other teachers are integrating aspects of “Genius Hour.”
 - A question was asked about quantifying the process and outcome measures that can help inform the uptake of a new approach.
 - A question was raised about the balance of teacher autonomy and synchronicity around grade-level core values. There is not a set of core values or approach, per Ms. Brown. This year, Masterman staff have implemented a common planning time as per the Philadelphia School District’s mandate. Currently, 7-12th grade teachers meet by content area, and 5th & 6th teachers meet by grade level once a week. A concern was raised about disparate educational experiences that tend to increase over the course of Masterman, especially in higher grades. The expectation is common planning time will enhance instructional cohesion.
 - Ms. Brown expressed interest in the idea of defining school-wide core values; this may be an idea that the SAC Teaching & Education committee takes up.
- **Updates from Principal Brown**
 - PSAT/SAT exams on 10/16
 - National Merit Scholars and National Honor Society meetings coming up
 - One Book One Masterman: “The Boy who Harnessed the Wind”
 - New parent dinner: a \$1000 grant has been awarded to SAC to welcome families and build a sense of community. The idea was raised if this can be planned in conjunction with Parent Teacher Conferences or with another well-attended event, i.e. the Middle School concert. Ms. Brown and the school counselors are planning to make themselves available to answer questions new parents may have at this event.
 - Ms. Brown will consider options for timing and calendar of events. A committee will likely need to be convened to plan this event.

- Maker Space: Cody Swan (PHENND Vista) gave an update. Mr. Swan is working with a consultant from SLA Beeber. He has obtained Adobe illustrator and cloud licenses. Mr. Swan is creating an enrichment class for a design course and is approaching this project in “small steps.”
- **Sub-Committees**
 - **Student Health and Wellness** - Anne Pomerantz, chair
 - Next meeting October 29, 2019 at 4:45 in Room 101 or 103.
 - **Security** - Brian Leventhal, chair
 - Met with Assistant Principals. This year, security began to scan guests at Open House events.
 - **Teaching and Learning** – Joanne Donahue, chair
 - Need to develop a list of members. Ms. Gray expressed an interest to serve on this committee.
 - **Diversity, Equity and Inclusion** - Principal Brown, chair
 - Principal to include routine updates
- **HSA updates**
 - HSA newsletter has been revamped this year.
 - SAC is encouraged to submit meeting announcements and use for marketing/outreach
- **Environment**
 - Is there some way to share information about the environmental survey by having representatives from the School District’s Environmental team present at a SAC or parent meeting?
Environmental assessments should be completed every 6 months at every public school to check for asbestos, lead and mold. If you see something of concern you can report it at any time. Binders of information should be available, but they have not been updated. Ms. Brown would like to clarify communication points with Environment. Ms. Brown will contact them about attending the November 2019 SAC to report out.
- **Meeting adjourned at 6:10.**
- **Next meeting will be on November 19.**
- **Attendance list**

Parents/Family	Present (P) or Absent (A)
Andrea Appel	A
Maria Beatty	A
Mark Bowerman	P
Barbara Dallao	P
Jeanette Dumas	A
Liza Herzog	P
Brian Leventhal	P
Maggie Li	P
Jane Lim	A
Alison McDowell	A

Marc Meola	A
Leslie Patterson-Tyler	A
Anne Pomerantz	P
Meena Ramakrishnan	P
Judy Shelton	P
Maria Kim Yuen	A
Total	8/16

School Staff	Present (P) or Absent (A)
Jessica Brown, Principal	P
Lou Borda, Teacher	A
Tonya Broussard, Asst. Principal	P
Joanne Donahue, Teacher	P
Carolyn Gray, Teacher	P
Michelle Harrison, Asst. Principal	P
Elana Solomon, Teacher	A
Nichole Geiger, Teacher	A
Total	5/8

Students and Community Members	Present (P) or Absent (A)
Cody Swan (VISTA)	P
Total	1/1
Guests – Joe Alberti	
Quorum	
Total	14/25