

**JR Masterman SAC
March 2023 Meeting Minutes
March 15, 2023 - 6:00pm**

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1. Welcome- From the Facilitator for March 15, 2023

A. Roll call of SAC members:

| <i>Parent Members</i> | | <i>Admin & Staff</i> | | <i>Community</i> | | <i>Students</i> | |
|-----------------------|---|--------------------------|---|--------------------|---|-------------------|---|
| Asher Chancey | P | Dr. Payne | P | Marissa Robinson | P | Maya Salzman (HS) | P |
| Maryelis Santiago | A | Ms. Lennon | P | Mitchell Orenstein | P | Maya N (MS) | P |
| Ester Roche-Curet | P | Ms. Harrison | A | Carolotta Stafford | P | | |
| Neha Vapiwala | P | Ms. Solomon | P | Lori Galiano | P | | |
| Kristine Ho | A | Ms. Gray | P | Victoria Trower | P | | |
| Marte Smith | P | Ms. Neu | P | | | | |
| Maggie Li | A | Ms. Geiger | P | | | | |
| VACANT | | Dr. Alberti | P | | | | |

B. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

Motion to Pass: Ester Roche-Curet Second: Neha Vapiwala Vote: Approved

2. Old Business

A. Masterman Mission and Vision Working Group

- Working group open to the community to discuss mission & vision
- At pre-SAC planning meeting, suggestion to hold off the group due to various changes currently in-flux at the school ie bell schedule, curriculum, etc.
- Suggestion to keep current mission & vision and revisit at another time.
 - Parent question Neha will raise to Principal: Will the current mission & vision be put back on website?
- When the discussion occurs, committee plans to use the middle schools accreditation model to revisit mission and vision.

B. Spring Elections

1. FACE Information Session in March “What is SAC?”
 - Lori available to offer a second session on April 2nd
2. Elections Open Up in March, Close in April
 - 6-7 parent seats need to be filled
 - [SAC application](#) available
 - Applications go to FACE office, then to Lori FACE liaison to confirm enrollment, and then will create ballot of all valid applicants
 - Applications open until next SAC meeting (April 12th)

C. **Bylaws Amendment - Move Officers Elections Up from Fall to Spring**

Motion to Pass: Neha Vapiwala

Second: Elana Solomon

Vote: Approved

- Elana Solomon will write up the amendment for the bylaws in time for April meeting
- Parent suggestion to provide a liaison role to new members. Asher confirmed that current SAC members will support new SAC members through the transition.

3. **New Business**

A. **School Security After Hours and at School Events**

- There was no school security office for Saturday night performance of musical because the district could not staff the request from the school (approximately 800 people at the event).
- Request from admin for community to be present at SDP meetings regarding safety issues and to petition for additional security support for the school.
- District allocates number of School Safety Officers based on number of serious incidents at the school. Masterman is allocated only 1 School Safety Officer due to low incidence rate at the school.
 - Concern raised that one officer is insufficient for a school of 1200 students.
 - SSO is not armed; provided extensive training from SDP; many have law enforcement background but not required. [Read more here.](#)
- Request for Safety committee to examine this issue.

B. **Procedures for Pick Up and Drop Off / Flyer**

- Flyers cover best practices & procedures for pick-up and drop-off
- Flyers are ready and translated.
 - Plan to share via portal & website
 - Paper copies may be an option

C. **Health & Wellness - Mindfulness, App from the School District**

- Currently looking for mindfulness program
 - Innerstrength mindfulness app available for students; paid by district
 - Committee is also considering a Penn program

D. **School Budget Meeting**

- See administration report
- From group discussion:
 - Reduction in teaching staff; request for Climate Manager.
 - Lost of 1 PE teacher (Reducing from 4 to 3)
 - Reduce world languages teachers from 4 to 3
 - Add 1 or 2 SBTL
 - Add Climate Manager

E. **8 Period vs. 7 Period Topic**

- Questions & concerns from SAC meeting:
 - Building committee negotiate with administration by May 25th about schedule challenges
 - GAMP & Carver have 8 period days
 - Before COVID, there were very vibrant options for students during the options period. Examples of past courses-Architecture, Shakespeare, Philosophy, Middle Eastern Politics and more. Sometimes taught by teachers and sometimes by community members and parents. There was a staff member dedicated to

organizing this time. There doesn't seem to be a push from administration to reinstitute these opportunities. Why isn't this being explored?

- Community would like to see teacher feedback on schedule change.
- Many Masterman students are above grade level in ELA & Math. The instructional times required by the district were not enforced in Masterman in the past. If the students are excelling, why the need to change?
- Has the administration considered the negative impact of the proposed changes to foreign language pathway for Masterman HS students when they apply to selective colleges? If MS students receive one year of French, and then HS students are only required to take two years of Spanish (with an option to take AP Spanish w/o a Spanish 3 level offered) they will be at a disadvantage when applying to selective colleges, including Ivy League schools, which encourage applicants to take 3 or more. Examples: Harvard encourages 4 years, Stanford prefers 3 or more, colleges seek students with mastery in one language rather than a cursory knowledge of numerous languages - as would be the case of the Masterman proposed pathway of 1 year of French and 2 years of Spanish.
- **Input:** Can there be another meeting for budget/schedule at a later time? Is the schedule decision finalized or will input be used to make a decision? What say does the building committee and PFT have on the budget and schedule changes? How will parent input and questions be solicited? Will there be Google Form? Will there be follow-up to questions and concerns? Do teachers agree with these changes? How was feedback from teachers collected, and when will it be shared with the community?
- **Understanding:** Why is the change necessary? How will the change resolve the issues? What is the requirement and why now? Is the concern about instructional minutes a current mandate from SDP? What will take place in extended advisory? Is there a benefit to this change for the middle school, or is the MS just accommodating a decision made for the high school? How does schedule change impact budget? If yes, we want to see the impact and see the different budgets.
- **Enrichment classes:** How are enrichment classes & teachers effected by schedule change? Will there be a reduction of instructional time students receive in enrichment classes including art, music, digital literacy, library and Physical education? Will each grade in middle school have at least 1 period a week of art, music, digital literacy, library, gym, health? Will every grade in middle school have art and music and gym?
- **Highschool 8th period:** How will students receive the current programming they have during 8th period ie tutoring, lessons, participate in external programming? Students in sports will miss instructional time in new schedule. Why not explore providing options for high school during 8th period? Can the school hire someone or provide a staff member time to organize as was done in the past?

4. Reports

- A. **Administration Report - Dr. Payne/Ms. Harrison/Ms. Lennon**
 - Third marking period closing March 24th; Report card conferences 29th-31st
 - Sign-up genius
 - Budget
 - Received March 6th

- School network meeting, meeting with SAC Exec, meeting with HSA exec have taken place
- Staff meeting & community meeting will be March 16th at 5pm via Zoom
- Submission of budget is due March 24th
- Community meeting will discuss both bell schedule for next school and the budget
- Masterman Transition Committee - committee will start meeting to discuss supporting students & families joining the school
- Schedule changes
 - Currently schedule is 8 periods; Shift to 7 periods with an extended advisory at beginning of the day
 - For the high school, the 8th period was a options period where students could select various activities
 - Since COVID much of the programming that was available is no longer in place.
 - Many students were leaving the school early
 - Administration worried about accountability/monitoring of these students
 - High school students are now in auditorium or cafeteria with teacher monitoring
 - Change will provide extended advisory to accommodate some of the things currently occurring during 8th period (ie tutoring)
- B. **FACE** - presented by Victoria Trower on behalf of Lori Galiano
 - Available to host What is SAC workshop April 2nd
 - Offering to also host Volunteer Orientation workshop
 - Upcoming [FACT Academy workshops](#) (held virtually with 10am & 6pm sessions available):
 - Understanding addiction
 - Free help for filing taxes & benefits
- C. **HSA Report** - Mitchell Orenstein
 - Auction is Saturday 3/18
 - Tickets ar \$50 in advance, \$60 at the door; Staff & teachers are free
 - Fundraising for various school projects, clubs, and activities
- D. **Alumni Report**
 - No report
- E. **Student Rep Reports**
 1. **High School** - Maya Salzman -
 - Presented the student wellness survey results to student body in advisory; included discussion questions (both in presentation and via google form) to gather more feedback on survey
 - Talent show took place on March 10th
 - HS Spirit Week competition starting March 24th
 - Lip Sync battles & day of activities
 - Week of competitions
 2. **Middle School** - Maya Nadaru (new representative)
 - Planning for a club fair for MS students to learn about different options available to them and create connections
 - End of Year Spirit Week
- F. **Committee Reports**
 1. **Diversity Equity and Inclusion** -

- SpeakUp event took place virtually and was a success. Big thank you to students that helped with the topics.
 - Trip to Washington DC to tour Howard University and visit the African American History Museum on March 24th
 - Concluded the door decorated contest centered around Black Lives Matter Guiding Principles
 - Starting a middle school African American Culture Committee; first meeting March 23rd
 - Inviting presenters for a Black Male Affinity Group at the school
 - Working with Girls Justice League to provide students with information for Women's History Month
2. **Health and Wellness -**
 - Currently looking for mindfulness program
 - Innerstrength mindfulness app available for students; paid by district
 - Considering a Penn program
 - WOAR will be presenting to students
 - Flyers will be sent to parents ahead of presentation
 - Examining possible ways to alleviate upcoming student testing stress due to PSSAs, Keystones, Finals, and AP tests.
 3. **Teaching and Learning -**
 - Ms. Neu gathered student input on teaching and learning. Many responses indicated that many of the things she asked were teacher dependent.
 4. **Climate and Culture**
 - No report
 5. **Safety and Facilities-**
 - See new business
 - 3 year building survey was recently completed by an external agency. Report is not yet ready.
 6. **Ad Hoc Committee for High School Admissions**
 - No report

5. ***Questions - Topics for Discussion***

6. ***Questions or Comments for SAC?***

Email us at jrmastermansac@gmail.com

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