

MADISON MIDDLE SCHOOL

PTA Meeting Minutes

Jan 9, 2008 Meeting Called to Order at 7:35 pm.

In attendance: Valerie Forshaw, Peter Sullivan, Allison Karkut, Cindy Katske, Susan Gilson, Linda Bartolucci, Theresa Bulan, Regina Dougherty, Kathy Garzillo, Karin Martel, Kathy Pekera, Diane Pikikero, Cathy Hallas, Claire Weitzman

Secretary's Report: Motion made by Linda Bartolucci to dispense with reading of minutes, seconded by Theresa Bulan, unanimously accepted. One change noted, misspelling of Kathy Pekera's last name on bottom of Page 2. Nov Minutes were approved unanimously with this change.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT: Mrs. Forshaw

Pig Races & Pep Rally was on Nov 20 with the THS Color Guard – on the new bleachers! Only 5 pigs this year.

Toys for Tots – Madison raised over \$8,000, an incredible amount of money, which was spent on toys at Wal-Mart. Entire foyer was filled. Marines picked up all toys for distribution. **Great job!**

Visitation Day & Teacher Conferences – Parents came on Visitation day and Conference slots were filled. Mrs. Forshaw reiterated that Madison welcomes parent communication **ALL YEAR LONG** and not just during scheduled times. Team meetings are available by appointment and just a phone call or email away. Contact your child's team leader to schedule one. The **MONTHLY CALENDAR** is now available on the main page of the Madison Website for parents to check.

Holiday Concerts – wonderful! Amazing to see the difference from the elementary school concerts! Did something new this year, had concerts for entire student body just before the December break. Mrs. Forshaw believes it is important for the students to showcase their talents to each other. This may encourage 6th graders to become more involved in next two years.

Staff Changes – Mrs. Mellon, math teacher left. She is replaced by Nicole Destadio from Newtown for 6 Grade Team 3. Lena Payne is on Maternity leave, she had a baby boy. Liz O'Hagan will be starting her Maternity leave – Fri. is her last day.

Ski Club – has begun with first trip to Mt. Southington.

Basketball – Boys and Girls teams are both 4 and 1.

½ Way thru the Second Semester already!! Progress reports coming end of Jan.

8th Grade Parent Breakfasts – one held yesterday and one being held tomorrow. 35 parents attended the first one. Jan 28 & Jan 30, the HS Counselors will come to meet the 8 grade children by teams to begin their transition.

March is CMT Month – March 3 is a practice CMT. Tests will run from March 4 – 18 with one test per day lasting 45 – 90 minutes. CMT prep help has already begun after school on Wednesdays. Call Robbie Weiner or Gina Zuk if you feel your child needs this help. This is the first year that Science will be a part of the testing for Grades 5 & 8.

ASST. PRINCIPAL'S REPORT: Peter Sullivan:

Security - New Buzzer System was installed on Monday. It has been keeping Marcella hopping! Staff never realized just how many people do come into the school every day! Valerie noted that the **Feb. 5 CT primary elections** will bring many people to the school if Iowa and NH are any indication. We will have Sam and a police officer on premises all day. We are required to give voters access to bathrooms and telephones.

Budget: Ralph lassogna requested an 8.69% increase which was already reduced by the Board of Education to 7.57%. The bad news is that we do not have a good political climate; the good news is that what we requested in terms of Reading and Math strategy help is still in the proposed budget. Cindy Katske elaborated further that approx 6% of the proposed increase is to maintain the status quo and reflects the rising cost of fuel and contractual salary increases. If the budget is cut below the 6%, it will result in a loss of staff! The PTA will e-mail notices as the process goes on. We may need parent support at the budget meetings.

FACULTY REP REPORT: Allison Karkut reported that she was amazed at how much the students knew at the 6th Grade Geography Bee. Jeff Elbaum was the winner. Staff and students are looking forward to the Franklin Institutes visit and activities on Feb. 7. Otherwise, everyone is back in the groove after the holiday break.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Theresa Bulan reported. Our balance as of 12/31/2007 is:

Checking:	\$6,725.25
Savings:	46, 105.80
Total Accounts:	\$52,831.05

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Recent Events:

Magazine Drive – Several parents reported that customers are calling them to report receiving duplicate offers to purchase magazines even after they initially sent in an order.

Upcoming Events:

MOSCOW NIGHTS and GOLDEN GATES – Susan Gilson reported that this group of Russian folk singers/dancers is performing in a cultural program at the Trumbull Elementary schools this week with an additional performance open to the general public on Thurs. night Jan 10 at 7 pm at Madison. Several families are hosting the adults & children for the week. Several of the parents saw them perform and were amazed at their poise, strength and talent. Tickets are \$5 per person with a max of \$20 per family with the proceeds supporting Russian orphanages. This is being sponsored by the PTA, TAY and the Rotary Club.

TPAUD – PTA Council meeting on Jan. 28 at Trumbull High in the Senior Lounge. They will present, for the first time publicly, the results of the surveys done last year by parents and teens on Underage Drinking. Parents need to be aware of this information to safeguard our kids and to keep on top of this community wide problem. It will be filmed and shown on Ch. 17.

Book Fair - taking place Feb 5 & 6 (during primary election day!!) Robbie Weiner reads several books and gives book-talks to the children to raise their interest and awareness. The library gains a percentage of the sales to purchase new books.

Valentines Day Dance – coming up on Feb. 8

Jeopardy – coming up on Feb. 15

Other Committee Reports:

School Apparel: We are trying to generate more orders with another round of order forms being sent home. Please ask your kids for them. A discussion took place about it not being “cool” to wear. However, it is curious how kids do wear their elementary school spirit wear at Madison!! Go figure! A suggestion was made to change the design for next year to a large “M” for Madison on the back of the shirts similar to the “T” that is used at the HS. It was also suggested that the emphasis for this should be made to the 6th Graders at the Aug. Pizza Orientation Party.

Ice Cream Social – still a nutritional issue. We are only having one this year instead of two.

Reflections – Kathy Pekera reported that the response this year was extremely disappointing with only 14 entries made by 12 students at Madison. Feedback has been that the Topic of “I Can Make a Difference By” was difficult for the students to get a handle on. Also it is a difficult time of year with the holidays. Participation was also low at the HS with 8 entries and 12 at Hillcrest.

New Business:

Nominating Committee – Linda Bartolucci made a motion to propose Kathy Pekera, Wendy Mezzanotte, and Monica Welch for this years Nominating Committee; seconded by Kathy Garzillo, unanimously approved.

International Dinner - Karin Martel brought up a request made by Naila Haroon for the purchase of 25 flags at the cost of \$10 each and \$50 for posters. This money can come from the line item allocated for Gifts to School since they could be used for various cultural displays and activities for years to come. Theresa Bulan made a motion to approve this expenditure; seconded by Susan Gilson; unanimously approved.

Meeting Adjourned: 8:40 p.m.

Next Meetings: March 5, 2008 at 7:30 p.m.

May 7, 2008 at 7:30 p.m.