

MADISON MIDDLE SCHOOL

PTA Meeting Minutes

Jan. 21, 2009 Meeting Called to Order at 7:40 pm.

In attendance: Valerie Forshaw, Peter Sullivan, Allison Karkut, Mike Curry, Lori Hayes-O'Brien, Susan Gilson, Regina Dougherty, Linda Bartolucci, Olga Monteiro, Theresa Bulan, Claire Weitzman, Kathy Garzillo, Kathy Pekera, Cory DeWeese, Dodi Hesse, Jannise Castaldi, Jill Bohn, Wendy Mezzanotte.

Secretary's Report: Motion made by Cory DeWeese to dispense with reading of minutes, seconded by Linda Bartolucci, unanimously approved. Motion to accept minutes was made by Wendy Mezzanotte, seconded by Kathy Garzillo, unanimously approved.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT: Mrs. Forshaw

Progress Reports: will go out next Friday. We are half-way thru the second Trimester already. It's been a great year so far.

Community Help: Students have made quite an impact in the various drives held such as Toys for Tots, Soup Bowls for Haiti, Turkey Drives, Coat Drive for THS and National Junior Honor Society to name a few. Even though times are tough economically, people are still giving to help others.

Concert Series and Winter Assembly: Went very smoothly even though there was a disqualification of one of the pigs in the pig race after it was discovered that it was "genetically engineered" by a Science teacher's homeroom!

Trumbull Cares: Mrs. Miller received a grant for a 12 week program to help students with their organizational and study skills. This will primarily be used to help sixth graders but teachers will work to identify other students who may benefit.

Girls & Boys Basketball: Girls are 6-1 and boys are 3-4 so far this season..

Transitions: Meetings have begun for current 5th and 8th graders as they begin to transition into and out of Madison.

Franklin Institute: Coming in Feb with a program which will reinforce the new Science strands of the CMT tests. CMTs will be March 3 – 18.

ASSISTANT PRINCIPALS REPORT: Madison students participated in the **Geography Bee** and the questions were hard. The **Spelling Bee** is coming up in February with Peter being a judge. **Knowledge Masters** had their first round competition and came in 65th out of 900! **We the People** continues to prepare and will be meeting after school for their competition about constitutional knowledge and its application.

FACULTY REP REPORT: Allison Karkut and Mike Curry. Allison spent her vacation in Antarctica and took the opportunity to challenge the students back home with plotting her trip by sending them coordinates. There have been a lot of breaks in routine with the snow storms and delayed openings. The Presidential Election and Inauguration held the kids interest and focus as they got to see in action what they have been learning about in government. Mike shared that a lot of CMT prep for 8 Graders is taking place with many reviews.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Account balances as of 12/31/2008:

Checking: \$4404.00

Savings: \$44,861.52

Total: \$49,265.52

Theresa Bulan reported that she's waiting for the big bill on the Magazine Drive.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Presidents Report: Lori Hayes-O'Brien and Susan Gilson

THS Marching Band & Inauguration: Lori reported that the busses returned to Trumbull tonight with a police escort. There was an article in the paper today and students and parents who went shared their experiences via a blog.

8th Grade "Making Positive Choices" - Committee is seeking a new speaker this year. Please ask your friends in other towns who they invite to speak.

PTA Council: Linda Bartolucci reported that on Monday, Jan 26 the PTA council will host three guest speakers. The **Board of Ed** representative will explain the 2009-2010 budget they have approved and passed on to the First Selectman and will take questions. An **Ace Foundation** rep will be looking for more parent involvement and to promote increased awareness of their mission. And a rep from the **Trumbull Technology Foundation** will be looking to renew activities and expand community involvement with their grant selection process.

It was also noted that the dates of the Board of Ed meetings have been posted on the signboard outside the Long Hill Building on Main St.

Lori reported that Ray Baldwin will be having a **Town Hall meeting** on Sat. Jan 31 in the morning. Ray has expressed willingness to come to our next PTA meeting in March to answer questions.

THS Renovation: Claire Weitzman reported the following information that she obtained from a recent meeting at the high school..

Ground breaking is planned for June for Phase 1 which is the new auditorium and pool complex. The auditorium will seat 1100 with two aisles and a state of the art sound system. It will potentially be built in the open area where the main entrance is. The old auditorium will be used as a "swing space" where classes will be held as work is done in the wings. Eventually it will hold dressing rooms, warm up rooms, prop storage etc. The pool will be in a new stand-alone Community Center building – not attached to any part of the schools. It will be 20,000 square feet with diving and therapy pools. Phase 1 is due to be completed June 2010.

Electrical Upgrade: Mrs. Forshaw reported that work has begun to upgrade the electricity at Madison and should be completed within a month. We are the last school to be done and it was sorely needed. We are supposed to have white boards in each classroom. However, after getting 15 of them, we didn't have enough electricity to support any more technology.

Academic Excellence: Cory DeWeese reported that the Guidance Dept has a lot of resources available to parents and kids including Internet Safety Tips. He will try

to list the available resources and get the information out to parents via email. Academic Excellence committee information is now also available on the MMS website.

Reflections: Kathy Pekera reported there were 14 kids who submitted 18 entries. Photography entries were popular this year. Ideas are needed to promote larger participation for next year.

Sound Tigers Fundraiser: Didn't get off the ground. Not enough participation due to a number of factors.

Transportation: A short discussion was held concerning lack of coverage in the early morning at Transportation. There is no one to contact when buses either come too early or too late.

Upcoming Events:

Book Fair: Feb 3 & 4 – Dodi Hesse reported that books are 30% off, 20% of which is passed on to the kids. The remaining 10% goes towards books for the school. It was again suggested that Dodi work with Scholastic to move our sale for next year to the Fall or Spring. Feb is just too busy. It was mentioned that the High School has theirs in the spring and includes the books on the Summer Reading List. Dodi reported that help is needed from 7:30 – 9:30 and from 11:30 – 1 pm.

Valentines Dance: Feb 6 – there are two new school liaisons on Student Council who will help facilitate preparations.

New Business:

PTA Council Nominating Committee: One rep needed to represent Madison. It involves two meetings, some emails and some phone calls.

MMS PTA Nominating Committee: Motion made by Kathy Pekera to elect Wendy Mezzanotte, Jill Bohn and Kathy Garzillo for the Nominating Committee, seconded by Claire Weitzman, unanimously approved.

Meeting Adjourned: 9:00 p.m.

Next Meeting: March 4, 2009 at 7:30 p.m.