

MADISON MIDDLE SCHOOL

PTA Meeting Minutes

Nov 5, 2008 Meeting Called to Order at 7:30 pm.

In attendance: Valerie Forshaw, Peter Sullivan, Allison Karkut, Mike Curry, Lori Hayes-O'Brien, Susan Gilson, Regina Dougherty, Linda Bartolucci, Karin Martel, Randy Rosen, Kathy Garzillo, Kathy Pekera, Cindy Katske, Maddie Angelo, Lynn Bocchino, Cory DeWeese, Michael Reilly, John Karpowich

Secretary's Report: Motion made by Kathy Pekera to dispense with reading of minutes, seconded by Cindy Katske, unanimously approved. Motion to accept minutes was made by Kathy Garzillo, seconded by Karin Martel, unanimously approved.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT: Mrs. Forshaw

Fall Dance: 300 students participated which is 40% of the student population. There was an issue with DJ not accepting requests. Also, we need to communicate the need for line and string dances to "break the ice" particularly at 6th grade level. In spite of this, the kids had a great time.

Talent Show: Went very smoothly. Kids had fun.

Career Night: 39 speakers. 260 of 270 8th graders participated. A wide variety of careers were represented. The Guidance Department & PTA Committee did an awesome job.

Girls & Boys Health Nights: Boys and Girls were both well represented this year.

Parent/Teacher Conferences: Begin tomorrow. Nov. 11 will also be Parent Visitation Day. Linda Bartolucci reported she has 2 people scheduled for each shift to "woman" the doors for security!

Mix It Up Week: Activities for a full week instead of one day with theme being "Walk a Mile in My Shoes" promoting Random Acts of Kindness, Empathy & Tolerance.

Teacher of the Year: Jen Bourque – 8th Grade Social Studies teacher made it to the top 4 of CT. Congratulations to Jen! She follows in the footsteps of many other Madison Teachers who have been nominated and recognized in the top ranks of the state in past years.

Trimester Ends: Dec 1.

Budget Impacts: Intramurals now called sports clubs and Basketball was restored with a push from some parents. Sports clubs are so popular and full with kids participating, we have to offer alternate days. It is working out very well.

Gifts to School: Madison was able to replace the old portable audio system and has been making good use of the new digital camera.

ASSISTANT PRINCIPALS REPORT: Madison students participated in a Web Based mock voting exercise and Obama won 63 – 33 with Chris Shays being reelected. Red Ribbon Week – went well with students wearing red on first day and crazy socks on the last day. They were challenged to come up with ideas for better things to do than drugs.

FACULTY REP REPORT: Allison Karkut and Mike Curry. The 6th grade had a successful trip to Natures Classroom. It is a good bonding experience that happens early in the school year so children can meet & get to know kids from the other feeder schools. Social Studies teachers are open to having parents come in and share expertise regarding their knowledge of technology, culture etc. One parent came in to discuss Longitude and Latitude. The 8th grade is having a great year and their morale is great!

TREASURER'S REPORT: Motion was made to increase accountant fees line item from \$400 to \$425 by Randy Rosen, seconded by Cindy Katske, unanimously approved.

Account balances as of 11/3/2008:

Checking: \$6525.96
Savings: \$44,398.56
Total: \$50,924.52

Lori Hayes-O'Brien reported for Wendy Mezzanote that Magazine Drive orders were down. This could be due to the economy or to the fact that the drive was one day shorter than usual. However, monies are still coming in and going out so we don't have the final numbers yet.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

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

Parking: The situation has gotten better with Mr. Sam out there every day to keep the traffic moving. Regular dismissal has improved but late dismissal still needs some work. Large SUVs are still posing a problem when they don't back into the parking spaces. The drivers can't always see the children darting about.

Volunteer Lists: Should have been sent to committee chairs. If you haven't received it, please contact Lisa McAndrews. Susan Gilson encouraged each committee chair to make contact with those who volunteered even if you don't need all of them. We don't want them to be ignored.

Monthly E-mail Notice to Parents/Fall Dance: In an attempt to facilitate more communication, Susan will be sending out a list of events each month via the E-mail blast. We will include any special notices and hopefully avoid the issue we had with not communicating to 6th grade parents that children needed money to buy snacks at the dance. In addition, the whole issue of snacks and charging will be revisited with the possibility of including the cost of snacks in the ticket price.

Open Committee Chairs: Student Council Liaison still needed. A suggestion was made to reach out to the parents of some of the officers of the Student Council to get them involved.

Academic Excellence: Cory DeWeese reported that he learned a lot at the last meeting where Robbie Weiner explained the entire reading program and how it affects other academic areas. Cory will be working on a synopsis to put on the website to benefit parents.

Give Back Programs: There were some glitches with a missing check and finding out which toner and ink cartridges are accepted but that has been resolved.

Several ideas were discussed such as possible use of incentives to increase participation as well as putting collection boxes in the classrooms to make it easier for the kids to deposit boxtops. Need to evaluate whether increased effort would produce substantial increase of money to the PTA.

Publicity: Lynn did a great job of getting the photos of the dance up already. Career Night photos are up near the Guidance office. Joanne Tigner may be able to use some of the pep rally photos for the yearbook. Naila is working to get more things into the newspapers.

Reflections: Kathy Pekera wants to get something into the Trumbull Times for this year's competition whose theme is "WOW". She hopes to get up flyers, and set up a bulletin board in time for Parent Teacher conferences tomorrow. An e-mail blast will also go out before the Thanksgiving holidays. Entries are due Dec. 15.

Recent Events:

Spiritwear: We sold \$4800 worth of clothing which will be delivered in two weeks and distributed to Home Rooms pre-packaged and labeled.

Upcoming Events:

Health Fair: Committee chaired by Wendy Mezzanotte and Jannise Castaldi . It will be held in early April and the children will attend during their Science class periods. Additional parent help will be needed.

Pig Races: will be held Dec 23

New Business:

PTA Council Nominating Committee: One rep from Madison needed

MMS PTA Nominating Committee: 3-5 members needed to present a slate of officers for the new year. We need to vote on the 3-5 member nominating committee at the next PTA meeting on Jan. 7. If interested please contact Lori or Susan.

Sound Tigers Fundraiser: Mike Reilly offered to organize a fund raiser with a PTA sponsored trip to a Sound Tigers game. Date could be Jan. 18 or March 7. If Jan. 18, we would be allowed to skate on the ice from 2 -3 pm before the game at no charge but skaters would need to bring their own skates. We could also have a group sing "God Bless America". Seats valued at \$28 would be sold for \$16 and teachers could attend free. We would be seated together, center ice and tickets would be picked up at the "will call" window. Flyers would need to be ready by Dec. 15 and could go out with the Report Cards and via E-mail blast. There is no minimum ticket sale required and a certain number of tickets would be free. Various ways of determining how to offer the "free tickets" were discussed. Families and friends are welcomed to participate. Choral directors will be consulted about how to best organize a group to sing. It was decided to go forward with this effort.

Meeting Adjourned: 9:13 p.m.

Next Meeting: Jan. 7, 2009 at 7:30 p.m.