

MADISON MIDDLE SCHOOL

PTA Meeting Minutes

Mar. 14, 2007 Meeting Called to Order at 7:40 pm.

In attendance: Valerie Forshaw, Peter Sullivan, Liz O'Hagan, Allison Karkut, Kate Donahue, Cindy Katske, Regina Dougherty, Theresa Bulan, Judie Galaty, Lori Hayes-O'Brien, Susan Gilson, Jill Ellen, Diane Pikikero, Kathleen Pekera, Betty Denny, Linda Bartolucci, Donna Dupnik, Beth Rushkin, Gayle Yakesh, Jill Bohn, Wendy Mezzanotte, Vicki Tesoro, Ray Baldwin

Secretary's Report: Motion made by Theresa Bulan to dispense with reading of minutes, seconded by Diane Pikikero, unanimously accepted. No changes or omissions. Jan. Minutes were approved unanimously. Minutes are available on Madison Middle School website.

Principal's Report: Mrs. Forshaw

Mathcounts – Madison came in 4th place at the District Level and 16th out of 70 schools in the State level at competition held at Univ. of Hartford where 300 students competed. Participants were: Caroline Fogel, Alex Mark, Jeff Liu and Sean Welsh who was the highest ranking competitor in Trumbull.

Read Across America: Took place March 2. Madison collected 2100 gently used books for Pediatric Center of Bridgeport Hospital.

Spelling Bee – Madison took the top 7 places – look for it on Ch. 17 – Champion Sean Welch will move up to compete at the state level.

Jeopardy – 8 graders – also on Ch 17 – during PM homerooms, played with sample CMT questions and teacher trivia.

National Geography Bee – Kevin Crossley won school – will go on to state level on March 30

Art Show – Madison Student's artwork currently on display at the Trumbull Library.

Transitions are ongoing. Eighth graders will meet with HS counselors to begin their course selections during the first week of April. Current fifth graders will visit Madison on March 26. Grade 5 Parent Orientation is scheduled for April 12.

CMT's have been taking place. There will have to be a lot of make-ups taken as many children have been out sick.

Asst. Principal's Report: Peter Sullivan:

Safety Committee – Peter has been working with Ralph Iasogna and will be heading a Madison Safety Committee to continue addressing safety and security issues and needs. They are looking at what is available such as swipe cards to access areas of the building, etc. We all need to be pro-active and educate kids that they are not a "rat" if they tell about something dangerous that they might overhear in the hallways at school or see on the Internet. They need to be our eyes and ears for safety as well as the other avenues we are investigating because the students will find out before administrators. Southwestern CT

Emergency Response Team came to Madison to review with the staff the key points for a lock-down should one ever become necessary.

Budget – Valerie Forshaw reported that the amount of \$900,000 in the Madison budget includes electricity upgrades and Sewing Room for Madison which some may think frivolous. If cut – it would have HUGE IMPACT on MADISON. No additional white boards can be added without an electrical upgrade. Also, the Safety & Security plan would be severely impacted without the addition of Intervention Counselors.

A question was asked about the **Bleachers**. Mrs. Forshaw reported that they are out to bid but can't be done during the school year because it would impact the PE classes. These will be replaced during the summer. The lockers will also be replaced.

Speaking of the lockers led to another safety issue – **Locker Decorating**. Students stay after school to decorate friend's lockers for birthdays etc. Past policy has been that a parent or teacher must be present to supervise this activity and to make sure students have a ride home ESPECIALLY on days when there are no late busses. Liz O'Hagen reported that most teachers have after-school meetings on Tuesdays and that Fridays are not always convenient. Students need to make arrangements with teachers at least a day before. Mrs. Forshaw and Mr. Sullivan will not leave the school until all students are picked up. An email will be sent out reminding parents of this policy. There is to be no locker decorating on Tuesdays or Fridays.

Infinite Campus arrived – attendance part up and running – next progress reports will be off this system – 1 week late. This next progress report won't be as meaningful due to all the testing taking place. Thinking about going to trimesters for all subjects. Parent portal will be valuable when it gets going.

Treasurer's Report: Theresa Bulan reported that as of 2/28/2007:

Checking:	\$27,718.21
Dedicated Savings:	5,935.39
Reserve Savings:	<u>2,583.44</u>
Total Accounts:	\$36,237.04

Bills have been paid since 2/28 so we don't have this much in our checking as of right now. Give back program is doing VERY WELL.

Other Committee Reports:

Ice Cream Social Feb 28: Ice Cream Social went well – Susan Gilson reported the need to confirm helpers more in advance. Nutritional issues being addressed – use ice cream that the cafeteria already supplies which meets those criteria.. Theresa Bulan suggested looking into lemon ices for the next event.

Book Fair – Judie Galaty reported that according to Scholastic, Madison sold more books in two days than other schools have sold in 5 day book fairs. The library received \$2200 worth of books.

Publicity: Judie Galaty reported that she and Cathy Hallas coming in tomorrow to do a new bulletin board. Want to include photos of those students excelling in the recent Spelling/Geog Bees and Mathcounts. Several photos and articles are in the works with the Trumbull Times. Judie said she needed people to take photos of the school dances and the health fair. Gail Yakesh and Diane Pikikero offered to cover.

TPSLD – Betty Denny reported – Past meetings regarding Transitions and the PPT/IEPs were both successful. On Saturday, March 24 there will be a Summer Options Expo regarding summer camps available to special needs students. This will take place at the Trumbull Library Community Room from 1 – 4 pm. TPSLD is also looking for nominations for a new award called the “**Above & Beyond Award**” available for a parent(s), special education teacher or school administrator who has furthered the cause of TPSLD.

School Beautification: Kathy Pekera reported that our snowmen got hit by the snowplow. They will need an operation but should fully recover by next winter.

NEOA – Narcotics Enforcement Officers Association – Lori Hayes O’Brien reported that a presentation for 7th graders is planned for the last week in March. (subsequently rescheduled for April 2.)

TPAUD – Trumbull Partnership Against Underage Drinking – Lori Hayes O’Brien reported that TPAUD will be working on surveys during the next month geared for grades 7 – 12. (Student surveys at Madison will take place on March 28th). The committee is also working on a parent piece which would either be emailed or sent by regular mail.

Health Fair April 25 – Kate reported – Dance revolution, yoga, pilates, skin cancer & therapist have been confirmed. Children will attend the Health Fair during their regularly scheduled Science Class Period. Parents needed to man the stations.

THS RENOVATION: Vicki Tesoro, Lori Hayes-O’Brien, Ray Baldwin reported that the Town Council approved the Resolution allowing the Trumbull High School building committee to move forward on a “Like New” proposal for the High School renovation.

Many thanks to the parents and citizens who turned out for the town council meeting, sent emails, letters and signed the petition (1100 so far) for the “Like New” renovation. A tour of the HS was scheduled before the Board of Education meeting but due to frigid weather, turnout was low. Future tours may be scheduled. THS is one of only two remaining high schools in Fairfield County that has not done a major renovation.

Although the Town Council approved the proposal, it is **NOT A DONE DEAL**. The next step is to get the money approved by the Board of Finance, so keep your emails, letters and the petition going.

Ray Baldwin suggested we go to Mazuk HS and see their recently completed "Like New" renovations. He said we are working against a deadline of June 30 to qualify for the 31% state reimbursement rate. Gov. Rell has introduced a bill to cut this funding from 31% to 17% which has not yet passed but complicates the timing of this project. The resolution also called for the building committee to incorporate criteria mandated by LEEDS to ensure use of energy efficient products/technology. Initially incorporating LEEDS requirements can cost 5 to 30% more, but savings occur in long run and can potentially qualify for 100% reimbursement from the state.

Relocation of the POOL is another area being looked at but **IS NOT** part of the "like new" proposal. However, a survey will be going out to see what the community would like to see happen. Hillcrest pool is outdated and the school needs an auditorium. If it is decided a new Community Center type facility is wanted, it may be made more suitable for competitive swimming, recreational swims and water therapies. However, this type of thing would not qualify for the same level of reimbursement from the state.

Vicki Tesoro reminded us that work on the 16 new classrooms at the High School was started last July and will be completed in April and put into immediate use.

New Business:

- **Nominations Committee:** Jill Bohn & Wendy Mezzanotte reported that currently the position for President and 1st VP remain open.
- **By-laws:** Linda Bartolucci reported that the revised by-laws will be made available on the website and via the email network at least 30 days before the next PTA meeting. We will take a vote on the new bylaws at the May 9 meeting.
- **PTA Budget:** Cindy Katske reported that the PTA officers met to review the budget and address the issue of the reduced funds from the Magazine Drive. Officers moved and/or cut back in some areas. However, the need remains for future consideration of our fund raising philosophy. Do we want to consider asking parents for an up-front donation like Hillcrest PTA does, or having the 8th grade students run fund raising activities. Do we want to consider asking parents for an up-front donation like Hillcrest PTA does, or having the 8th grade students run fund raising activities (election day bake sales?) to support special 8th grade celebrations.

Meeting Adjourned: 8:53 p.m.

Next Meetings: May 9, 2007 at 7:30 p.m.

Calendar

March 15 – 16	Finish up the CMT's
March 23	Dance (6 th grade 2:30-4:00 PM/ 7 th & 8 th grade 7-9 PM)
March 29	Pep Rally
March 30	No school (Teacher professional development day)
April 2	NEOA Presentation to 7 th graders
April 2-4	9 th grade THS counselors meet with 8 th graders
April 2-10	Jr. Achievement
April 3	Talent Show (6 th grade)
April 4	Mary Ronan (8 th grade only)
April 6	No school (Good Friday)
April 9	Talent Show (7 th & 8 th grade)
April 10	We The People Competition
April 12	5 th grade parents orientation
April 12	Poetry Workshop (6 th grade)
April 13	Shakespeare Workshop (8 th grade)
April 16-20	Spring Vacation
April 25	Health Fair
April 26	World Language Dinner
May 1-2	Traveling Science Show (all grades)
May 1	Spring Concert – 6 th grade Chorus
May 3	Spring Concert - Strings
May 4	8 th Grade – Lock-in
May 4	Mark Twain Field Trip (Grade 7/Team 1)
May 7-11	Teacher Appreciation Week
May 8	Spring Concert – 7 th & 8 th grade Chorus
May 10	Spring Concert - Band
May 16	Mark Twain Field Trip (Grade 7/Team 2 & 3)
May 18	Amistad Mock Trial
May 18	Broadway Babies performance
May 21	Jr National Honor Society Induction
May 24	Bronx Zoo Field Trip (Grade 6/Team 1)
May 24	BBQ/Ice Cream Social
May 29	8 th Grade – Holiday Hill trip
June 1	Band trip to Lake Compounce
June 4	8 th Grade – Bluefish Game
June 5	8 th Grade – Dinner and Awards Ceremony
June 6	Maritime Museum Field Trip (Grade 6/Team 2)
June 8	8 th Grade – Dance with Hillcrest at THS
June 15	8 th Grade – Stepping Forth (tentatively)
June 18	8 th Grade – Celebration Breakfast (tentatively)
June 19	Last Day of School (tentatively)