

MADISON MIDDLE SCHOOL
PTA Meeting Minutes (approved)
Sept. 27, 2006

In attendance: Valerie Forshaw, Peter Sullivan, Kate Donahue, Cindy Katske, Regina Dougherty, Theresa Bulan, Susan Gilson, Judie Galaty, Naila Haroon, Lori Hayes-O'Brien, Nancy Ameer, Linda Bartolucci, Linda Bauer, Mici Buckman, Julie Buck, Lynn Cammarota, Joan Cederbaum, Ingrid Cerone, Karleen Craddock, Brian DeSanty, Alicia DiLorenzo, Jill Ellen, Diane Gant, Cathy Hallas, Jenzy Halls, Michelle Keckler, Janet Kramka, Jennifer LeBlanc, Patty LaPegna, Gayle Lovello, John Miolene, Lisa McAndrews, Leigh Ann McCabe, Celeste McGillicuddy, Lauren O'Leary, Kathy Pekera, Diane Pikikero, Kim Plitnick, Rachelle Rousso, Lisa Valenti.

Meeting Called to Order at 7:37 pm.

Secretary's Report: Motion made by Kathy Pekera to dispense with reading of minutes, seconded by Diane Pikikero, unanimously accepted. Minutes are available on Madison Middle School website.

Principal's Report: Mrs. Forshaw

- **School opening** – smooth, busses on time etc.
- **Back to School Night** – full house – truly a partnership between families and the staff. Last year theme was “CELEBRATION” and want to continue this year. Goal is to have every student's work or photo up in the school. Also would like to have 100% participation in after school activities. New club this year is Kids Helping Kids through a grant on Thursdays with 8th graders available to tutor or help others with homework. Take pressure off parents. Also new is National Jr. Honor Society for 8th graders. New mural being planned with Panther mascot and what it means.
- **New Staff:** Lori Peck going to Ridgefield HS replaced by K. Anderson from West Haven HS
Laurel Kilgannon going to Easton replaced by Becky Evans from Pomperaug
- **TESTING:**
 - **CMT** scores arrived and should be sent out by this Friday.
 - **TASA** testing co. develops DRP – creating new pilot test for SS, Sci, Math – reading for information in content areas. We are piloting this year.
 - **OLSAT** – 7th grade taking 9/28 AM
 - **Blue Ribbon Diagnostic/formative assessment** mirrors the CMT
Grade 6 will be taking in Sept & Oct – LA, Reading & Math

Assistant Principal's Report: Peter Sullivan

- **Opening of school** went very smoothly – 6th graders were well prepared.
- **Bus 33 overcrowded, 20 students moved to bus 36.** Bus 36 had to be changed to the extra large bus size to accommodate students.

- **Had first pep rally** – students compete vs each other and teachers. Fun.
- **More fun things coming up:** Magazine Drive, Career Night and Halloween Dance.

Treasurer's Report: Theresa Bulan: as of 9/1/2006:

| | |
|--------------------|-------------------|
| Checking Account: | \$10,800.11 |
| Dedicated Savings: | \$5,922.84 |
| Reserve Savings: | <u>\$2,577.98</u> |
| Total Accounts: | \$19,300.93 |

Proposed budget and procedures were reviewed and handed out. Motion was made by Jill Ellen, seconded by Diane Gant to accept proposed budget for discussion. Theresa Bulan moved to transfer \$25 from Back to School to Accounting Fees which have gone up, seconded by Lori Hayes-O'Brien, unanimously approved. Kate Donohue moved to transfer \$300 from Back to School to Publicity, seconded by Cathy Hallas, unanimously approved. Jill Ellen moved to accept the budget as amended, seconded by Lynn Cammarota, unanimously approved.

A discussion took place about increasing budgeted amount for **School Beautification** due to poor soil, lack of watering, perennials not doing well. Earth needs to be tilled. Kathy Pekera suggested a Gardening Club for an after school activity to help with watering on a regular basis. An e-mail will be sent out to see if any families are in landscaping business and would be willing to work with us.

Another idea was brought up called "Adopt a Plot" whereby families can donate money, plants, etc.

Committee Reports:

Open Committees: After School Programs; Academic Excellence meets every other month from 9 – 10 a.m. Next meeting is Oct 6 about Math curriculum and increased emphasis on algebra; Board of Ed Liaison; Cultural Diversity meets once a month; Newsletter goes out 3 times a year with progress reports and needs a writer; PACT needs a co-chair; Reflections - Kim Plitnick volunteered to help Sherry Fogel with the legwork; Stepping Forth; Ingrid Cerrone volunteered to co-chair Teacher Appreciation – needs another person to co-chair with her.

Membership: Currently 279 Members of which 240 were early birds. Congratulations to Tracey Marble who won the iPod drawing.

School Photos: Rochelle Rousso reported that the day started late with one camera breakdown. Photos should go home Thurs or Friday.

Locker Ladders: Kim Huebner not at meeting but many orders have been received.

E-Mail List: Kate stressed that this is our major form of communication as flyers in the backpack are no longer done in Middle School.

Upcoming Events:

Magazine Drive: Lynn Cammarata reported that kickoff is Oct 11 assembly. She reminded us to use the special code for renewals and that many magazines are trying to get you to renew early at higher rates. Booklets will be coming home asking for names and addresses – THIS IS VERY IMPORTANT! We get money for every booklet filled out and even more money if anyone from booklet orders/renews. For the kids, no candy rewards this year.....two prize highlights are DVD player and stereo chair. Booklets are due back Oct. 13.

School Apparel: Virginia Green not here. Samples are in case outside auditorium. Arrangements will be made to take them out at lunchtime so kids can better judge sizes they need. Orders are due Oct. 10.

6th Grade Boys/Girls Health Night (Boys 10/17 – Girls 10/19):

Boys & parents with Dr. Robert Chessin, Tues. Oct 17 in audit. 7 pm

Girls & parents with Dr. Martha Small Thurs. Oct 19 in audit 7 pm

Career Night: Lisa Valenti asked to be notified if anyone knew of an electrician, plumber, AC technician, chemist or pharmacist who might be willing to be a presenter. Children are given interest finders by Mr. Schmidt which is then used to help the child determine which three presenters to attend on career night.

School Visitation Day: Nov. 15 – Valerie Forshaw explained that this is an open house for parents to attend class with their children. Please sign in at table by front door and get a name tag. Parents are asked not to bring small children.

Other Committee Reports:

Father's Club: John Miolene will try to get a meeting arranged to brainstorm ideas. Perhaps a flyer can be inserted with the Progress Reports which go out Oct. 13.

Giveback Program: Joan Cederbaum reported there were a lot of inkjets in the box. She also requested Theresa Bulan let her know when/if we get a check from CKA. We are also collecting old cell phones which must have a battery, put in locked box in lobby near auditorium. Sue Flack is doing Campbell's labels and Box Tops.

TPSLD: Cindy Katske reported for Monica Welch that two workshops are coming up:
Oct 12 Promoting Self-Advocacy and
Oct 26 "It's So Hard To Be Your Friend" – Social & Emotional Needs of Children
All are welcome to attend. Meetings will be held in the Administration Building on Main Street.

New Business:

PTA Council Delegate Vote

Janet Kramka volunteered to be a delegate.

Delegates: Valerie Forshaw, Kate Donohue, Judie Galaty, Regina Dougherty, Naila Haroon and Janet Kramka

Motion to elect these delegates was made by Jill Ellen, seconded by Kathy Pekera and unanimously approved.

iPod Drawing was held: Tracey Marble was winner!

Meeting Adjourned at 9:25 PM NEXT MEETING In November 8, 2006 7:30 p.m.