

PTSA meeting 1/22/20

Attendees: Sarah Kent, Jaclyn Koenig, Meghan Squires, Amanda Bagsby, Denis Koenig, Jennifer Campbell, Heather Vargas-Lyon, Megan Hochstatter, Sharon Hammill, Greg Van Gaver, Mariana Zantop, Mary McDaniel, Jen Siems, Anya Rudnick, Allison Schwartz, Hannah McIntosh, Marisa Coluccio, Anne Rakunas

Principal's Update - Mary McDaniel

Jan. 29th will be a snow make-up day.

Jan.27th School projections are due. Madrona is expecting to enroll 280 students in 2020. School projections help the school plan its budget and staffing for the next school year. The school can hold 500 students. If enrollment numbers go up, Madrona may be able to add another teacher.

Feb. 25 Budget allocations will come out. JJ and Kendra, Seneca counselors, are paid out of the levy budget. They would like to be SPS employees. A 2/3 vote is needed to move the budget along and get people hired.

Jan. 23rd is Literacy Night. Dinner will be served.

MAP testing has started.

Madrona's Art Teacher, Ms. Hammond, is no longer here. No further details are available. Mary has been allowed to pass along that "the investigation has concluded and evidence is being reviewed."

Madrona is looking into hiring additional custodial staff.

Health Update – Heather Vargas-Lyon

Jake Reynolds works in the school-based health center, running emotional support groups and doing one on one work with students.

Vu Tran, ARNP, provides immunizations, sports physicals, check-ups and health care. She is at Madrona on Tuesdays and Wednesdays by appointment. The school-based clinic needs a certain number of encounters (student visits) to be approved to work at Madrona next year. We need to get the word out about services provided at the clinic.

Lice update – Madrona's current parent notification policy, which is to send out regular reminders to parents to check their child/children for lice, is evidence-based. The school can't notify the whole class if one person has lice due to confidentiality rules. Madrona will no longer be sending a letter home if 5 people report lice. Instead, Nurse Heather will give a print-out to the teacher to give to specific kids who present with lice. A reminder to check your kids will come out in next newsletter. If your child is registered with the school clinic, Vu Tran can write a prescription for lice shampoo. Make sure to inform Nurse Heather if your child has lice. She can nit-comb them. Madrona can also set aside money to hand out lice combs to incoming kindergarten families.

Q&A

It is difficult to hear the voices of presenters during assemblies in the gym. This was particularly notable during the recent assembly, at which students read essays they had written. What can we do about this? \$200-\$300 should be sufficient to buy new equipment.

A work order has been placed to get problem evaluated. The stage has an overhead mic if needed. A few key people (Staff and PTSA) should be trained in how to use the sound systems in the school so there is always back-up. Jennifer Campbell volunteered herself as a trainee.

High Five Event – Amanda Bagsby and Crystal Ahmadi

Shellise Montgomery has organized a movie day on Feb. 7th

The theme of this year's event is Legacy and Future. Students will be asked to talk about their aspirations for the future. Crystal and Amanda are working to confirm a guest speaker. Amanda has contacts through the YMCA who may be willing to speak. Given the difficulty of getting a guest speaker, it was suggested that the event be moved back to the last Friday in the month.

Committee Updates

Safe Streets Coalition – Allison Schwartz and Hannah McIntosh

Madrona was awarded a Safe Routes to School mini-grant (\$1000), which will be used to procure books for kids and the school library that feature diverse group of kids and families using different modes of transportation to get to school. There was an article in the Madrona Committee Newsletter (written by Heather) this month about slowing down around the school. Safe Routes to School is a national movement to walk, bike, and bus to school. It is important to be aware of how this movement intersects with race. Some neighborhoods implement a walking school bus. To explore the feasibility of this, we must first gather data on who is within walking and biking distance of the school, and ask ourselves whether we are reaching all groups. How can we target programs so they are inclusive? Right now we're in the data gathering phase. A protected bike lane is being planned from 19th to MLK. May is Bike Everywhere month. Should we do an event to recognize this? A bike and walk to school day would require volunteers and a budget. One idea would be to coordinate it with the May Fair parade. In order to be more equitable, both walking and biking groups would be encouraged.

Fundraising – Jaclyn Koenig

Jaclyn is working on reviving the annual ask, during which families and businesses are asked to contribute money to the PTSA. Jaclyn is drafting letters to share with individuals and businesses. What businesses have given in the past? What information should be included in the letter to resonate with people? Letters should include: a request to add Madrona to your Smile.amazon.com link; a question regarding employer matched contributions; specifics of what the money will go for – you can sponsor a child's after school programs, or sponsor half a wall of books, etc.; five things you may not have known about Madrona. What do we do with the money? PEP, fieldtrips, arts, green plate special, library books.