

PTSA Meeting Minutes November 18, 2020

Attendees: Mariana Zantop, Lily St. Leger, Mary McDaniel, Sharon Hamill, Sarah Kent, Jennifer Colosimo, Michele Andrasik, Meg Viera, Alyssa Hays, Jay Johnson, Jay Davenport, Marisa Coluccio, Ms. Locke, Samara Louton, Tana Leybold, Meg Gayman, Jennifer Nicoloff, Anja Rudnick, Patricia Milillo, Vyanessa Stephan, Megan Hochstatter, Jenn Yma N Didi, Meg Gayman

Principal's Report - Mary McDaniel

- Parent-teacher conferences are taking place this week. They are focused on wellbeing of students more than on academics. Many families are experiencing stress due to Covid-19.
- Mary is looking into ways the District can support teachers and staff, who are also experiencing high levels of stress.
- New Covid-19 Guidelines – one staff member has had Covid-19. Ms. Williams, RN, at the District was contacted and appropriate steps were taken to ensure spaces are clean and staff is safe.
- Each staff member is making their own choice whether to come into school or visit families.
- Starting Thursday, the number of staff in the front office will be reduced to one person: Monday Ms. Tana; Tuesday-Thursday Mary; and Friday Ms. Tammy.
- Mary is doing socially distanced home visits to distribute gift cards and provide computer support. Families can pick up gift cards at school as well.
- Madrona Elementary was awarded a \$400,000 Seattle University grant to be shared among six schools. Madrona is in the planning phase and is using data to drive where money will be used.
- Attendance has held at 95% of students. The goal is 100%. Some families continue to have Wifi issues. Madrona is still accepting new students and providing tech support to get them started.
- Mary has access to Schoology and Seesaw through Atlas, which allows the school to track how many kids are logging into these programs. This will help the school determine where more supports are needed. Ms. Butler, Mary and Julie Hansen are monitoring Atlas and visiting families whose kids are not logging in.
- Sam asked if there are any areas where parent volunteers can support Mary's efforts.
- Mary asking for grace and patience with the teachers and staff. They are going above and beyond what the district is asking them to do, while dealing with their own families and deaths. Let teachers know we appreciate them. It takes everyone working together to make this work.
- Sharon commented that she is blown away with what the school is achieving with technology and support and is very grateful for all the school is doing.

Family Resource Center - Sharon Hamill and Sarah Kent

- Running the FRC is a team effort that includes a growing list of staff, parents, and partners.
- Forty families attending weekly Grab and Go (Tuesdays 11am-2pm and Fridays 3pm-6pm).
- The School Nurse, Ms. Nebiat, Ms. Kendra, and volunteers are picking up food from donors.
- Since March, 900 grocery bags and \$26,000 in gift cards have been distributed.
- New Covid protocols – everyone who comes has to sign in for contact-tracing purposes and to verify they have not had any symptoms. Only two families (6 people total, including volunteers) may be in the library at a time. Masks and gloves are available.
- The FRC has applied for a grant to help cover the cost of hygiene supplies and grocery cards.
- The FRC is working on getting resource lists together for families to help meet holiday needs.

Holiday support - Sharon Hamill

- Mary is working on helping families beyond what the FRC can provide.
- There will be no Grab-N-Go the Friday after Thanksgiving.
- Kendra put together a questionnaire and is working with Sarah, Sharon, Ms.Nebiat, Tana, and Tammy to find out what families need over the holidays.
- Seventy two families need support. First AME will provide food support to 20 families in partnership with Leschi. Pick up will take place Wednesday the 25th. Rainier Valley Food Bank will provide food baskets for the remaining 52 families. Distribution will take place at Madrona on Tuesday the 24th from 1-6pm. Volunteers will pick items up at Rainier Valley Food Bank. Each family will get a \$25 grocery card as well.
- Sharon needs help with set up and distribution on Tuesday the 24rd. Sarah is making a sign-up.
- The FRC is working to get assistance to families for the December holidays. A few sponsors have been identified. The FRC has \$50 gift cards secured for 70 families.
- The FRC is looking for donations of rain boots and jackets, including adult sizes. Twenty new coats, t-shirts and jeans were distributed to families this week.
- There is a drop box outside the school for paper food bags.

Sam noted that the Amazon app has been updated so you can designate Madrona Elementary as a beneficiary. Sign in under [Smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com) and choose Madrona Elementary PTSA as your charity. Once you've designated Madrona PTSA as your charity, you can go to settings in Amazon and turn on the Smile app.

Building Leadership Team update – Sarah Kent

- Meets once a month.
- Includes staff representatives and two parents – Sarah Kent and Nathan Hoerschelmann.
- Nathan is the point of contact for the Racial Equity Team. He is looking for other people to take over leadership. Please let Sarah, Nathan or Mary know if you are interested in being involved.

Tech Donation Teacher Support Initiative – Alyssa Hays

- Ace Hardware in Magnolia donated \$30,000 for tech support at Madrona.
- Teachers and PTSA met to discuss how to use the funds. Teachers need support in their home offices (white boards, headphones, microphones, etc.) Some funds are earmarked to procure styluses, headphones with microphones, etc. for students as well.
- A survey to determine specific needs will be posted this week. Alyssa will provide more info once surveys have been returned.

Anja noted that she has received funding from the District for more arts supplies for students. She is working with Tana to put together kits and formulate a distribution plan.

Teachers have asked for help getting science packets out to students for December. The PTSA has funds to assist with postage on these. Receipts should be submitted to Marisa.

Teacher Appreciation – Marisa Coluccio

- Teacher Appreciation Committee divided teachers and staff into groups. Each group gets a larger gift on a rotating monthly schedule based on what they stated they liked.
- Gift cards were given to the staff in October. In November pre-k, k, and 1st grade will receive care packages.
- Larger gifts will be distributed during staff appreciation week in May.
- Several participants requested to see the monthly schedule so that they can contribute. Marisa will make it available.

Meg Gayman inquired about giving gifts to teachers over the holidays. Marisa said that e-gift cards are always appreciated. Tana noted that teachers still check their mailboxes at school. Parents can drop notes/gifts off in the front office. Room parents (if they have FERPA forms) can also reach out to parents to get notes out to staff.

MOD Pizza Fundraiser update- Meg Viera

- The Mod Pizza fundraiser raised \$176. Support was so great that restaurant staff were overwhelmed by the number of orders.
- Feed Co. restaurant is also willing to partner with Madrona to raise funds.
- It was suggested that the PTSA arrange monthly fundraisers as a way to both raise money for the school and to support neighborhood restaurants.

Move-a-thon Update - Meg Gayman

- There is currently \$22,695 in PledgeStar. Several matches are still expected to come in.
- The grand total will probably be around \$25,000.

Grant Update - Jennifer Colosimo

- Applied for a \$40,000 Covid-19 equity grant through the county to support the FRC. Sharon provided facts and figures. The FRC needs funding to procure non-perishable items such as diapers, personal care items, cleaning products, etc. which are currently coming out of the PTSA budget. Grant recipients will be announced in December. The county is targeting more structured non-profits than the Madrona PTSA, so Jennifer is not too confident we'll get it.
- Sarah has submitted a form to Costco with request for support.
- Jennifer applied to be a community partner with West Side Baby so that we can access supplies.
- Not much funding available around the county/city. Private foundations may have more.
- Sharon asked whether we can approach Grocery Outlet for support.
- Alyssa commented that Cash and Carry has a similar grant program to Costco's.
- Lily suggested we reach out to parents to see if anyone knows of other funding sources.

Covid-19 Vaccine Information - Michele Andrasik

- Michele is a Clinical Health Psychologist who works in immunology. Her focus recently shifted from working on the HIV vaccine to working on the SARS-CoV-2 vaccine.

- The primary objective of all COVID vaccine trials currently underway is the prevention of severe COVID-19 disease progression, hospitalization and death. The secondary objective is to prevent SARS-CoV2 virus infection.
- SARS-CoV2 is the virus that causes Covid-19.
- Moderna and Pfizer interim study data have been published. In the Moderna trials, no one who received the vaccine advanced to severe disease. We won't know until early 2021 if these vaccines actually prevent infection from SARS-CoV 2. Not everyone who is in the trials is being tested for COVID-19.
- Distribution of these vaccines is pending review of the interim data by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA).
- The limited doses available will go to people who have the greatest chance of severe disease progression and dying (like people with pre-existing medical conditions, older adults aged 65+, especially those living in congregate living) and essential workers. The general public will likely not have access to a vaccine until late spring/early summer
- Clinical trials in children and pregnant women are being planned.

Jennifer asked whether the FDA and CDC have been compromised in their presentation of vaccine information by their work with the Trump administration. Michele recommended that we listen to the scientific leaders in the FDA and CDC.

Additional Resources on Covid-19

Johns Hopkins Covid Resource Center <https://coronavirus.jhu.edu/>

PreventCOVID.org

Facebook and Instagram @PreventCOVID19, Twitter @PreventCOVID_19

Michele is working on the following series:

Covid in Black– Black doctors and scientists talking about Covid-19.

Pandemia – Series for Latinx communities.

Work is also underway on a series for American Native populations and Asian and Pacific Islanders.

Amanda is putting together a resources page for families. She will add Michele's blog.