

PTSA Meeting

April 15, 2020

Attendees: Megan Hochstatter, Sarah Kent, Mary McDaniel, Anne Rakunas, Denis Koenig, Jaclyn Koenig, Greg Van Gaver, Crystal Perkins Ahmadi, Jen Siems, Meg Viera, Meghan Squires, Christine Tschirgi, Sharon Hamill, Jennifer Campbell, Lily St. Leger, Anya Rudnick, Melvina McDaniel, Patricia Milillo, Jake Reynolds

Principal's Report – Mary McDaniel

- Madrona submitted 84 student names to the Amazon grant to receive Chromebook laptops. Another 24 are TBD. The effort was focused on 4th and 5th graders. Students will receive them within 2 weeks.
- Shout Out to Jake, Ms. Nebiat, Sharon and Sarah, who are supporting our students and their families through door drops and by meeting parents at the school and at Grocery Outlet to distribute resources. Anya has been doing a great job as the new art teacher. Mary has been in meetings all day to support teachers and students. Superintendent Juneau has set expectations and guidelines that require twice weekly meetings with students, and weekly meetings with parents. All teachers are required to provide assignments in reading and math, as well as two supplemental subjects. Jake, Ms. Nebiat and Kendra are reaching out to families who cannot be reached by the teachers.
- Next year, 9 students at Madrona will have an IEP. Mary submitted a waiver to increase the FTE for Madrona's Resource Room Teacher, Carmel Smith, to 1.0, after it had been reduced to 0.6. The waiver was approved. As a result, Madrona will now have a full time Special Ed teacher who will provide extra resources and support to teachers and students with IEPs. This will result in fewer students needing to be qualified as Special Ed students.
- Mary has a newsletter in the works. She wants to send out a news brief every week, but avoid overloading parents with e-mails. Mary is trying to provide an on-line learning environment that is as close to school as possible. The goal is to create normalcy for students, teachers and parents.
- Seattle will have 42 schools that can participate in summer school. Michael Hughes is in charge of the Summer School Committee. Mary is pushing for summer school at Madrona. Madrona could use Reading Partners and Seneca, both of which have active contracts with the school. The focus will be on Tier 2 and Tier 3 students. Planning is still in the beginning stages. No information is available at this time regarding student retention.
- All teachers, with the exception of Pia Dixon, Special Ed, will be returning next year.

Questions/Comments

- Sharon expressed her thanks to Mary and said it was very helpful to get a sense of what Mary is dealing with and better understand the complex needs of families.

- Patricia asked whether students will be able to stay in the same classroom groups they are in now. This is of particular concern in the lower grades, where students are just starting to form social bonds. Mary responded that students are assigned to classes based on gender, race, number of IEPs, learning needs, teaching style, etc. Mary will talk to teachers during their Wednesday staff meeting about keeping students together. Hopefully, more information will be available by the next PTSA meeting. Madrona is currently expecting three kindergarten classes, three first grade classes, two second grade classes, one fourth grade class, one fifth grade class, and one four-five combination. This is the same as this year. Madrona is expecting a total of 255 students in the 2020-2021 school year. The school hopes to have 15 students per kindergarten class, 17 per 1st grade class, and 18-20 in the upper grades.
- It was noted that the quality of online lessons and engagement of teachers is uneven across classes. Parents would like to see more consistency across grades in the coming year. Mary is taking part in PLC (Professional Learning Community) meetings. The school is trying to tailor the work to the students. For some parents, it's too much. For others, it's too little. Teachers are trying to find a balance. Due to the uneven availability of family support and resources for some students, teachers will not be grading assignments. This is an equity issue and is being implemented district wide.
- Jen Siems has added a site to the PTSA page with learning resources for families.

Family Resource Center Support - Sarah, Sharon and Jake

- Sharon thanked Jake, Ms. Nebiat and Kendra for all their hard work and thanked the PTSA for its support of Madrona families.
- Jake is making trips to households with food and supplies donated through the PTSA and Facebook donation page. On Mondays and Tuesdays the Family Resource Center (FRC) is open from 8:30am-12:00pm. On Tuesdays, Jake makes home deliveries to about 25 households. He has a list of kids from Ms. Nebiat. He would like to open resources up to rest of the school community. Sharon and Sarah drafted an email to notify families of these resources. Jake will need more support on Tuesdays to reach all families. The FRC is working on finding a better way to track supplies. They are currently using a spreadsheet and soliciting feedback from teachers about student needs. Teachers need to be reminded of this form and how to categorize needs.
- What is the best way for people to get involved? The email that Sarah drafted has Jake's contact information. Let him know if you can help out with deliveries. He currently needs logistics support and advice on how to make resource tracking and deliveries run more smoothly.
- Sarah has a list of volunteers who might be able to help. She will get this information to Jake.
- Sharon needs volunteers to help organize and inventory the FRC. Jake has been good about tracking gift cards and which families have received what. Now is the time to extend the reach of the support to other families.

Budget – Anne

- Money from events that will not be taking place this year is being repurposed. Only \$475 in rent supports has been reallocated so far.
- The school has raised \$4,700 through its Facebook fundraiser.
- A total of \$2,694 from the Facebook fund has been spent on gift cards and rental assistance.
- Approximately \$2,400 has come in for the FRC through website fundraising.
- There is currently \$130,000 in the PTSA bank account. \$10,000 in expenses has already gone out. \$20,000 is designated for PEP. Net available after checks go through is \$20,000 (\$18,000 of this is the arts budget). If we reallocated this \$20,000, the PTSA would be left with approx. \$80,000 for next year (the PTSA's Annual Budget is approximately \$80,000). It is unlikely that the PTSA will be able to do much fund-raising next year.
- Anya received a grant for a teaching artist this year. This grant may not be available to Madrona next year. Money allocated for Afua and the musical will not be spent. The arts budget will not include the approximately \$5,000 that was expected from ticket sales for the musical. Some money should be reserved for next year's musical, but a large portion of the \$18,000 could be reallocated.
- It was suggested that anything that was budgeted for this academic year be used first and reallocated to the FRC. If the funds are not used, they could be reallocated to the general fund. This year's budget includes \$700 for the Science Fair and \$1,800 from the Fish Fry. Once this money has been reallocated, we can consider voting on using \$10,000 from the Arts Fund and leaving \$10,000 in the arts budget for now.
- The PTSA voted that the unspent money from this year and \$10,000 of the Arts Fund be reallocated to the FRC. The PTSA will vote on allocation of further funds as FRC needs arise.
- Would the PTSA consider running an enrichment program over the summer? This would only be possible if Shelter in Place is lifted.

Roles for Next Year

- Need to identify committee co-leads. Lily needs a co-president. Other empty positions include Vice President, secretary, finance officers (Alyssa has offered to take on half of this, but needs a co-treasurer), and a PEP leader.
- Speak up if you're interested. Get in touch with Megan.