

PTSA Meeting 5/12/21

Attendees: Mariana Zantop, Lily St. Leger, Mary McDaniel, Sarah Kent, Katey Ricker, Meg Gayman, Amanda Bagsby, Vyanessa Stephan, Alyssa Hays

PTSA Membership

Thank you to all who joined Multicultural Night. About 60 families attended and learned about each other's cultures. Mary noted that in-person attendance is usually close to 500.

Welcome new PTSA members Katey Ricker, Amy Rodda, Irene Akio, Meg Gayman, John Gayman, Sheri Peterson, Michael Spiz, Kaylee Hays, Graham Kent, Gabriel Kent, Dan Shafer and Sam St. Leger.

If you haven't already signed up, please officially register as a PTSA member. This will allow you to vote on PTSA decisions and budgets. You can pay a suggested donation, but this is not required.

<https://www.madronapta.org/membership>

There is an SPS community forum this Thursday night (May 13th) on their draft proposal for the isolation and restraint policy changes. More info is available here:

<https://www.madronapta.org/news/2021/5/11/sps-draft-update-to-their-isolation-and-restraint-policy>

Principal's Report – Mary McDaniel

Fall Enrollment

- District information that Madrona has a waitlist is incorrect. Mary is helping families enroll.
- Kindergarten enrollment is currently at 35. Total enrollment is projected to be 241, down only 7 students from last year. Enrollment is down across the district.
- The District is projecting 2 classes for each grade, with 18 students in each kindergarten class and 20 students in each first grade class.
- Remote attendance is at 85%, down from 97%. Only 85 out of 125 students scheduled to attend in-person are showing up at the school.
- Teachers are currently assessing students to gather data to help shape school in the fall.

Summer Staircase

- The school is planning for in-person instruction.
- Last year it was offered to all students. This year teachers will refer students who need support.
- Ms. Vasser will be coordinating it.
- It will start the second week of July and run for 4 weeks.

Q: Will any levy money be going towards after school programs?

A: Supporting STEM and enrichment programs is one of the prerequisites to receive part of the \$200,000 grant Madrona has been awarded. Madrona is planning a SPIN program. More information to come.

Q: Are we expecting school to be 100% normal in the fall?

A: Mary is expecting 100% in-person school in the fall.

Q: Are any changes expected to occur this year?

A: No. Half day school will continue through the end of this school year.

Q: Has Madrona received any federal stimulus funding, and are there plans for how it will be spent?

A: Mary has not heard anything about this. All schools have received their budget allocations for this year. No more funding for staffing is expected.

- Lisa (school nurse), is currently a 0.3FTE (1.5 days/ week). She would like to be a 0.5FTE (2.5 days/week).
- Lisa has been a huge support to students and family members with Covid-19.
- At the end of this meeting the PTSA will vote whether to fund the nurse position at 0.5FTE.
- The Office Assistant, who fills in as nurse, has been reduced to a 0.5FTE. Mary is working to hire someone for this position.
- Mary, as Covid supervisor at the school, is the only one who interacts with students who have symptoms. She is also teaching when we can't get substitutes. It's impossible to fill all these roles at once.

Q: Is there a contact at the District for advocacy purposes? Today is National School Nurse Day – a good day to advocate!

A: Mary will get us this information.

After School Programs

- The PTSA is starting to plan for after school programs to take place in the fall.
- Need volunteer parents to work on the PEP program and see if it's feasible to continue.
- A lot of administrative work goes into it.
- Alyssa has created a lot of infrastructure to guide the process.
- Meg, Sharon, Sarah and Katey are willing to help.

Please submit your questions for incoming Principal Carter to ptsa@madranoptsa.org by the end of May. The PTSA will invite Principal Carter to the June end of year PTSA meeting to discuss her responses.

Teacher and Staff Appreciation – Marisa Coluccio

- Positive response from teachers. Mr. Moss said 'We crushed it!'
- Staff received a tab at Cupcake Royale, messages on the Kudos Board, gift cards, a snack buffet, and lunch from Naam Thai.
- Thank you to everyone who contributed.

Family Resource Center (FRC) Update – Sarah Kent and Sharon Hamill

- This week was slightly busier than usual – 32 families rather than 28.
- Kendra is delivering groceries to several families who are unable to come to the school.
- The FRC has enough funding to continue providing food and gift cards through June 18th.
- At this time summer plans have not been developed.

- The FRC hopes to find a permanent spot in the school to provide food/produce next year.
- To volunteer at the FRC, go to <https://signup.com/go/qpMDpux>

Vaccine News Update - Dr. Michele Peake Andrasik

Michele has been directing community engagement for the Covid-19 prevention network at Fred Hutch. There is a lot of confusion about the CDC guidance around being outside. The virus is spread by droplets that get into your nasal passages when you are in an area with poor air flow. The chances of getting Covid outside are very low, but the risk increases if you are around a large, unmasked group or conversing with someone for a longer period of time. Viral variants make it difficult to predict transmissibility.

The J&J vaccine was stopped temporarily due to several cases of Vaccine-Induced Thrombotic Thrombocytopenia (VITT). VITT is characterized by low platelets. There have been 16 cases of VITT out of 7.5 million vaccine doses given, 13 in women under the age of 50. A total of 3 cases were fatal. One case was in a man. There was a higher incidence in women who smoke or have a history of blood clots or obesity. Symptoms usually occur within 5-20 days. These include headaches, shortness of breath, chest pain. There has been no correlation with oral birth control as a risk factor.

Pfizer's initial Emergency Use Authorization has been amended down to 12 year olds. Of the 2000 children enrolled in the phase 3 Pfizer trial, 100% remained virus free. There has been a lot of anxiety and depression in kids this past year. The percentage of kids 5-11 seeking emergency care for mental health increased 23%. Getting vaccinated will hopefully help allay some of this anxiety. Johns Hopkins will be running a symposium in mid-June to discuss the risks and benefits of vaccinations in kids. Both Moderna and Pfizer will be enrolling 5-11 year old participants in trials soon. Two sites in Seattle, Children's and Kaiser Permanente (KP), are already recruiting 5-11 year old trial participants. Sabrina (8 years old) is considering being a part of a vaccine trial. The trials have a 2:1 randomization (2/3 of trial participants will receive the vaccine).

Q: How can we get our kids signed up for the trials?

A: Michele has been in touch with KP and Childrens. As soon as they have IRB (Internal Review Board) approval, Michele will get a flyer and will post it for any families that are interested. Childrens is expecting to start enrolling trial participants on May 17th.

Budget Overview /Preliminary PTSA budget– Marisa Coluccio

- Looked at budgets from 2019 and 2020 to see what we have done in the past.
- Hard to predict what next year will look like. Not sure if Islandwood will happen.
- The PTSA general fund has contributed \$15,000 towards PEP in the past.
- The FRC probably won't need as much next year.
- School supplies.
- \$600 for PBIS (Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports)
- Raising the FTE for the nurse to 0.5 will cost \$24,000.

Q: Will fully funding the nurse hurt our chances of being able to run PEP?

A: We may be able to fund both, but will have to cut from other areas.

The PTSA usually has a full year's funding in the bank, but we don't have to continue to do this if there are needs that require an intervention. There is potential to pull from our savings. The PTSA has traditionally decided to not spend more than they plan to raise in any year. Each year, the money raised during the past year has been carried over into the next year, as a sort of rainy day/emergency fund. This year we may decide to spend more than we're able to fundraise, or perhaps try to fundraise for more than we plan to spend so that we have a larger buffer. What is the minimum we have to have in the bank to run as an organization? Further discussion and research is needed.

Ideas

- Make PEP more sustainable, budget-wise.
- Take some money from the general fund (\$7,000) to put towards the nurse's salary.
- Approach Mr. Roberts or community members for more funding to cover the cost of a nurse.
- Do an annual ask directed both at families and businesses in the community.

Approaching businesses has not been very successful in the past and some people feel uncomfortable with the Annual Ask. However, people who have not taken such a hit during the pandemic may be eager to give. The PTSA could draft a letter outlining what we are doing, what we care about and what we need money for and frame it in a way that would be meaningful to people. If we send the letter at the beginning of the school year it could interfere with the Jog-a-Thon. If we send it at the end of this school year, there are budget and tax considerations; we can't fundraise straight through.

- Research the legality and tax policies surrounding year-round fundraising.

The PTSA aims to have a more complete budget next month. At the June meeting, will go into more detail about the budget line-items and discuss whether to use some of our savings for program support.

While the school needs a full-time nurse, the PTSA is aiming for a half time nurse. A half time nurse could be at the school either 2.5 days a week, or 5 half days.

Sarah made a motion to bring nurse Lisa's position to a 0.5FTE, under the condition that if the District ends up providing more money for this position, the PTSA can reallocate these funds to another need. Sharon seconded the motion. The motion was approved by a full PTSA vote.

The Panther Challenge 5k/1k Walk & Run – Meg Gayman

- Free, virtual event with a soft ask donation.
- All participants get a medal and a bib.
- Can run or walk it, either 1K or 5K. You can change your mind about which one you want to run.
- It will take place the last week of May.
- Our 5th grade ambassador has laid out the routes.
- Have raised about \$4,000 so far.
- Families/students submit their times and post pictures with their bibs in front of the school.
- Paloma has made a promotional video in Teams that she will try to share as well.
- Get medals to the teachers to show the students and encourage participation.
- Sign up at <https://runsignup.com/Race/WA/Seattle/MadronaElementaryPantherChallenge>