

## PTSA Meeting

June 9, 2021

**Attendees:** Alyssa Hays, Regina Carter, Mary McDaniel, Mariana Zantop, Sarah Kent, Andrea Taylor, Hannah McIntosh, Sharon Hammill, Irene Akio, Megan Hochstatter, Nebiat Tessema, Anya Rudnick, Anh, Christine Tschirgi, Diane Cotman, Hadga, Isabella Hashimoto, Katey Ricker, Lily St. Leger, Marisa Coluccio, Amha Getahun, Meg Viera, Melvina McDaniel, Rachel Oppenheim, Sandra Phillips, Sara Teklue, Shelby, Tara Leidle

### Q&A with Incoming Principal Regina Carter

July 1<sup>st</sup> will be her first day at Madrona. She does not currently have answers to all our questions, but will do her best to provide answers as she is able to.

Q: How will Madrona address students who are academically advanced using differentiation and when/how is the best way for us to advocate for our child?

A: Powerful instruction leads to powerful outcomes, regardless of whether you're advanced or not. The goal is to make sure every student receives quality instruction. The priority is to ensure powerful instruction is happening in every classroom for every student, which will require effective differentiation. Effective differentiation will require meeting and collaborating with teachers, attending their PLCs, and attending their data teams in order to support the level of differentiation and the quality of instruction in the classroom. We cannot go back to tracking and segregating classrooms for highly capable students. This harms students and the school community. We need to provide an inclusive environment for all students.

Q: Are you going to keep all doors locked during school hours and pay close attention to any strangers that come by?

A: Ensuring the physical and emotional safety of students is my paramount duty. Madrona has a safety plan and a safety team in place and will follow district-wide procedures. Next year, we will continue to monitor entrances and exits and make sure visitors to the school sign in at the office. All doors will remain locked to ensure safety of students and staff.

Q: What are some of your top priorities coming in as Madrona's new principal?

A: I'm looking forward to partnering with parents and staff. I want to build on all the exciting things that are already happening at the school that Principal McDaniel has put in place for students to thrive. I need to do a lot of learning and listening between now and September. I will prioritize the physical and emotional safety of all students and staff. I will create an amazing instructional environment where students can thrive, capitalizing on what we've learned so far. I want Madrona to be a pride point of the community. I want students to be proud to say they're from Madrona. I would like the community to know about the great things that are happening at the school – what the students are learning and what the school is doing for the community.

Q: How does your teaching experience influence your leadership style?

A: The #1 thing that I value is quality instruction, followed by relationships and support. Relationships are very important. If you have good relationships you can hold people to high expectations. I look forward to partnering with staff and families to make sure that the quality of instruction that the students receive is what they need.

Q: What are some of the things you are most excited about joining the school?

A: I've had the opportunity to participate in school-wide events. I enjoyed dancing, drawing and listening to stories during Multicultural Night. I'm excited that the Madrona community has a vested interest in celebrating the diverse cultures and traditions that exist within our community. I've seen pride in our community through the levy work that we're doing, the partnership with UW, the SU Gates grant and our community partners like Reading Partners.

Q: Will Madrona remain a uniform school?

A: This is not a decision to make on one's own. It should be a discussion between the staff, students and community. Madrona has been a uniform school for a long time. I'm interested in learning more in my discussions with students and staff, but for now it will remain a uniform school.

Q: Will the Madrona PTSA be able to continue its after school enrichment programs?

A: The District plan is to resume in-person services in the fall. I do not yet know the impact on extra-curricular activities. If they meet the parameters and safety protocols of the District, there is no reason why extra-curricular activities cannot continue. I'll learn more in a few weeks about what we can and can't do.

Q: What are school safety protocols?

A: Madrona has a school safety team. The school will continue to follow District guidelines and conduct safety drills so that students know what to do in case of emergency. We will revisit some of our protocols to make sure students are safe.

Q: What will bell schedules be?

A: I believe we will return to pre-pandemic bell times – 7:55am for Madrona. I am awaiting confirmation from the District and will communicate this to us.

Q: What can advanced learning highly capable students expect in their classroom in terms of an advanced curriculum?

A: The goal is not to go faster and skip standards. The goal with highly capable and advanced learners is, for example, to expose second grade students to second grade standards, but to use complex texts to meet the standards. At the third grade level, if the writing rubric requires them to write an opinion paper using two examples I would want advanced students to write using three pieces of evidence and

three examples. I expect our students to be pushed with those standards. It's about doing more work at a higher level rather than skipping standards. I do not want to segregate students into different programs. What is good for our highly capable students is good for everyone.

Q: What are other things you would like to change or evolve?

A: Effective leaders don't change things just to change things. I'll work with the staff to build on the work that is happening at Madrona and work with teachers to learn more about their instructional practice. Some things will require tweaking or changing, but I need to have listening sessions and learn first.

Q: What are the summer plans for the Family Resource Center (FRC)?

A: I'm proud of the work you've done so far and the service you have provided to our community. I believe in servant leadership. Because students will be back in school in the fall, and the school is required to provide a culture of care, and I don't know how classrooms will be configured, the library will need to be a focal point for the school and possibly even a classroom. During the summer the building will be used for Summer Staircase, special ed services and preschool. There will also be afterschool programs in the school from 1-4pm. I would also like to do trainings with the teachers over the summer. I need to make sure the library is functional in case some of these groups need to be moved to that space. I met with Tana to walk through the school and find an appropriate space for the FRC. We agreed there is one space that we can provide. I will let the FRC use the library until June 30<sup>th</sup>. I support the FRC and would like to see it continue.

Principal McDaniel commented that three African American families with children in preschool have also been asking for more space in the school. We will work with Dan at Launch to find a way to support these families.

Q: What will lunch look like for students in the fall?

A: At this point we do not know. We will hopefully receive guidance soon.

Alyssa will send Ms. Carter additional questions and give her the opportunity to answer them.

#### **Family Resource Center (FRC) - Sarah Kent**

- Have seen an average of 30 families using the FRC over the past few weeks.
- Families stress the importance of the FRC as a safe, supportive community "hub."
- Sarah and Sharon met with staff, volunteers and the principal today to discuss how to continue.
- Considering having a weekly or monthly marketplace that will take place outside the school.
- There will be fresh produce and non-perishables, but no grocery gift cards or hygiene items.
- Are looking for a place to store non-perishables in the school between marketplace events.
- The FRC is a team effort. Madrona families have provided both in-person and financial support.
- The FRC welcomes the ongoing partnership with Principal Carter.
- The FRC appreciates the support from Principal McDaniel, Nebiat, Kendra, and Ms. Cavanaugh.

## **Provisional Budget Review – Marisa Coluccio**

- The PTSA is required to have a balanced budget.
- Changes can be made, as long as we vote to finalize it at the next PTSA meeting in October. Additional changes can be made by vote at any time.
- This budget is a “best case scenario” based on pre-Covid programming and budgeting.
- Expenditures include arts-infused education, PTSA events, enrichment programming, and Green Plate Special.
- PEP is included, although it is uncertain due to space, staff, costs and District Covid protocols.
- The PTSA budgeted \$10K for the FRC; so far the FRC has been able to cover its own costs.
- The PTSA budgeted \$24K to increase the nurse position from a 0.3FTE to a 0.5FTE. Additional fundraising to cover this cost will take place later in the year.
- Most of the \$30K Covid grant has been used, but some is still available for Covid supports.
- Meg did a great job with the Move-A-Thon and 5K. These will remain as our primary fundraisers.
- Total revenue for the 2021-2022 school year is expected to be around \$150,000.
- Operational expenses are set.
- A copy of the budget will be made available for people to look at.

Q: Why is the school not paying for the nurse to be there at least at a 0.5FTE?

A: The nurse is funded by the District, not out of the school budget. Her FTE is determined by the size of the school. If we had a fragile student, or if more than 250 students were enrolled, the school would be allocated a full-time nurse. The District is funding 0.3FTE (1.5 days a week). The PTSA is bringing it up to 0.5FTE, which translates to 2.5 days a week.

- Megan made a motion to approve the provisional budget. Lily and Sarah seconded the motion. The motion to approve the provisional budget passed.

## **Principal’s Report – Mary McDaniel**

This is her last PTSA meeting with Madrona. She is leaving with a heavy heart, but will stay in touch.

- All iPads/laptops/headphones/cases must be returned to the school with the technology form on June 17<sup>th</sup>(if leaving school early) or on the 18<sup>th</sup> or 21<sup>st</sup> for in-person and remote learners.
- Summer Staircase students will return their devices at the end of July.
- Students will receive a student survey in the mail.
- Mary will send a robo e-mail in the morning regarding returning technology.
- Mary will visit several homes to pick up devices.

Q: Can we return unused school supplies?

A: Because of Covid, the school cannot accept return of unused school supplies.

Q: Do you have thoughts or suggestions for parents on how/when we can advocate for increased money for all public schools in general (other than voting and hoping we eventually pass an income tax)?

A: We have a new Superintendent. Attend open Q&A sessions and voice your opinions loud and clear.

Alyssa noted that she also has some ideas for legislative movement.

- Updated enrollment numbers expected June 14th. These will be shared with the PTSA Board.
- Currently projected at 247. Decrease in enrollment expected due to evictions of families.

Q: Does this mean that there might be fewer classroom teachers?

A: Possibly. We should be able to hold onto what we have, since we have open positions in 2<sup>nd</sup> grade, 3<sup>d</sup> grade, and 4<sup>th</sup> grade. Ms. Carbajal and Ms. Bennett are still on leave and may not come back. Ms. Pacheco is moving back to California.

Sharon thanked Principal McDaniel for her hard work, compassion and big heart, and noted that she cares a lot about the social-emotional well-being of both students and their families.

Anya thanked Principal McDaniel for her support of the arts. Mary stressed the importance of continuing to have a strong arts program at Madrona.

#### **Nominations – Sarah Kent**

- Isabella Hashimoto, Meg Gayman and Sarah Kent are the nominations committee.
- The committee's job is to nominate a new slate of executive officers.
- The goal is for the PTSA to be representative of our school.
- The larger the PTSA, the smaller the burden on each member.

The following positions were voted on and approved:

Secretary – Isabella Hashimoto

Co-Treasurer – Melvina McDaniel

Vice-President – Meg Gayman

Co-President – will address this at the fall meeting (possibly Amanda).

Thank you to the nominations committee for all of their hard work.

For those who would like to be involved with the PTSA but do not want an executive roll, there are many different teams and committees available, including the Green Team, FRC, and Multicultural Night.

**Guest – Diane Cotman dianecotman@gmail.com**

Diane recently moved in across the street from the school. She's the Executive Director of the National Learning Foundation, which is launching a new program this year called Well Fed. The idea is to create

freight farms - 40 foot container farms used to grow organic food hydroponically - in neighborhoods across the country. The farm provides an opportunity for kids to learn to grow, cook, and consume their own food. Enough food could be grown to feed all the students at Madrona. Diane plans to install a freight farm on her property after the white house next door is demolished to make room for new condominiums. The cost of the freight farm, estimated at \$150,000, will hopefully be covered by a Madrona alum. Nothing is needed from Madrona, just a "Yes, we'd like that." Unfortunately, there is only a short window of time between when the white house is demolished and when the developer begins work. Diane will need to get Principal Carter's buy-in before she leaves on vacation.

Sandra Phillips joined the meeting to let us know that she would like to donate fresh organic cherries and four types of plums from her property in Lynnwood to the food pantry.

- Alyssa and Sharon will help shepherd the discussion through the school community.

### **Panther Challenge Update –Meg Gayman**

- 166 participants from all over the country participated.
- Over \$8,000 raised.
- Planning for an in-person 1K/5K in the spring of 2022.
- May have a virtual element so that families who are far away can continue to participate.
- Thank you to Jodie Amdal for helping run the website; Sharon Hammill for working with Dan Schafer to design the Panther Challenge graphics; Teacher Browning for helping with planning; Sarah Kent for support and hanging posters; Student Advisor Paloma Vanderwarker for putting together the 1K and 5K courses; and Alyssa Hays for support during the process.
- You can still submit your times or do the 1K/5K. Meg has medals available. Email [meggayman@gmail.com](mailto:meggayman@gmail.com)

Thank you to outgoing president Lily St. Leger for her 3 years of service.

- Please join other Madrona families at Lake Washington at 8:30am or 7pm during the week for a dip, conversation and community.

### **Summer Slate – Alyssa Hays**

- Meet with Principal Carter about the freight farm and PEP.
- PTSA retreat planned for late August.
- E-mail Alyssa at [PTSA@madronaPTSA.org](mailto:PTSA@madronaPTSA.org) to keep in touch with any questions, ideas or issues.
- Alyssa will get the dance video from Multicultural Night out soon.

Sharon thanked Alyssa for her leadership and the meeting was adjourned.