

November 15, 2010
Mamaroneck Avenue School

PT Council Minutes

Meeting was called to order by President Melany Gray at 9:20am.

- I. Minutes Approved (10/15/10)
- II. Mamaroneck Avenue School Presentation (Carrie Amon)
 - a. MAS is required to give three reports to the community yearly:
 - i. Reports are given October, Mid-Year and End year – all reports are given at both a morning meeting and an evening meeting
 - ii. Message: work together – Parents, Children, Teachers, Community
 - iii. Encourage attendance once cold weather comes (always a drop in attendance during cold weather months)
 - iv. Meeting discusses both district and building goals and gives an overview of programs
 - v. Highlighted programs those sponsored by PTA this year:
 1. New playground: fundraising goal is \$80,000 (now at almost \$20k), fundraisers include tag sale, buy a brick, and Square One Art.
 2. Mamaroneck Avenue School Theater (MAST) – Annie is being performed this year (Jan 20-22). This show is fully sponsored by the PTA.
 3. Theme Nights – family nights for each grade level: Math for K-3, Family Night (maybe Bingo) for 3rd grade this year, Treasure Hunt for 4th grade and the Square Dance for 5th grade.
 - vi. Testing Schedule: Information given on test dates as well as new proficiency levels. Mamaroneck Avenue School was hard hit by these changes (especially the current 6th grade) – the need for AIS services has doubled.
 1. Lyric – Data Program that Dr. Shaps brought on board allows manipulation of data (using strands) and creates many useful reports using the test scores. District (only administrators are using program right now) will be able to compare and contrast data across years and see patterns across the district, individual schools and individual students. The Elementary levels are all

learning how to use the database and will engage teachers to come up with plans for the students based on what patterns they see. Lyric is still a work in progress – need to continue to scan in other test scores to look at patterns of performance, how to target instruction, etc. It can be an excellent tool for teachers and administrators.

- vii. Math works in a similar way – using both the state math tests as well as internal assessments (multiple measures of student performance) – build for the future.
- viii. Looking at differentiation this year (continual work in progress):
 - a. Clear sense of individual performance
 - b. Where individual's strengths lie
 - c. Where specific instruction is needed for the student

III. Superintendent Report (Dr. Shaps)

- a. Race to the Top: NY State applied for \$700 million, our district will receive \$34,000 over 4 years. New York State working on the following (here has been much confusion, dissention and discussion over all these areas):
 - i. Setting specific annual targets for improvement – levels of what is reasonable for student performance
 - ii. Common Core Standards – shift in national standards – a “national curriculum.”
 - iii. Teacher Evaluation/Performance: mapping system where student grades and assessments are all sent to Albany (measure teacher effectiveness) in order to become consistent across all districts in the state.
- b. Changes for teachers in NY State (changes will affect the negotiation process when teacher contract negotiations begin):
 - i. Demand for appeals process by teachers
 - ii. 20%/60% assessments - part of evaluation process effective July 2010.
- c. Approach to Data (Lyric): Data Program (see above) - working with administrators first, the second phase will include building that capacity with teachers. Using a systematic approach to see excellent improvement over at short period of time. As the district becomes more “data wise” – having a repository of both state and local data – we can customize our approach to fit individual classrooms.

- d. Citizen Budget Advisory Committee: 1st meeting (presentation) was well attended. They have gotten about 40 responses and will soon begin the process of sorting applications.
- e. High School Principal Search: 11/19 deadline for submitting applications. The next steps will include screening and inviting candidates in for interviews (starting in December). This week will also start the selection process for the Assistant Principal for Hommocks.
- f. Interest in Mathematics: interest in organizing a math evening – will discuss further with Annie Ward.
- g. PACE Positions: will advertise PACE positions starting in December (NY Times) so that they can hire and start transitioning early since 2 out of the 3 key PACE teachers are retiring.
- h. Developing Survey for Web Site: Use PT Council as preliminary focus group before launching the survey to the broader school community.
- i. Teacher Negotiations: official start to teacher negotiations will be in February but conversations will start earlier.
- j. Mailing Labels: District is prohibited by law from providing student information for fund raising purposes.

IV. School Board Report (Robin Nichinsky)

- a. The Citizens Budget Advisory Committee Meetings will be open to the public. 1st meeting (presentation) was well attended. They have gotten about 40 responses and will soon begin the process of sorting applications. **The next meeting will be on 12/13 at 7:30 in the MHS Library and will include School Finances 101 (and will be on the website).**
- b. 11/16 – School Board Meeting on budget process and community engagement/involvement. **On Dec. 14th at 7:30 pm there will be a meeting in the tiered classroom and the subject of Collective Bargaining will be presented (also will be on the website).**
- c. 11/30 – Study session
- d. The School board will be adding a morning work session twice a month from 7:30-8:30am. **These work sessions will be in addition to the other school board meetings.** They will be more informal meetings (won't necessarily vote on items) and will be held in the Superintendent's conference room. The first meeting is 12/7.

V. New Business

- a. Race to Nowhere: interest for follow up on the movie/discussions

- b. We the People funding: interest in this theater production – elementary level
- c. January 4th School Board Dinner: Need help in planning as well as ideas on structure/integration of PT Council members and School Board members.
- d. Need to amend PTC by-laws – process has to start at the individual units – amend standing rules and then a vote:
 - i. Reduce dues
 - ii. Make official “Co-Presidents” instead of President and President Elect.

Meeting adjourned 11:40

Respectfully submitted,
Lori Herbsman

In Attendance:

PTC: Melany Gray, Co-President, Jennifer Malherbe, Co-President; Past President: Cindy Habig; Lori Herbsman, Secretary; Celeste Sharpe, Legislation;
Chatsworth: **Laura Livaccari, Lisa Samson, Co-Presidents**
Murray Avenue: Ann LoBue, Liz Paras, Co-Presidents
Hommocks: Rina Beder, Rachel Goldman, Co-Presidents
Mamaroneck High School: Sherri Rozansky, Amy Rothman, Co-Presidents
SEPTA: Cecilia Absher, Co-President
District: Debbie Manetta, Director of Communications
Board Liaison: Robin Nichinsky
Special Guest: Dr. Shaps, Carrie Amon

Approved 12/6/10