

March 14, 2011  
Murray School

## **PT Council Minutes**

Meeting was called to order by President Melany Gray at 9:30am.

### **I. Minutes for 2/11/11 approved**

### **II. Presentation by Jennifer Monaco, Principal – Overview of new things going on at Murray – seed ideas to take back to other schools**

- a. Enhancing the educational experience of students
  - i. Partnership with children’s museum – science curriculum
  - ii. Expansion of building bridges – learning has expanded to specials (Art, Music, PE, Library)
  - iii. Jed Baker- peer buddies (specifically in Murray’s 1<sup>st</sup> self-contained class – k/1)
  - iv. Sensitivity lessons – 5<sup>th</sup> grade
  - v. New partnership with Manhattanville College for recess/PE programs (replaces the Rye Y program)
  - vi. Recess Clubs – PE, Art, Chess (grades 3 and 4)
  
- b. Response to Intervention (RTI)
  - i. Kindergarten – push in focus, building phonetic awareness, reading, model speech/language, teaching assistant
  - ii. Grade 1 – push in (in addition to pull out services) – reading teacher, AIS teacher, teaching assistant
  - iii. Development/Standardizing AIS math progress report (grades 4 and 5)
  - iv. Preventing Academic Failure (PAF) groups – grades 1 and 2
  - v. LAB classes (language arts boost up) – grades 3, 4 and 5 – reading teacher and teaching assistant help get kids ready for ELA.
  
- c. Growing and Learning
  - i. Teachers
    1. Faculty meetings – workshops to support district goals
      - a. Running records
      - b. Data warehousing
      - c. RTI workshops, etc.

2. New faculty meeting structure – “Share” – each department/grade level shares work they are doing (i.e., a unit of study)
3. Expanded professional library (PTA grant)

ii. Parents

1. Parent coffees for each grade level and SEPTA – topics designed for each grade
2. Curriculum presentation – Annie Ward, Cruz Soler and Jennifer Monaco
3. Words their Way Workshop – literacy coach
4. Parent Workshop on Bullying – 360 degree view
5. Instrumental Program Meeting – music teachers give overview of music programs.

**III. Padres Unidos at MHS (Amy Rothman)**

- a. Organization of Hispanic parents (started at Hommocks) – purpose to make inroads into the high school to navigate and help Spanish speaking parents. The VP Diversity position (currently filled by Mariana Boneo) on the MHS PTSA board is the liaison with this organization but she is leaving after this school year and someone new is needed to help fill the position. The 3/21 meeting will include continued communication regarding this topic and a discussion of what services can be provided for this community (i.e., CAP Center to print out email blasts that are sent out).

**IV. Superintendent’s Report (Bob Shaps)**

- a. District Budget – Superintendent will put forward his budget on March 15th at 7:30. Saturday, March 19<sup>th</sup> there will be a meeting to go through the budget line by line. The budget will reflect the need to maintain what we have today while navigating through the current economic climate. The goal (building credibility and trust) is to bring in as close to a final budget as possible. It has been a collaborative effort. The CBAC Board Meeting on March 29<sup>th</sup> will review the budget that has been put forward.
- b. HS Principal Search – Forums were held last week so that parents could meet Liz Clain who has been put forward as the leading candidate.
- c. DARE Program – Due to staffing and other issues, the municipalities will no longer be providing officers for the DARE program. The

subject matter will continue to be taught within our own curriculum (within the health program) and we will work to find different ways to foster relationships with the police department.

- d. New field completed – Official opening on April 2<sup>nd</sup>.
- e. Playground Improvements – building committee. This was part of the 5 year plan however updates beyond fixing black top require in depth analysis. Board is currently looking at the plan. The individual schools would like to know the time line for this information and if they can consider going forward with their own fund raising efforts.
- f. Hiring Process – would like to get parents involved in this process.
- g. Technology Committee – currently organizing and getting involved.

## **V. Legislative/Advocacy Updates**

- a. The PTA Advocacy Breakfast and other recent meetings with Legislators suggest that broader educational reforms in New York will not happen for this next budget year
- b. Sound Shore Alliance (Consortium): Had their 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting last week. Not sure our interests coincide with the rest of the group. We may want to think about taking our name off the postcard that is being printed (postcard will be blank – so messages can be written to Albany and sent in bulk). Keeping an open mind – will have to see where it is going.

## **VI. Board of Education Report (Robin Nichinsky)**

- a. Everyone is encouraged to watch the Budget recommendation on March 15<sup>th</sup> and the Saturday line by line discussion.
- b. New Anti- Bullying and Harassment Policy (0116) – this policy will be reviewed and discussed before being voted on (reading on Tuesday). The Anti-Harassment in the School District Policy (0120) has also been revised. These now include internet related activities, etc.

## **VII. New Business**

- a. Scholarships: Rina Beder/Rachel Goldman would like to share information to see how scholarships are handled in other schools in our district. Per Laura, Chatsworth has a social worker who helps decide by looking at specific guidelines. They will send these guidelines to Rina and Rachel.
- b. PTA Umbrella Issues: Examples include sponsoring events, getting a discounted table at Mamaroneck School Foundation Gala, etc. – we need to discuss, share information and have a united front in handling some of these situations.

Respectfully submitted,  
Lori Herbsman

### **In Attendance:**

PTC: Melany Gray, Co-President, Jennifer Malherbe, Co-President; Past President: Cindy Habig; Lori Herbsman, Secretary; Kristine Budhill, Treasurer; Celeste Sharpe, Legislation; Technology, Laurie Lee  
Central: Pam Buchmueller, Co-President  
Chatsworth: Laura Livaccari, Co-President  
Mamaroneck Avenue School: Lisa Boren, Tina Maresca, Co-Presidents  
Murray Avenue: Ann LoBue, Liz Paras, Co-Presidents  
Hommocks: Rina Beder, Rachel Goldman, Co-Presidents  
Mamaroneck High School: Amy Rothman, Co-President  
SEPTA: Cecilia Absher, Co-President  
District: Debbie Manetta, Director of Communications  
Board Liaison: Robin Nichinsky  
Special Guest: Jennifer Monaco, Dr. Shaps

Approved 4/4/11