

November 6, 2009  
Mamaroneck Avenue School

## PT Council Minutes

Meeting was called to order by President Cindy Habig at 9:28am.

- I. Mamaroneck Avenue School (MAS): Carrie Amon, Principal – Report was recently given to MAS parents (reports are given twice a year):
  - a. School goals: Building reading – stamina, capacity and the love of reading. Achieve these goals with a variety of methods: literacy blocks (90 minutes), reading time in school, reading time at home (just reading – no writing, answering questions, etc.), buddy reading (benefits for both the older and younger kids – i.e., for 3<sup>rd</sup> grade it may be about reading fluency), etc. Goals evolve and change throughout the year. Children set reading goals for themselves and assess if they've met those goals and they also meet often with teachers and adjust reading goals as needed.
  - b. PTA goals: support MAS goals as well as support other programs throughout the school including:
    - i. Cultural Arts program
    - ii. New playground goals
    - iii. Safe Routes to school (PTA and Administration collaboration)
    - iv. Grade Level Theme Nights – new for this year is the 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Treasure Hunt (April), 5<sup>th</sup> grade has an annual square dance and K-3 have math nights.
  - c. Additional information about MAS:
    - i. All 3<sup>rd</sup> graders at MAS loop together (by class) into 4<sup>th</sup> grade
    - ii. Mamaroneck Foundation grants this year include:
      1. Computer on Wheels
      2. Young inventors Tool Kit
    - iii. "Thin Clients" – pilot program: clusters of computers with one hard drive. Advantages - cheaper to run, conserves energy, etc.
    - iv. "Down the Hall" is the Friday sheet – now online (via email) and a link allows the user to listen to it read in English or Spanish.
    - v. MAS Production this year is Guys and Dolls (in January)
    - vi. New Testing Schedule (applies to all schools)

- d. Testing Data: high scores should be appreciated given the demographics of MAS (has the lower income concentration within district).
  - i. ELA Results for 2008 school year
    - 1. 3<sup>rd</sup> grade (current 4<sup>th</sup>): 77% got 3's and 4's – raw score since there is no prep in 3<sup>rd</sup> grade – no writing component either
    - 2. 4<sup>th</sup> grade (current 5<sup>th</sup>): 87% got 3's and 4's
    - 3. 5<sup>th</sup> grade (current 6<sup>th</sup>): 91% got 3's and 4's (these grades are shared with Hommocks)
  - ii. Getting a 4 on these tests means only getting two wrong. Getting a 3 is a much wider range (which means the bottom of the 3's may need services but aren't necessarily getting them since only getting a 1 or 2 require mandated services).
  - iii. Math results for 2008 school year
    - 1. 4<sup>th</sup> grade (current 5<sup>th</sup>): 97% got 3's and 4's
    - 2. 5<sup>th</sup> grade (current 6<sup>th</sup>): 89% got 3's and 4's
- e. Accelerated Reading Program: PTA sponsored program in 2<sup>nd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> grades where the students read books and take tests to measure the literal understanding of the books. If they take a minimum number of tests they can win prizes, special lunches and attend a year-end picnic. May be a motivating tool for kids to read, however, the questions on the tests are literal and do not measure higher levels of comprehension. This program can definitely be helpful for preventing academic failure (small group who fall under PAF).

## II. Old Business/Updates

- a. 10/19/09 Minutes approved – send approved minutes to Laurie Lee so she can post them on the web site.
- b. School Board Update (Rick Marsico):
  - i. Search Firm Consultants have been in the district all week conducting meetings and focus groups. They are happy with the turn out. November 6<sup>th</sup> is the deadline for the completed surveys. They will collect all the comments, write up a report and present it to the BOE of December 1<sup>st</sup>. Then the search process really begins. They will present about 5 candidates by the end of January, interviews will be conducted by mid-

February and the selection will be made by mid-March. The appointment announcement will be made by April 1<sup>st</sup>.

- ii. November 30<sup>th</sup> - Community Budget Meetings at 7:30pm. The purpose is to provide information on how the budget is developed, special factors (mid year cuts, contingency budget, etc.) and round table discussions.
- iii. High School boys came in 9<sup>th</sup> in the Cross Country division.

### III. New Business

- a. Technology (Laurie Lee): Meeting was held which Laurie attended. The online directory for staff is being updated – there will be some differences on how to access teachers. Laurie needs constructive feedback from parents and asked the co-presidents to solicit this feedback at their individual schools so she can present information/comments/ requests at these meetings. One comment that came from the 6<sup>th</sup> grade parent network meeting was that parents felt lost and don't know where to find information. Also a suggestion was made to put the legislative letter (that Rina just sent out) on the school web site if that's possible.
- b. Elementary School Visiting Day: The date was moved this year (it used to be on election day) and it made it hard for some parents to come given its proximity to other days where they may have had to rearrange their schedules (emergency dismissal day, conference days, Halloween parade at Chatsworth). Is it possible to change the day next year? Mixed feelings about the day – don't want to discourage it since it's a really nice experience for both parents and children, but it's hard on those children whose parents cannot attend.
- c. Heard in Rye: This is a speaker series that is sponsored by various groups in Rye (rotating location) and has a very interesting speaker list. We are welcome to attend these events and should publicize them in our newsletters, etc.

### IV. Announcements

- a. Coat Drive for MAS
- b. SEPTA Networking Meeting on the 10<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 (Hommocks)  
Benefit Concert on Thursday, November 12<sup>th</sup> at Watercolor.

Meeting adjourned at 11:15am.

Respectfully submitted,  
Lori Herbsman

In Attendance:

PTC: Cindy Habig, Co-President, Melany Gray, Co-President; Kristine Budill,  
Treasurer; Lori Herbsman, Secretary; Communications; Laurie Lee,

MHS: Sherri Rozansky, Co-President.

Central: Jennifer Malherbe, Pam Buchmueller, Co-Presidents.

Chatsworth: Joan Capaldi, Laura Livaccari Herzig, Co-Presidents.

Mamaroneck Avenue: Jennifer Vaccaro, Lisa Boren, Co-Presidents.

Murray Avenue: Tracy Owen, Ann LoBue, Co-Presidents.

SEPTA: Amy Lieberman, Cecilia Absher, Co-Presidents.

District: Debbie Manetta, Director of Communications.

Board of Education: Richard Marsico, Vice President.

Guest: Carrie Amon

Approved 11/23/09