

MADISON MIDDLE SCHOOL
PTA Meeting Minutes
May 19, 2010 Meeting called to order at 7:40 p.m.

In Attendance: Teresa Carter, Linda Bartolucci, Lynn Bocchino, Michele Karpowich, Cory DeWeese, Annette Lifrieri, Kathi Eigenrauch, Tracey Lepore, Dodi Hesse, Valerie Forshaw, Gene Stec, Kate Donahue, Mike Curry, Kathy Garzillo, Kathy Pekera, David Lopez, Kathy Tatto, Peter Sullivan.

Secretary's Report: Motion made by Kathy Pekera to dispense with the reading of March minutes, seconded by Kate Donahue, unanimously approved. Motion to accept minutes was made by Tracey Lepore, seconded by Corey DeWeese, unanimously approved.

Principal's Report: Valerie Forshaw

- Thank you for the gift for Principal's Day.
- This is a very busy time of year the following have all taken place:
 - ❖ Knowledge Masters came in 1st in Connecticut and 30th Nationally.
 - ❖ We the People came in 1st in Connecticut.
 - ❖ Math Counts will be at the Ace Foundation banquet, scores were good.
 - ❖ Girl's softball – first year. They have had 1 home game so far, they are 1 win and 2 losses, and they are very enthusiastic group.
 - ❖ This weekend Broadway Babies will be performing "Annie".
 - ❖ The spring concert season is finished.
- On the May 26th the National Junior Honor Society inductions will take place.
- Transitions are continuing: 9th grade counselors will be coming again to MMS, and MMS counselors will be visiting the elementary schools again. May 24th the elementary school will continue their visits to Madison.
- Focus groups were done at Madison with the 6-8th graders and they talked about transition and acclimation concerns. The biggest fears are social and making new friends. They still see their parents as a support system and had issues with all the homework.
- 8th grade: Bluefish baseball game was rained out again this year and we will look for an alternative event next year. May 20th, 9th grade peers from THS will visit Madison and be talking with the kids during their Social Studies class. June 1st they will be visiting Holiday Hill. June 8th will be the 8th grade supper and awards night. There will be a dance with Hillcrest students taking place at THS. The dance is not a formal, attire should be nice and girls wearing heels should bring flats to change into-bare feet will not be allowed. Only popcorn and juice will be served at the dance. This event ends at 10 pm and parents need to be prompt and be there at 10pm for pick up. On June 21st at 5pm will be the Stepping Forth ceremony. June 22nd will be the 8th grade breakfast.

Assistant Principal's Report:

Thank you for the gift for Principal's Day. The BBQ was today and it went well. Keeping students focused in the hardest thing at this point in the year. The school is reinforcing school rules and dress codes. Parents need to keep an eye on the time and arrive promptly to pick up kids at the end of events.

Faculty Report:

Gene Stec spoke about 6th grade orientation. Two elementary schools have toured Madison already and lots of the kids seemed excited to be coming to Madison. He said the staff is looking forward to a good transition.

Mike Curry gave thanks to the PTA for Teacher's Appreciation week festivities, especially the desserts! Kids are doing well; the rainy cold weather is helping keep everyone focused on school. Lots of kids were upset about the rainout of the Bluefish game. Everyone needs to remember to bring sun block to Holiday Hill. He spoke about the peer counselors from THS coming to Madison and that the kids feel better after talking to them and hearing they had the same fears going into high school that they have now.

Treasurer's Report: Dodi Hesse

- Checking balance: \$14,428.16
- Savings balance: \$13,063.18
- Total Accounts: \$27,491.34

President's Reports:

- Currently in order to get on the Madison email distribution list you have to join the PTA. The family participation in the PTA is only about 40%, however more parents need to see the information we put out in emails in order to keep them better informed. Therefore, if we make emails available to all families, what is the benefit of joining the PTA? We are looking to see if discounts can be given to families that join the PTA, for example: discounts at the bookfair, yearbook, and spirit wear. More to come in the summer mailing.
- PTA board members have visited some of the elementary schools PTA meetings to answer questions or concerns regarding the 5-6th grade transition. The visits are going well; we were well received and have answered some concerns of the parents. We plan to continue this process each year.
- Board of Education Meeting will be on Channel 17- check listings – it was a 4 hour meeting. The superintendant said there is a \$1M surplus in the 09/10 budget and the Board had said that they would give back \$216,000 to the town at the end of the fiscal year. So \$984,000 will be used to offset the budget deficit for 2010/2011 and the BOE will pre-buy supplies and text books for the 10/11 school year. Teachers at the High School, custodial staff and other cuts are still imminent. The superintendant is now "bucketing" everything to see how short we still are after this surplus. The next meeting will be June 2nd. Out of the surplus Madison will be receiving a new intercom system that will be in place for the new school year.

- THS renovations are on schedule and on budget; the old auditorium is being turned into a swing space to be utilized and will be done by the beginning of school.
- New Committee Chairs are needed; please present any names of people you feel might be interested or good for a position.
- Job descriptions for committee chairs must be completed. Some are up to date; other positions have nothing in writing. The 1st VP's will work with their committee chairs to put together a write up of the committee's responsibilities. It is especially important for the open positions.
- End of year PTA dinner will be June 16th at Marissa's; the invitation is on the website. Please RSVP if you plan to attend.

Election of Officers for 2010-2011:

Nominations:

CO-Presidents: Teresa Carter and Tracey Lepore

1st VP: Michele Karpowich, Corey DeWeese, Linda Bartolucci

2nd VP: Annette Lifrieri, Kathi Eigenrauch

3rd VP: Valerie Forshaw

Secretary: Lynn Bocchino

Treasurer: Patty Riina

Linda Bartolucci asked for "I's" and all were approved unanimously.

Congratulations to all.

Committee Reports:

- **Barbeque**

The event was today and it went great except for the fact that the 8th graders could not go outside due to the weather. This committee needs a chair for next year.

- **8th Grade Stepping Forth**

Help is needed from 6th and 7th grade parents for set up and working at the refreshment tables and for clean up at the Stepping Up Ceremony. For breakfast the next morning all food is being ordered.

- **Reflections**

Reflection dinner will be May 20th at 7pm. The Reflections breakfast will be June 2nd for all participants. We had 35 entries from 26 students. We had 1st place winners in the following categories:

- ❖ Film: Steve Bauman
- ❖ Dance: Caroline Prezioso
- ❖ Visual Arts: Miranda Heyman
- ❖ Literature: Diana Jones
- ❖ Photography: Lauren Jacobson
- ❖ Caroline Prezioso went on to take 2nd in STATES in Dance.

Congratulations to all. This committee needs a chair for next year.

No other business was brought up. This was the last PTA meeting for the 2009-2010 school year.

Meeting Adjourned: 8:20 p.m.

Next Meeting: Have a great summer!