

Math & Science Academy
8430 Woodbury Crossing, Woodbury, MN 55125
Parent Team Committee Meeting – Winter Minutes
January 13, 2011

Opening by Nancy Creeger

- Meeting began at 7:00 p.m.
- Introductions were made
- There were 11 people in attendance: Five parent team officers, MSA School Director and four parents.
- Parent Team Fall Meeting Minutes (9/23/10) were approved.
- Board elections were announced. The board has various committees which are listed on the website. For more information or if you would like to become involved please check out the website.

Board Liaison Update (Notes from Julie Runge (absent) were read by Nancy Creeger)

The following include select topics that may be of special interest to parents.

- The school has received all the funds from last year 2009-2010. These were being held back but have now been received.
- The state is holding 30% of the current year's funds (2010-2011.)
- The Board did approve second Parent/Teacher conferences which will be held during the spring semester. February grade sheets will include a memo on spring conferences.
- Parent survey results were discussed. There will be continued discussion on:
 1. 10th Grade Workload
 2. Spanish
 3. Overall Curriculum at MSA
- MSA is looking for a new authorizer, previously known as a sponsor. One parent asked what is the role of the authorizer. It was explained that the authorizer is technically legally responsible for the school. The authorizer assumes legal responsibility, guides curriculum and is responsible for performance. Basically the authorizer is our "miniature Department of Education."
- One parent asked about Board workshops. These are open to anybody. Periodically, there are closed workshops. Upcoming workshops are on the website. Workshops are informal and generally begin at 5:30 p.m. The MSA Board of Director's Meeting follows the workshop and begins at 6:30 p.m.

Treasurer's Report by Lori Nixon

- We are expecting a little more in donations yet, due to new students.
- A brief overview of the budget was given. We are staying on budget.
- There are a lot of discretionary funds at this time. These funds will be used wisely as we want to make the best use of parent's donations.

Volunteer Activities Report by April Siekmeier and Cheryl Cartony

- Ongoing projects – Pizza Day, Healthy Snack Day, Box Tops and Campbell Soup Labels.

- Conference Meals – Due to parent donated food, no funds from the Parent Team Budget were used. The food was greatly appreciated by the teachers. We will do another meal in the spring.
- Outside Speaker – Karen R. is planning to set-up a meeting for parents interested in finding a speaker for the students. They will then present to the parent team and the Board of Directors.
- Community Building Event – There were two events – one for the sixth graders and another for the seventh and eighth graders.
- Mol Day – was a huge undertaking of pudding and gummy worms. The students in Mr. Pullar and Mrs. Howe's classes loved it.
- PiDay – is coming up in March.
- May 25th is National Nerd Day (Not certain of this date....)
- Character Counts – working to get donations from the community as a way to involve the community in our school and to reward the students. It has been more successful to get product donations rather than a monetary donation from organizations. Ms. Erickson said that this has been a huge success and the students love it.
- The next big event is Open House on January 27th. We will be soliciting bars and volunteers to help. Please watch for our e-mail.

MSA Long Range Plan by Paul Simone

- Mr. Simone gave an overview of MSA's Long Range Plan. The plan is separated into five areas: enrollment, budget, facilities, academics, alternative funding sources.
- If we continue on with the anticipated growth plan, in three years we will need additional space or need to change our plan.
- One parent asked if there is more space available. Mr. Simone explained that it is available but an expensive option.

Open Discussion

- One parent asked if the CIS credits are accepted by colleges. Mr. Simone explained that it varies depending upon the school.
- PSEO night was very informative. Many schools (higher education) desire that the student completes courses at their establishment and will not give college credit for PSEO classes. Many students go into college with AP, CIS and PSEO credits. This helps the students be better prepared, but often no college credit is given by the attending college.
- One parent said her daughter is bringing PBJ sandwiches everyday because the microwave lines are long. The microwave lines vary depending which lunch the student is in. Although we would be happy to purchase more microwaves, our electrical system cannot handle anymore microwaves.
- One parent asked about putting grades on-line. Our small school environment promotes communication. Putting grades on-line may inhibit the communication. MSA wants parents, students and teachers to communicate. Grade sheets are sent home with the student on the first Wednesday of every month. This forces communication and promotes involvement. For those students who want to know their grades before the first Wednesday of the month, they can ask their teachers. This also promotes communication.

- One parent asked about a trip for the students by grade. MSA does have trips but it is generally for older grades. There have been trips to England and Ireland. There is a trip to Central Europe this March. Approximately 20 MSA students from grades 10, 11 & 12 will be traveling with teacher chaperones.
- There was discussion on May Term. Currently MSA can only support a seven period day. May term is not an option right now. The decision was made for fiscal reasons.
- One parent inquired as to why the school play switched from late spring to winter. The switch has impacted ski club and days off (MLK Jr. day – was busy with play practice.) However, if the play was switched back to May, it would be in the middle of finals.
- The Technology Fund Drive is 50% from where they would like it to be. There are about \$12,000 rather than \$24,000 donated. This number probably does not include matching funds.
- Give to the Max – raised about \$4,000 and will probably be directed to technology.
- Open House – there was brief discussion on what to expect that evening.

Next meeting is April 14, 2011.