

MINUTES of PTA/PAC

Meeting Date: November 21, 2016

Call to order: A monthly membership meeting of the Madison PTA/PAC was held at Madison Elementary School on Monday, November 21, 2016 in St. Cloud, Minnesota. The meeting convened at 6:06 pm. Julie Carpenter, PAC Chairperson presiding, and Marcus Paden, Secretary

Members in attendance

Alicia C., Matt C., Amanda J., Nicci S., Nick B., Meredith B., Marcus P., Billi R., Laura B., Karen K., Heather E., Julie C., Jean C.

Welcome and Introductions

Julie started the meeting and everyone introduced themselves.

Guest Speakers

Willie Jett, Superintendent

School ended early last Friday because of the snowstorm. The decision was made after consulting with principals and superintendent's from Sartell and Sauk Rapids.

What is the plan for Apollo since question two on the referendum failed?

It took 18 months to figure out what the community needed to pass the referendum. For some reason question one passed but the community was unwilling to pass question two, although it was an additional \$4.00 a month towards property taxes.

Ideas are being sent in and one suggestion is to ask business leaders to raise \$15 million to \$20 million. This would bring the price tag down and a smaller amount would be needed from the community.

Will the school board enact a levy?

No, the type of levy the school board can enact cannot be used for facilities.

Do you have an idea as to why the community voted the way they did?

There will be a survey sent out ask questions. Personally he heard different theories such as: there should have been three questions so people can have something to say no to or Tech didn't get anything when Apollo was built so it's their time to wait.

Do you need permission to have 9-10 grade at Apollo and 11-12 at Tech?

It would require a vote from the board with a recommendation from the superintendent. The community has consistently said they don't want that. Also, it would be a struggle to have students interact with neighboring schools of similar size. They would have to travel towards the cities.

Will boundaries be redrawn to deal with the economic disparity between Apollo and the new Tech?

Redrawing boundaries will create different issues. But there are ways program-wise to deal with it. One way is to partner with neighboring school districts where ISD 742 students can take advantage of programs in places like Sartell and vice versa. Schedules can be created so a class like welding can meet at one school during the week and another school the following week. This will partially depend on transportation and community input.

Were there precincts that passed question two and can we focus on the areas that did not pass it?

50,000 people voted and question one passed by 324 votes, question two failed by 1,000. We have the data and people will go through it to see what we can do.

Is there anything to do about teacher retention?

Coaxing Jean Clark out of retirement to stabilize things was important. Changing the structure of the building, i.e. teachers use to eat downstairs in the basement, redoing the entrance. We've changed some things to try and make it a better place. In surveying teachers we ask if things are getting better and the results have been yes. We are continually working at it to make it a place teachers want to stay.

When I first arrived in the district and I came to a parent meeting at Madison, the tension was high and there were lots of issues going on. Now the vibe is different. When I look into a classroom I see joy and things are better and getting better.

Willie Jett also praised Ms. Kruse and the students who sang at three different events around St. Cloud. The students did a wonderful job and everyone was very appreciative of their efforts.

**Laura Bakker, Academic Coach
Heather Ebnet, Young Scholars**

Young Scholars started last year and is meant to give students who are close to high achieving a little boost. There are 104 students currently in K-5. The goal is to help students reach their full potential using the growth mindset. They work on creativity, presentation, and productivity. The school will also have several school-wide enrichment days. They are working to schedule a date with the new school board to present about the growth mindset. One of the Young Scholars read the mission statement at the board meeting.

Academic achievement is team-based so they have to work together. 5th grade students just finished the Season of Knowledge Bowl. Students will also participate in the United States Academic Triathlon (USAT). Work Masters, Science Rocks and Young Artist are for 4th grade. The goal is to bring programs to younger students next year but that will require volunteers.

Another issue is transportation for USAT. Currently funding is only available for taking students to the event but students have to get a ride from the site. Students can carpool but need to have written permission.

Principal Report

Family Night is December 1st 5:30 – 7:00pm and the theme is STEAM. Report cards will be out on the 16th. The art grant has been completed and submitted. Thank you for the frames around the building. They are displaying wonderful artwork.

Volunteer Opportunities

Cafeteria

Thank You

Walk-A-Thon – Jake S, Brenda E, Jennifer U, Jaci S, Matt C, Nick B, and any other parents that helped and cheered on our students. Also thank you to everyone who donated.

Picture Day & Retakes – Rhiannon K, Beverly U, Vanessa B, Jaci S, Kirsten W, Andi B, and Alicia C for helping during picture day and retakes

Veterans Day Program – Karen K for putting the program together and Jess O for welcoming everyone

Herberger's Booklets – Dannie B, Nicci S, Marcus P, and April P for helping sell coupon books

Turkey Bingo – Pat T, Julie C, Karen K, Amanda J, Miranda G, and Kathy F

Upcoming Events

January 19th – Airmaxx Fundraiser 3:00pm – 8:00pm, more details to follow

January 23rd – PTA/PAC Meeting

Meeting adjourned at 7:28 pm.