

**Marquette Area Public Schools
Parent Advisory Council – Meeting Minutes**

Central Administration Office

1201 W. Fair

Marquette, MI 49855

Meeting Minutes: Tuesday, January 20, 2015

Welcome and call to order-

The meeting was called to order at 6:32 p.m. by President Jamie Randall. Sign-in sheet was passed. Introductions were made.

In attendance:

Paula Diedrich	TR	Bothwell
Justina Hautamaki	PR	Graveraet
Kristen Cambensy	PR	Superior Hills
Jamie Randell	PR	Bothwell, MSHS
Emily Grout	PR	Cherry Creek
Carolyn Lawrence	PR	Graveraet
Erika Morrison	TR	Marquette High School
Bill Saunders		Superintendent

*PR=Parent Rep

*TR=Teacher Rep

Approval of Minutes: Did not approve minutes. Will approve next time.

MAPS Superintendent Report: Discussed need to reinvigorate some of the Strategic Planning Committees. Some of them are in need of more volunteers. Focusing on Professional Development(PD) in the upcoming months. Setting up goals and increasing the amount of larger group courses. No longer pursuing Google certification for all staff as it is not really an attainable goal. Will be working with NMU to create curriculum and set classes for all teachers within the next year. Need technology courses to support the One to One initiative in 5th-6th grade. There will be new entrances for Sandy Knoll and the high school. Also four new fire alarm systems will be installed in the district. Tax tribunal causing some changes in the millage amounts. Curriculum Council of teachers will seek to set an established process for selecting and reviewing curriculum. There is a need for more reliable ways to measure effectiveness. The hardship of establishing Snow Day policies discussed. Weighing balance between need for clock hours and the safety of the district is paramount.

MAPS School Board Report: The board held their first meeting last month. Elected President- Rich Rossway and Vice President- Mike Kohler. Set up committees.

President Report: Year contract for billboard is expiring. We will not be continuing that method of communication in the future. Development of a MAPS app will take over the responsibility of communicating with the public in the future. Introductory release in 2 months. The app will allow parents to check lunch balances, school calendar and events. Will also start using School Messenger to instant e-mail, text, or call parents for immediate communication purposes, such as emergency situation, attendance.

School Reports:

Alternative High School: Adding 9th grade next year.

High School: Finished exam week well. Bringing motivational speaker and Volleyball Olympian to speak to the students in small groups. Knitting scarves for a fundraiser. Teacher Appreciation luncheon of Border Grill was enjoyed. The 9th grade dance was well attended. Rehearsal for the next school play under way. 8th grade visit the high school on Feb 10th.

Bothwell: New fundraiser coming up with Fun Services. They have set up prizes to encourage sales including Ipad 5th gen for grand prize. Every 5 items sold gives a raffle ticket for the grand prize. Difficulties have surfaced with yearbook and photo contract. Currently hosting a Box Top and Econo Foods receipt blitz with the goal of creating funds for teacher start up money next year. Family Night at the UP Sportsplex coming up. Paula was thanked for the idea of using wish lists during parent/teacher conferences to collect needed supplies. There was a Christmas Tree with wish items on it as well.

Cherry Creek: Craft Fair was successful, raised additional funds for Bay Cliff. \$3100 in Box Tops has been collected so far this year. New portable tech was donated to the 2nd and 3rd grade from these funds. Elementary PTO Presidents are meeting to share ideas and exchange information.

Sandy Knoll: No Report.

Superior Hills: Transitioning from previous principle's retirement. Hosting a school carnival for community to attend with food, photo booth, games. Upcoming Father/Daughter Dance on April 24th. They are deciding if it will be open to other schools or not. Possible corsage fundraiser at the event.

Graveraet: The Holiday Fair was profitable. They have received a Kohl's scholarship and a Walmart donation. A Facebook account has been established for parent groups. The PTO approved bylaws. The library is up and running in stage 2 of automation. The Women's Federation donated

some K-1st grade books for a portable cart library. Planning for Young Authors trip and covering the cost of busing back and forth to event. A Talent Show is being discussed for March 21st, possibly interschool. A new program called JJ Packs has started creating and distributing food for those who request it over the weekend. Using funds from local businesses (Econo and Super One) as well as parents in the school, they purchase and assemble food packs to be discreetly given to the students on reduced/free lunch plan for weekend consumption. The group is looking for additional funding through grant programs and hopes to expand to other MAPS elementary schools.

Old Business: Fundraising for 5th grade Bay Cliff as a district is still being discussed. PTO presidents are not showing very much interest in a combined effort. Still considering a Chili Cook Off with a silent auction. Possibly a movie at Kaufman. Aiming for march/April dates.

Additional Item:

Next Meeting Date: February 17th, 2015.

Adjourn at 8:01 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Emily Grout, Secretary