

Marcy Family Connections Meeting (Marcy Parent Council) December 3rd, 6pm

In attendance: Kate Suchomel (chair); Margarita Castenon (vice-chair); Joy Caires (treasurer), Donna Andrews (Principal); Sidney Orchard (family/community liaison); Rebekah Martin (acting treasurer, happy to be replaced); Alexis Clarksean (has a kindergartner); Zahrah Farah; Barwako Ahmed; Natasha; Maryan; Kaabe; Yodit Abraha; Carrie Olsen

Principals report (Donna): It's been busy at school with planning and the ongoing pandemic. They are working to figure out what the new asynchronous days, by order of the district, will look like. (At the beginning of the year, teachers were mandated to be available to the kids all day without any breaks. The day before Thanksgiving break, the teacher's union and the district reached an agreement about having an asynchronous day for grading/meeting with teachers/one to one meetings/prep etc.)

The asynchronous day will be added next week for all grades. The agreement was sent at 2pm the day before Thanksgiving break...so implementation/communication has been slow. Wednesday is going to be the asynchronous day. The special education teachers are not going to take an asynchronous day because of the level of support many of the children need. Comp time may be given instead.

CDD and how we are moving forward next year—Marcy is going to be a K-5th grade school beginning in 2021/2022 school year. Marcy Arts Magnet (instead of Marcy Open School). Parents/guardians with children currently enrolled at Marcy have been grandfathered in. Any families who wish to go to a different school (as well as 5th-8th graders) will need to submit a school choice application for next year.

As an arts magnet, Marcy will have more arts—including: music, band, choir, visual arts, drama, potentially dance (Marcy is one of 2 arts magnets—Bethune is the other and they may have the dance studio in order to incentivize families to consider Bethune). We are supposed to get almost 200 kids from Folwell (which will no longer be an arts magnet)—we don't know how many of those kids will come over to Marcy instead of staying at Folwell. Marcy has 365 kids being grandfathered in.

Current projections for attendance next year is 80% capacity (580 kids). Full capacity is 650 students.

Marcy did ask for a pre-k program, but were told that this would cost too much money because state funding is not available for pre-k programs. There will be three sections per grade with the hope that Marcy will grow to four sections per grade.

There is hope that many Marcy middle school teachers will have the opportunity to go to Northeast Middle School.

Donna is seeing that the district is trying to add some of the kinds of offerings that the suburban districts have had access to.

Saturday is the virtual open house when folks can visit, virtually, the various schools. Later, there will be four virtual open houses for prospective families.

Note, the district sent out e-mails, robocalls and texts regarding student placement at Marcy. Some people may not know that they have not heard—so, if folks haven't heard they need to reach out to Donna.

School pictures can only happen if students are allowed in the building. As for a yearbook, Donna doesn't know yet if this is going to happen.

Donna has the master list of who is assigned to each school. Her number is (612) 290-3008

Kate will talk to Donna about which principals will be invited to tell Marcy kids about the school options available for Middle School (specifically Franklin STEAM and Northeast Middle).

Book Fair Update from Natasha—We are at 1200-1300 in sales (equal to 130 dollars). If we can get to 2000 we get back a higher percentage. It is really hard doing a virtual book fair and we don't know how much is getting read or looked at when it comes to the communications that go out.

Update from Rebekah: Parent Council money was not needed for the artist residency (which will be through MAP).

If anyone has any library books from Marcy at home, they can bring them anytime during school hours to drop them off.

Discussion of procuring coffee gift cards for staff (90). These will be mailed. This was approved as an expenditure of 1200 dollars (for gift cards and postage).

Meeting adjourned.