

Marcy Family Connection (Marcy Parent Council)
October 8, 2020 at 6pm- held virtually bit.ly/Oct8Marcy (Passcode: Marcy)
Meeting Agenda (6:00-7:00pm)

- Welcome and Introductions—Michael Hogan, Kate Suchomel, Rebekah Martin, Margarita Castanon, Donna Andrews, Sidney Orchard, Joy Caires, Nicole Vanderheiden, Natasha Georgia, Carrie Olsen, Kevin Gilliam
- Overview of Marcy Family Connection
 - o New name!
 - o Purpose, activities and plans
 - o Parent Representatives and Treasurer needed

Questions and discussion: Q and A with Principal Donna Andrews,

Are current k-4 students going to be grandfathered in, in 2020/2021? Yes, all current students in K-4 remain at Marcy.

Donna expressed commitment to work towards staffing that reflects the racial diversity of the student body.

Desire to maintain the peace and social justice emphasis as an arts magnet.

We are slotted for 542 kids next year. This will help inform what kind of arts enrichment will work in the space (e.g. dance studio).

City wide magnet—but we share the city with Bethune School (which will also be an arts magnet).

We are projected to receive students from Folwell and Sheridan.

New hire, Hannah Edwards, to help with transition to arts magnet—magnet coordinator.

Concern about the staff in the transition into K-5.

Where does it seem that the bulk of current middle schoolers are going next year? Kids are being funneled to their community schools. Most from NE will go to NE Middle School or Franklin.

Jefferson is going to be a STEAM school.

Suggestion of survey about where current middle school students are going next year.

Question: how do families get connected? Robo-calls and paper. Paper is most effective—Marcy can do a mailing on behalf of Family Connections. Lack of connectedness. School social worker, Chul, driving around city every day to try to get kids get what they need for learning. Additional part-time social worker to work with ASD kids (Shannyn).

What percentage of kids are showing up? 95% of middle schoolers are showing up in some way. In elementary, between 90 and 95%. The vast majority are on-line and doing things with their teachers. We lost 82 kids over the summer, but gained some, we are sitting a little lower than before. Headcount around 680 (usually around 704). Class sizes are good, but teachers are reporting that class size doesn't matter because kids are on-line (and not sharing space). Feedback from teachers that parents are helping too much.

What could this group do to support the teachers? They are all first year teachers this year (in the sense of it's a whole new way of having to teach). The teachers who are struggling the most have young children at home and are trying to juggle tending the children and teaching.

District is requiring teachers work from 9-3pm, without a break. But, this is not being enforced across the district. Donna has allowed each team (by grade level) to approach implementation of distance learning as they think best. This does mean that the experience of distance learning can vary greatly by grade.

- Family Directory - share, fill out, spread the word! (bit.ly/MarcyDirectory)
Paper letter will be sent via Marcy.
- (6:45pm) Principals Report (meeting so small, this took the form of Q&A)
- Questions, needs, ideas, suggestions

Marcy Parent Council Meeting (7:00-7:30pm)

2020/21 Budget: See budget (attached). Presented by Rebekah Martin.

- Highlights: book fair dollars uncertain, we've never done a virtual fair. Budget, best guesstimate.
- 680 students, 16 per student for classroom teachers.
- We will have a deficit budget this year, but are going to spend down the money that is in checking and savings

Kate motioned to approve, Kevin seconded—budget passed unanimously.

Special Requests:

- K-5 teachers want to purchase BIPOC authored children's books for curriculum (\$1100). Everyone motioned to approve simultaneously, unanimous approval.
- Art teacher requested \$900 to hire an Ojibwe artist. This MAY be covered by MAP. If not Parent Council will cover cost. Kate, motion to approve. Margarita, seconded. Unanimous approval.

Discussion on Book Fair and other Fundraisers

Natasha looked into the breadth of options for on-line book fairs. Usborne is the best company for raising money 10-15% cash back depending on sales. If you earn over 1500, you get 15% cash back. The books are shipped flat fee (6.95 to ship to the home). Drawings for free shipping/reimbursement for shipping over a certain amount. Runs for 14 days. Natasha suggests the last week of November, first week of December. Teachers can do a wishlist—parents can buy books for the classroom. If someone buys a bulk amount of books, if it's 250 or more, Usborne contributes another 25-50%. (In the future, if you take book credits instead of cash back, you can get 50% back in books). We'd run the book sale for 14 days, ending December 5th.

Also, cards for a cause—you can earn 43% cash profit from this (30 dollars per box) and we'd earn \$13 from every box sold (we will do this in the spring).

Upcoming Events:

10/21/2020 Chipotle Fundraiser: School Spirit Tastes Great! Join us for a fundraiser for Marcy Open Parent Council (aka Family Connections) at the Chipotle near Marcy School (225 Hennepin Ave E) on Wednesday October 21 from 4-8pm. 33% of your purchase that night will go to Marcy! Here's how to participate:

- Tell the cashier that you're there for the Marcy Open Parent Council fundraiser when you check out!
- Order online (or using the Chipotle app) and use the Promo Code X4Q7XZV on the Chipotle app or website. Please note that fundraiser online ordering is only valid for pickup at the 225 Hennepin location (not valid for delivery) and only during the hours of 4-8pm on Oct 21st.

11/5/2020 at 6pm: November Marcy Family Connection Meeting