

Franklin-Randall PTO Board Meeting

4/8/25 5:30pm

Randall Elementary School LMC
1802 Regent St, Madison WI 53726

Attendees: Mickey Willis, Caitlin Voegelé, Lisa Hawk, Ashley Russell, John Wallace, Emily Powers, Kemper Smith, Ashley Check, Brian Schneirow, Soumya Palreddy, Vickie Eiden.

Call to order: 5:32pm

Minutes: Lisa motion to approves, Brian seconds, motion carries.

Super Science Sunday Recap:

- Seemed less well attended than last year
- Custodians are more expensive on Sunday (double time) than Saturday (time + 1/2)
- UW Science Fair is a close weekend

Principal Updates – John:

- Focused on closing out this year to get ready for next year: class placement, new hires, instructional schedule, testing, etc
- Working on reaching focus kids to raise scores – one on one with students and in groups
- Third grade visited the film festival
- Third grade created a state of Wisconsin golf course, the whole school got to participate
- Fifth grade strings concert – kids performed without an audience because they couldn't find a large enough venue

Principal Updates – Emily:

- Franklin had a few assemblies in March
 - March Madness assembly – teachers show their competitive & vulnerable sides in front of students
 - Trinity Irish Dance on St Patrick's Day, featured a second grade dancer
- Had some teacher fun before spring break including a rock paper scissors game among staff
- Had a Bayview PEG night
 - families wanted to know about different ways to support problems at home and discuss common challenges
 - changed format of nights to a more free-flow set up with resources available: SEL resources, zones of regulation, size of the problem, morning & evening routine charts to help accomplish tasks, academic resources
 - it was a great evening
 - there is one more left this year, the focus will be on health and healthy eating
- Franklin team has been pushing attendance challenges such as “Beat the Bell” to arrive to school on time
- Next attendance challenge will aim for 90% attendance, competing against different grades and the teachers. Students can win a coupon to Urban Air. Teachers will win lunch.

Principal updates discussion:

- At Randall there are incentives for the “Randall Way” – attendance could be a good future challenge
- Where do Randall and Franklin sit with attendance?
 - There's a decent percentage that fall below 90%
 - Chronic truancy and absenteeism is more prevalent post-Covid than in the past
 - Overall, probably above the national median at Franklin, but there is room for growth
 - Randall's math block is 8am-9am, so you miss math if you're habitually late
 - At Randall, can also do better, but above the national average
 - Attendance goals are district wide
 - Have to know our community and try different things to see what works to make improvements. Root causes are mixed – different for each kid. Want to remove the barriers to get kids there.
- If there are resources available from the Bayview meeting, could be good to give school wide at the beginning of the year. Plan is to make available at the Franklin Fly-In next year.
- Any hope for a later start time? No, it's a busing issue.

Playground Update – Kemper:

Recap: last year we established the need for professionals to evaluate the issues (such as ice on the blacktop, kids slipping, accessibility, vegetation, etc) and help develop a plan with design phases. We hired a local landscape architecture firm, Saiki Design.

Update: the purchase order was held up, but it finally went through and there will be a kickoff meeting this Friday at 10am.

- It's a tight timeline to finish design, aiming to have this phase done by the fall.
- Trying to have something to show for the Flash Dash in May.
- Need to organize committee to help out and engage community during the Flash Dash to hear what people want to see.
- Upcoming opportunities for tabling: flash dash, Bayview night, kindergarten night.
- Saiki will have materials ready for the 15th.
- Will have a virtual way to give feedback as well.
- Will train committee on how to gather meaningful feedback.
- For the committee, could be good to have a teacher who has been there for awhile.
- Committee members – ideally someone with fundraising experience and longevity at Franklin.

President Update – Caitlin:

Parking:

- In the past we agreed to give **profits** from parking cars at two home games per year
 - does not include money earned from separate UW contract (\$14k/year)
 - **profits** from parking cars (money earned minus expenses) is about \$36k/year
- MMSD was supposed to fully own the parking for these two games per year to remove burden from the Franklin/Randall community to support after a training period
- Results in about \$10K going to other schools (20% of total parking profit, 28% of game day parking profit)

For 2025/26 budget plan:

- Continue with current setup for 2025-2026 budget
 - give 2/7 of game day parked car profits (about 20% of total parking profit)
 - Identify two schools from the seven Title 1 community schools that have partnered with us least recently
- Parking committee will investigate and present at the October board meeting a recommendation for 2026-2027 school year and beyond with a **goal to document and finalize so it does not need to be rehashed year over year**
 - Committee Members: Brian S., Kate F., and Ashley C.
- We are currently investigating options for summer concerts in 2025, will present options at May meeting.

Parking committee will be looking at:

- Is 2/7 of game day parked car profits still the right amount of money?
- Who should receive this money?
 - Title 1 schools vs. Title 1 community schools
 - Select schools vs. all schools per year
 - Madison Schools Foundation
- How will we handle ad-hoc scenarios (concerts, graduation, etc.) that we may sell in the future?
- Does it make sense for us to continue to be involved in every game including the ones that we do give back for?
- How do we involve more of the schools in this decision?
- Brian will put together historical document
- Important to involve and survey our community on what to do with funds.
- Discussion on the history and options
 - John provided some history and context: original motivation was damage control, not philanthropic.
 - There is currently no oversight from MMSD – everyone that was there is gone. So it is very open as to what can happen.
- Conversation on community schools and programs available there, compared to our school community.
 - Very large disparities within our school community.
 - The students who need the most support are low income, families of color, students with disabilities, language learners.
 - BOE Instructional Work Group Meeting – that discusses programs available at other schools: <https://www.youtube.com/live/-qYSuzgPo34?feature=shared>
- Can we also do parking for volleyball games?
 - The PTO can sell parking to anything – just need more volunteers and man power.
 - Discussion on ways to better publicize the need for volunteers

Insurance:

- Caitlin did a deep dive: two other PTOs have insurance.

- Lisa added liability insurance to the budget for next year.
- Our consultant at MMSD advised that district clubs, including PTOs, are considered “insureds” on the liability policy and would be covered as indicated below:
 - In the above, the "you" is the District, so the PTO is covered under District insurance where the District has authorized the PTO to use District premises or host activities within the scope of the PTO's purview. This extends to the PTO's directors/members acting within the scope of their duties for the PTO.
- Thus, the PTO does not need to spend money on insurance.
- This should cover parking as well under MMSD's general liability insurance

Franklin Fun Run Volunteers & PTO Presence – Lisa:

- PTO will need volunteers at the event for the playground gathering and to recruit board members
- Lisa will order items and will coordinate to recruit volunteers
- Kindergarten playdate coordinators – will find within PTO

Clothing Drive – Caitlin:

- Having a winter clothing drive at Flash Dash – parents can bring winter gear
- Will have an alternate drop off site too
- The plan is to wash and store the gear until fall.
- Discussion on how to organize.

Treasurer Update – Lisa:

- Budget is on track, but has \$3000 shortage due to last month's vote re: parking funds
- PTO keeps about \$20k extra in the bank to cover spending that occurs before income arrives
- Starting 25/26 fiscal year with \$16k buffer
- Overview of budget adjustments for next year.

2025-26 Open Roles – Caitlin:

- Still looking for small events coordinator
- Newsletter editor – get one more
- Garden co-lead
- Volunteer co-lead for Kate
- Fundraising co-lead possibly
- Parking – could use 2 additional volunteers
- More members for playground committee – need now

General discussion on gifts for teachers who lent their rooms to Spanish. Emily suggested parent volunteers to give the teachers extra time during a school day rather than a monetary gift.

Adjourned: 6:59pm.