

Franklin/Randall PTO Meeting Minutes

Date: March 11, 2026 5:30pm – 7:00pm

Location: Randall Elementary School Library and Google Meet

Attendees (bold=attended): **Caitlin Voegele, Lisa Hawk, Susannah Rockman-Lee, Principal Powers, Principal Wallace, Mickey Willis, Vickie Eiden, Amanda Franklin, Ashley Check, Ashley Russell, Brian Schneirow, Daniel Stolz, Jennifer Bastian, Kate Freedman, Soumya Palreddy, Kemper Smith, Samip Kothari, Beth Waldron, Colleen Manner, Hayley Vlach, Cindy Green (guest speaker)**

Topic	Duration	Speaker	Time End
Approve February Minutes	5 min	Susannah	5:35
Principal Updates	15 min	John/Emily	5:45
Grants Funds – Used at Another School	5 min	Soumya	5:50
PTO Updates <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Super Science Saturday 3/14 9-10• Open Board Slots	15 min	Caitlin	5:55
Playground Update	10 min	Caitlin	6:05
MMSD – Building for the Future	50 min	Cindy Green	6:55

1. Approval of September Minutes (Susannah)

2. Principal Updates

Franklin (Emily Powers):

We had an author visit last week on Friday. It was impromptu. Some 1st graders are going to a show and the author was in town for the show and came to the school to read her stories. The kids were really engaged. It's the couple of weeks before spring break, weather is helping with this too and letting kids be outside. Tomorrow, we are hosting the staff fun, setting up the wonder workshop as a beach for the staff. A couple of staff will be covering for the teachers so they can go relax and have snacks – including blow up palm trees. Parent teacher conferences went well last week.

Franklin spirit gear – school has a connection within Franklin community member that does spirit wear on the side. Principal Powers is working with him to redesign spirit wear and getting staff input. Families can donate or purchase a shirt for a child. Will have one t-shirt that is only for kids. Finishing up the designs and then deciding what apparel we are going to offer. Plan to launch sometime after spring break. This will be in addition to the purple shirt. This will be an ongoing opportunity.

Q: Is there a possibility for combined Franklin/Randall spirit gear?

A: This is possible. Emily and John to discuss.

Randall (John Wallace):

Kids have been fantastic, enjoying the weather and recent field trips – good that the students get out for field trips this time of year, recently had music concerts. Focus is on upcoming testing. Starting to look at plans for next year resourcing and school planning.

3. Grant Funds (Souyma)

- Approved a grant to buy assistive equipment, ordered it, got it, then the student left for another school. Request that another student within the district gets to use it. Item is a specialized chair. There are other items – fidgets.
- The board agrees to share/lend them with other schools in the district while Franklin/Randall doesn't have a need for them right now.
- Send approval in email with details that this is a long term loan.

4. PTO updates (Caitlin)

Discussed open PTO roles, newsletter placement for recruitment, and low March volunteer availability. Volunteer recruitment continues via newsletter and outreach for open PTO roles.

5. Playground update (Caitlin) Continued effort to fundraise, seeking a volunteer with fundraising experience to help meet financial goal

6. MMSD – Building for the Future (Cindy Green)

Building for the Future – Information Session

Strategy & Innovation Team

[Link to PPT](#)

This is informational only; no decisions have been made – the goal is building awareness.

New MMSD Vision and Mission

Plan has 3 parts

1. Boundary Review and Attendance review
2. Enrollment Strategy
3. Updating long range facility plan or facility condition report, this will go to board in the Fall and will inform the overall plan

Why?

- Growth within the city of Madison, WI 15k housing units by 2030, will increase children/families that will join the school district
- 2050 – city of Madison will grow by an additional 100k people
- Madison is the 3rd largest city of growth in country
- Most districts in the state are declining in population. Not the case for Dane county
- We haven't done this work in recent times; this is an opportunity we don't want to pass by.
- What do we need to do to plan for this growth? Families may be coming but may not be choosing MMSD.
- What is it that families want and desire to keep them enrolled in MMSD.

This planning will:

Assess attendance, establish attendance areas where development is occurring, evaluate current programs and options, understand what our families value for their child's educational experience

- Enrollment trends
- Capacity across schools
- School utilization
- Forecasting, Future enrollment, birth rates

Fall 2025 launched survey to build awareness and get input on what's important
Will plan on another survey

Q: How many would you hope to hear from?

A: On avg get a 30% response rate, would have hoped for this

- Neighborhood schools, diversity in schools, flexibility and choice, transportation (access and safety), some have to pass 2-3 schools to get to their school
- Guiding principles: Utilization, Demographics, Transportation & Neighborhoods, Stability, Programming
- Our boundaries are different than the city of Madison boundaries
- Interactive map (QR Code in presentation)
- Some are optional zone areas – families in this area can choose
- MMSD owns land near some of the new growth, could also in some areas have a school with a community center attached

Timeline:

July 25 – Sept 25 - Initiation

Oct 25 – Feb 26 – Preparation

Feb 26- Jan 27 – Boundary Options

Jan 27 – Feb 27 – Final Boundary Options

This will go to board of education for final decision/approval

Community Input Sessions

May 4-7 (high schools) and May 11-14 (neighborhood centers and community centers) –Times TBD – will also have some virtual sessions. This will be the first time to bring initial ideas and get community feedback, and will do a second round as part of the overall process.

Q: Any case studies of similar districts that have had similar issues and what you might have learned?

A: Google Boundary consolidation school – there are many others doing this. Austin is experiencing similar growth and similar growth issues. Did some school closures that we can learn on what not to do. Newark (15% population growth), Denver (choice options)

Q: Attendance area changes – is this both attendance and feeder schools?

A: Most change proposals focused on elementary and middle.

Q: Far west side – is there space for elementary and middle?

A: Probably one school. The 21 acres on east side could possibly have 2 schools

Q: Would new builds be referenda?

A: Unless state funding is changed, it will likely be referenda.

Q: Have community listening sessions, how will teachers and principals have this information?

A: There is a module available, have also asked principals to host information sessions. Cindy will also host sessions.

Q: Schools and spaces are different outside of Madison (Verona has multiple gyms), is this impacting MMSDs future planning / trying to compete with?

A: Public education is thinking differently across the country and in a recruitment mindset. Surrounding districts are using law allowing open enrollment. MMSD has about 500 students that open enroll; most have IEPs. None of the surrounding districts offer all the services and amenities that MMSD has. We have the opportunity to create youth sports to be as competitive.

Q: What are the district's current thoughts on positive / negative – if we don't keep k-2/3-5 model.

A: Got a lot of positive feedback on this school set up.

Q: White families were overrepresented in the initial survey, what are your plans to get more representative feedback?

A: Starting with community centers as a first round, 2nd trying to do focus groups. Working with a UW-Madison partnership to think through other ways to get the voice of all families. Also working with an ethnographer at UW – students will be calling families and doing outreach to see if we can get more input.

Q: Have you thought about the timeline after the school board meeting if they approve changes, thoughts on implementation timeline?

A: BOE could approve none, some or all of the recommendations. Depending on what happens, this will be a multi-year plan. The earliest implementation would be the 2027-2028 school year.

Q: Middle schools – Hamilton has almost double the student population as other middle schools? Why is this?

A: School was built for a larger number of students – can hold 850, currently at 790. Some middle schools at 600, Wright 200, Spring Harbor 250. Way it was designed and it's a dense area. Cherokee will have a new build and will increase capacity. This is why the 2024 referenda focused on middle schools. Changing attendance areas might be one way to alleviate attendance pressure.

Q: Can you talk about the new build? West has no parking and in a dense area with no space, how will you approach this?

A: West just had renovations and has a little parking. The community wanted to keep the building intact. We have many students that take advantage of other opportunities (Madison College, Virtual, Apprentice program). If we are trying to prepare students for the future, introduce more schedule flexibility. District doesn't see a need to expand high schools

Q: How is capacity determined?

A: Just updated how we define capacity. Calculate space based on any classroom that is 500 sq ft or more. Don't account for library, art room or music rooms. Some exceptions for odd shaped spaces (ex. Triangle shaped room). Principals submitted data on this to inform updated capacity.

Q: Speaking of principles set for this work, how will you honor families who want to go to a neighborhood school while keeping diversity in schools?

A: Principles can be in conflict with each other intentionally to help balance the solutions put forward.

Q: Wonder about the survey feedback, good that you will reach out to people aside from the survey. Some of the questions, it's hard to pick things that are in conflict with multiple things that are important.

A: This is good feedback; this is why community sessions are upcoming. If the community has ideas on how to get more feedback from families, share with Cindy. What other things can we do to keep families here. Planning for growth, there are risks – what else can we do to meet family needs for school. Send feedback to Caitlin or Cindy directly.

Q: Public schools in general are seeing decline, why?

A: Declining births and families are choosing other places – open enrollment in other districts, neighbor school, private, parochial, Montessori, online. Promotion of voucher opportunities.

Q: Do you have a sense of how much of some of these decisions are made? Is it because of a lack of understanding of keeping money in the school districts?

A: Not yet. Reached out to families that did open enrollment that never came or came and then left. Also creating an exit survey so if someone leaves, we can learn more. Will have more data in the future.

✓ ACTION ITEM SUMMARY

- Discuss co-branded spirit wear (Emily & John)
 - Chair purchased with grant funds - Send approval in email with details that this is a long term borrow. (Caitlin & Souyma)
 - Continue outreach for PTO volunteers (All)
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