

Marathon Middle/High School Advisory Council

MEETING MINUTES

January 10, 2012

6:00 PM MMHS Media Center

SAC Members in Attendance: Principal Hammond Gracy, Assistant Principals Liz Logan and Wendy McPherson, Athletic Director Teresa Konrath, Chairperson Luis Gonzalez, Vice Chairperson Karen McKeon, Secretary Anita Nelson, SGA Representative Alexander Morato, Karen Angle, Beth Ann Connell, Diane Culver, Gerard “Spook” Roussin, and Suzanne Ryals.

Not in attendance: Delvis DelPozo, Lisa Maeder, Mike Puto and Regina Ryan.

1.,2. Welcome:

The meeting was called to order at 6:05 p.m. by Chairman Luis Gonzalez. The Pledge of Allegiance followed.

3. Approval of Minutes:

Karen McKeon made a motion to approve the minutes to the December 6, 2011 meeting. The motion was seconded by Diane Culver and unanimously approved.

4. Dolphins of Distinction:

The Dolphins of Distinction awards will be tabled until the February meeting, at which time two support personnel, and two certificated personnel awards will be presented.

5. SGA President’s Report:

SGA President Alexander Morato summarized SGA and class activities as follows:

- a. Freshmen T-shirts have been distributed.
- b. The sophomore class has elected new officers as follows: Sarah Dodamead, President; Sydney Schuhmacher, Vice President; Hailey Salyers, Secretary; and Xavier McKnight, Treasurer.
- c. On January 12th, a Herff Jones representative will meet during the school day with juniors and seniors who wish to purchase class rings, be fitted for graduation gowns and purchase graduation announcements and the like. An HJ parent meeting will be held on January 17th at 6 p.m. in the media center, with orders also being taken the 17th and 18th during high school lunch.
- d. The seniors won the recent food drive competition.
- e. the SGA has instituted a petition drive to ask that all students be allowed to attend honor roll/perfect attendance assemblies.
- f. Mr. Morato gave details on the Queen of Hearts (February 14th) and King of Hearts (March 15th) competitions coming up.

6. Principal’s Report:

Mr. Gracy provided information and lead discussion on the following topics:

- a. Two letters dated January 4th and 10th from Superintendent Jara were presented; among other topics, they recognize the Monroe County School District as an “A” rated district for the sixth year in a row, and congratulate Marathon Middle/High School for its “A” school grade based on its 1,163 total points. MCSD achieved a ranking of 8th out of all school districts in Florida for the 2010-11 school year. Mr. Jara also requested support for the January 31st “half mill referendum.”

- b. Mr. Gracy presented the School Accountability Report for MMHS for the 2010-11 school year, and outlined how points were calculated. The report shows steady overall graduation rates; an approximate 10-point increase from 2009-2010 to 2010-11 in at-risk graduation rates, acceleration participation (such as AP and DE enrollment, and career and technical courses which have certification requirements), and math readiness; and nearly a 20-point increase in reading readiness. Mr. Gracy specifically pointed out the 67% proficiency level in “low” students’ reading gains; and the 718 out of a possible 800 points for the high school components of the score.
- c. One change for 2011-12 is that graduation rates will be calculated on 4–year, standard diplomas only. One category to work on is the at-risk graduation rate, which for 2010-11 was at 73%. Higher FCAT cut (passing) scores were implemented for this year, making maintaining an “A” school grade that much more challenging.
- d. The school grade/accountability report and explanations of how points are calculated and changes for this year can be found on the Florida Department of Education site at <http://schoolgrades.fldoe.org> (click on “Search School,” “Accountability Reports,” “School Grades,” “Monroe County,” “2010-11 School Year,” and “Combo Schools”).
- e. The consequences of a “no” vote in the January 31st referendum were discussed; at least a \$9 million budget shortfall in operating funds would result. Luis Gonzalez requested assistance from SAC members in e-mailing and informing parents and community members of the importance of the referendum. Having students request absentee ballots would help; contact Luis if any questions. It was noted that parents must request absentee ballots for students attending college.
- f. The 2010-11 “A” school grade will result in school recognition dollars, which can be spent on bonuses and non-recurring expenses, such as school supplies, substitute teachers and the like. SAC’s approval will be sought for how to spend the dollars; if no agreement can be reached, the money will be spent on bonuses.

7. ***Assistant Principal Updates:***

High School Update: Ms. McPherson reported on the following:

- a. PSAT results will be going out to students tomorrow, January 11th. One use of the results is to determine which students can handle AP classes. The score report and description can be found on a link on the school’s Web site: Go to “Announcements & Events,” “For Parents,” then to the PSAT links. Students can sign on and determine correct answers for those items they answered incorrectly. PSATs are important for 8th, 9th and 10th graders, because good scores can result in money for college for 11th graders.
- b. Algebra I EOC retake tests for 9th graders are coming up, January 12-18. Geometry and Biology EOCs will be in April.

Middle School Update: Ms. Logan noted the following:

- c. A graphic but effective anti-smoking assembly will take place this Friday (13th) for 6th graders. If parents wish to have their children opt-out, a letter will go home accordingly.

8. *Athletic Report:*

Ms. Konrath reported on the following:

- a. Recent fundraisers, including the Stuffed Pig event and alumni soccer game, were big successes. The latter made \$1,800.
- b. Marathon will be hosting District soccer tournaments over the next two weeks. The girls' semi-finals will start on January 18th, with the final game on the 20th at 7 p.m.; and the boys' games will start on the 23rd, to conclude on Wednesday, the 25th. There will be a \$5 entrance fee, and a concession will be available. The teams are about $\frac{3}{4}$ of the way through the soccer and basketball seasons.
- c. Softball tryouts are this Friday (13th), and baseball tryouts the following week. Tennis tryouts start on the 18th at the Community Park.
- d. The cheerleaders will be competing in Miami this Friday (13th).
- e. Soccer Coach Murphy will be out for about another three weeks due to his back injury; Chris Bull has been pitching in to complete the season.
- f. The Mid-Keys Booster Club and Athletic Alumni Club have been very helpful with fundraisers this year; money earned goes toward scholarships and travel expenses. The annual \$10K raffle and stone crab dinner (\$15 per plate with date to be set) are coming up.
- g. A January 27th alumni softball/baseball game at 6:30 will also benefit MMHS athletics; the \$50 entrance fee includes a fish fry dinner. A culinary dinner and girls' basketball game will take place the same evening. Some discussion occurred about what would be the best day to hold alumni games.
- h. On February 11th from 11 a.m.-4 p.m., the baseball team will host a pre-season classic, to include Miami and Tampa teams. Tickets are \$12 and include an Outback Steakhouse dinner. 600 tickets will be sold.

9. *"For the Good of the Order" (Open Agenda Items):*

- a. A thank-you to the Mid-Keys Booster Club for the dryer provided to Ms. Bollig's Life Skills class was offered.
- b. To a question as to whether there would be a Middle School dance option for prom night, it was mentioned that a dance was being planned. It was emphasized that prom itself is for high school students only. (Juniors or seniors can invite freshmen or sophomores.)
- c. Regarding the upcoming referendum, it was noted that early voting begins on January 16th and that Marathon residents can vote at the 63rd Street Supervisor of Elections office; absentee ballots may be requested by calling 289-6017.

10. *Adjournment:*

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 7:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted this 23rd day of January, 2012, by
Anita J. Nelson, Secretary

(Note: Sports schedules and the school calendar are posted on the Web site.)