

# Marathon Middle/High School Advisory Council

## MEETING MINUTES

February 7, 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, Karen Angle, Beth Ann Connell, Diane Culver, Delvis DelPozo, and Suzanne Ryals. **Not in attendance:** Lisa Maeder, Alexander Morato, Mike Puto, Gerard “Spook” Roussin, and Regina Ryan.

**1.,2. Welcome:**

The meeting was called to order at 6 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 January 10, 2012 meeting. The motion was seconded by Karen Angle and unanimously approved.

**4. Dolphins of Distinction:**

- a. Certificated staff Dolphins of Distinction awards were presented to Andrea Murphy, who has skillfully and expertly juggled teaching science, coaching softball and handling family responsibilities; and to Barbara Cavanah, who has pitched in wherever needed, including tutoring students and assisting with technology issues and the electronic gradebook.
- b. Support staff “Dolphins” were presented to Liz Ramos and Yvonne Fuentes, for their daily teaching support which helps students and teachers succeed.

**5. SGA President’s Report:**

SGA advisor, Suzanne Ryals, summarized SGA and class activities as follows:

- a. The Queen of Hearts and King of Spring activities have been reinstated; Queen of Hearts (whereby all the boys are given tokens and the girls try to “capture” them by getting the boys to talk to them) will take place Tuesday, February 14<sup>th</sup>. King of Spring will take place March 15<sup>th</sup>.
- b. A SWAT (Students Working Against Tobacco) art competition is underway.
- c. A free Teen Women’s Conference, sponsored by the Domestic Abuse Shelter, is taking place on Saturday, March 3<sup>rd</sup> at the Holiday Inn, Key Largo. Girls aged 13-18 are encouraged to attend. The conference will address preventing dating violence, promoting healthy friendships, and reducing rivalries. Call Linda Mixon or Venita Garvin Valdez, 743-5452 for details.
- d. Seniors will be sponsoring the “computer matching fundraiser,” as in previous years. Details upcoming.
- e. Juniors have set May 19<sup>th</sup>, the Saturday after the last AP exam, as the prom date. They are also sponsoring a “valentine’s kiss fundraiser,” to sell to the Middle School and High School.
- f. Sophomores are sponsoring a carnations and candy fundraiser; costs are \$2.50 for flowers and \$2 for candy; parents may purchase items for delivery to students as well. Freshmen are in planning stages for their activities.

- g. Ms. Ryals is still sponsoring 7 a.m. leadership class activities for anyone who wishes to show up.
- h. Class and SGA officers for 2012-13 will be nominated in the beginning of March.

**6. Guest Speaker:**

Christopher Fletcher, a Keys native who has been the director of the Middle and Upper Keys FKCC campuses for six months, summarized his background and qualifications, his goals for expansion of the satellite campuses, and how FKCC and MMHS can partner in offering college courses and tutoring to our students. Main points included:

- a. The Marathon FKCC campus services 200 students (1700 college-wide), and a goal is to increase to 500 students locally, by enhancing DE and continuing education offerings.
- b. The campus offers daytime, night, and online classes (see online schedule @ [www.fkcc.edu](http://www.fkcc.edu) ). There are three summer sessions, with the second one starting in early June. Two full-time PhD instructors, for English and math, were recently hired. DE students do not have to pay for books, lab fees and tuition, plus get free tutoring if needed, and transferrable college credits. Sophomores or higher with a 3.0+ GPA and passage of the college placement test, may take DE classes.
- c. For how an Associate's Degree may transfer to universities with rigorous curricula, students are advised to look at their major to determine if prerequisites are met, such as with GPA and community service hours.
- d. Mr. Fletcher urges students and parents to let him know if needs are not being met; he is at the Marathon campus Tuesdays and Thursdays, and at Coral Shores Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. He will have a booth at the upcoming Curriculum Night, and will be assisting with students' FAFSA applications (see the *free* website @ [www.FAFSA.ed.gov](http://www.FAFSA.ed.gov) ).

**7. Principal's Report:**

Mr. Gracy offered some additional points pertaining to DE and AP offerings, and summarized developments relating to A+ money and staffing as follows:

- a. It is possible for a student to simultaneously earn a college AA degree and a high school diploma, taking DE courses. A student may take DE courses but sit for AP exams, earning credits that are transferrable to community colleges and the 12 state universities, respectively. An AA degree should guarantee admission to certain state universities. DE courses may or may not be weighted in GPA, and college credits (not counted in GPA) might be awarded. DE students may have credits beyond the freshman level, but be admitted as freshmen so they qualify for freshman housing and other services. See FACTS.org for a list of universities that accept community college credits.
- b. A goal for MMHS is to enhance school/community partnerships by offering ESOL instruction, credit recovery, etc., in the evenings.
- c. The state of Florida has reversed itself and given districts an unspecified period of time to decide how to spend A+ money awards, which cancels out the January vote. Future staff and SAC meetings will be held to come to a decision.

- d. Mr. Gracy has a meeting tomorrow with Superintendent Jara to discuss school funding for next year; information on this will be forthcoming. Questions are whether a 7-period day will be reinstated; whether Spanish and ESOL instruction will be enhanced; and whether Springboard will be used countywide.
- e. The upcoming departure of the Van Voorsts has created openings in the math department and in the after-school program. Ms. Swango will tentatively move into Mr. Van Voorst's math position; and Dr. Penny Bower, on staff at Coral Shores High, will transfer to Marathon and take on Ms. Swango's position. It is hoped that some DE credits for students can be reinstated. Some discussion occurred about turnover in the math department which has occurred this year and last. Qualified after-school help is also needed with the Century 21 Program.

8. ***Assistant Principal Updates:***

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

- a. The Curriculum Fair will take place Wednesday evening, February 15<sup>th</sup>. A brief presentation in the auditorium starts at 6 p.m., followed by presentations in the gym. Students need to pick up 2012-13 schedule cards as they enter the gym; electives should be chosen and ranked, cards signed by parents, and cards returned no later than Friday to ensure that students' preferences are considered. MMHS is planning for 7 periods next year, but if we remain at 6, one elective will be dropped.
- b. A FAFSA completion workshop will take place February 16<sup>th</sup> in the Media Center at 6 p.m.
- c. A schedule of Florida statewide assessments was passed out; testing will conclude May 18<sup>th</sup>, with AP exams administered the two previous Mondays.

***Middle School Update:*** Ms. Logan noted the following:

- d. It was emphasized that Middle School students must now pass all four core subject areas (language arts, math, social studies, science) in each grade (6, 7, 8) to be promoted to High School. A number of accommodations are being employed to help students pass, including perhaps Saturday school and Florida Virtual School. Summer school is unlikely this year.
- e. Honor roll and perfect attendance assemblies will take place this Friday: High School assembly during 2<sup>nd</sup> period, and Middle School assembly during 3<sup>rd</sup>. All students will attend. An ice cream social for honor roll and perfect attendance students only will take place 6<sup>th</sup> period.

9. ***Athletic Report:***

Ms. Konrath reported on the following:

- a. Kudos to Joey Gonzalez and Yoniel Esquirol-Lopez, who aced the Under Armour baseball tryouts, and will be traveling to locations around Cape Cod, Florida, Texas and California in the summer with their respective teams.
- b. Preseason baseball and softball tournaments are coming up: Girls' softball starts this Friday, February 10<sup>th</sup>; and a baseball preseason tournament involving Marathon, Palmer, Somerset, Ft. Pierce and Westwood will take place Friday and Saturday, February 10-11. The latter will include a homerun derby, an Outback Steakhouse dinner (@ \$12) and a pig roast.

- c. The first home tennis team matches will take place Friday, February 17<sup>th</sup>.
- d. The annual \$10,000 Athletic Alumni Club drawing to benefit MMHS athletics will take place March 25<sup>th</sup>, with the stone crab dinner also being planned.
- e. The winter sports awards assembly will be on February 29<sup>th</sup> @ 6:30 p.m.
- f. Two outstanding soccer players have been nominated for the “Miss Florida Soccer” title: Katie Landry and Taylor Konrath.
- g. Some discussion occurred as to inequities in Monroe County sports transportation funding. Key West is using older, maintained school buses which the coaches drive at no additional cost except gas; Marathon must charter vans/buses to make transportation dollars stretch. Mr. Gonzalez urged interested parties to attend District Advisory Council meetings, held the first Wednesday of every month, to offer input.

**10. “For the Good of the Order” (Open Agenda Items):**

- a. The Marathon Recreation Center will host a Middle School dance the evening of February 10<sup>th</sup> from 8-11 p.m. Cost is \$8. Contact Diane Culver if questions.

**11. Adjournment:**

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted this 22nd day of February, 2012, by  
Anita J. Nelson, Secretary

(Note: Sports and testing schedules and the school calendar are posted on the school Web site and on the Florida Department of Education site.)