

Marathon Middle/High School Advisory Council

MEETING MINUTES

November 8, 2011

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, Middle School Liaison Lisa Maeder, SGA Representative Alexander Morato, Karen Angle, Beth Ann Connell, Delvis DelPozo, and Suzanne Ryals. **Not in attendance:** Diane Culver, Mike Puto and Regina Ryan.

1.,2. Welcome:

The meeting was called to order at 6:05 p.m. by Chairperson, Luis Gonzalez. The pledge of allegiance followed.

3. Approval of Minutes:

“Spook” Roussin made a motion to approve the minutes to the October 4, 2011 meeting. The motion was seconded by Beth Ann Connell and unanimously approved.

4., 5. Dolphins of Distinction:

Dolphins of Distinction awards/gift bags were presented as follows:

- a. The support personnel recipient for the month of November is lead custodian, Andres, employed by the GCA Corporation to keep our school clean. Andres’ impressive efforts led to Marathon Middle/High being named the GCA “school of the month.”
- b. Certificated staff member recipient is Suzanne Ryals, who, in addition to regular teaching duties, spearheaded very successful homecoming celebrations/events.

6. Special Topic: .5 Mil:

Mr. Gonzalez recapped the approach that the school district is using in encouraging voters to pass the January 29th .5 mil referendum: “No new taxes!” A “yes” vote in the referendum will allow the district the flexibility to transfer the .5 mil of already-approved taxes – or approximately \$9 million - from capital (primarily building construction) funds to operational funds in the next school year. Since not much more building construction is anticipated, it will allow more flexibility in distribution of funds.

7. SGA President’s Report:

SGA President Alexander Morato summarized the SGA’s and classes’ activities as follows:

- a. Seniors are working on fundraisers for graduation and planning Grad Bash.
- b. Juniors are working on numerous fundraisers to raise money for prom expenses.
- c. Sophomores are working on fundraisers and freshmen are working on getting their T-shirts.
- d. The SGA is working with the MMHS administration to bring back certain traditions which should help to boost school spirit, including: King of Spring/Queen of Hearts; movie nights; beach day; some more events added to Homecoming; and encouraging clubs and a club fair.

8. ***Principal's Report:***

Mr. Gracy touched on the following topics:

- a. There has been a problem with parents dropping off students in the middle school inner bus loop lane(s). Parents are encouraged to instead drop off students in the middle parking lot lanes. Lines will be painted and signs posted to direct the traffic. Parents may also drop students off in the high school drop-off circle.
- b. Recent progress monitoring revealed that 23% of students currently have D's and F's. In response, grade recovery contracts are being instituted to help raise grades. The point is "whether" students learn, not necessarily "when."
- c. The District calendar winter break and the end of the semester (January 19th) do not match up this year, so mid-term exams have been scheduled for December 19-21, with make-ups on December 22nd.

9. ***Assistant Principals' Reports:***

High School Update: Ms. McPherson and Mr. Gracy reported on the following:

- a. Interviews will start on November 10th to find a qualified math teacher to replace Ms. Wells, who gave notice suddenly due to the deployment of her husband to Iraq. It is expected that a new teacher will be found shortly. In the meantime, Ms. Meinke, Ms. Coleman and Ms. Cavanah are assisting in various classes to help keep students on track. In the event that no qualified permanent teacher is found, the college algebra (DE) class will transition to a weighted pre-calculus class, and students may take an FKCC class the second semester. It was noted that the DE credit is not the most important factor for the college algebra course.
- b. Ms. Wiatt noted that math was the lowest score for Take Stock in Children students who recently took the ACT.
- c. Ms. McPherson noted that several "diagnostic" assessments have and will be administered to students, including the "Ready Step" assessment (a "pre-PSAT" field test); the FAIR testing, administered three times throughout the year; and the "Write Score" assessment, which measures writing and biology skills.

Middle School Update: Ms. Logan noted the following:

- e. Parents are urged to help middle school students prepare for upcoming semester exams, including assisting in the review process.
- f. Wearing of uniforms is "slipping," but has also been quite successful in encouraging all students to dress properly. One issue is "winter" clothes: students may wear white or black jeans of any fabric including denim, but not blue jeans. Jackets and hoodies are OK, as are shirts in stripes and plaids, as long as they are "polos" in school colors. The dress code is flexible, and can change from year to year. For any students in need, clothing donations are being collected in the office, and a clothes rack may be set up in the school store.
- g. Clarifying dress code policies and coordinating with organizations such as Kids Come First will be addressed.

10. *Athletic Report:*

Ms. Konrath reported on the following:

- a. The last football game of the season against Doral will be this Thursday. The volleyball, swimming, cross country and golf teams are applauded for great seasons. Middle school, JV and varsity teams have been and will be fielded for all sports. Many students turned out for sports this fall, including 55 kids in volleyball, and 21 in swimming.
- b. The fall sports awards assembly will be on December 15th at 6:30 p.m. in the auditorium.
- c. Winter sports have started already, including 5 games for girls' soccer, and with the boys starting today. Girls' softball will start next week, and boys' baseball the following week. Pat Fasio is a new girls' soccer coach; the school is advertising for a boys' soccer coach.
- d. Transportation costs are still an issue and will be next year as well, but costs have been reduced from the typical \$600 cost for a bus to \$200 for Avis vans or SUVs.
- e. Pig Day at the Stuffed Pig, which benefits MMHS sports, will be on December 4th, and may bring in \$12,000 - \$15,000. Karen McKeon is spearheading a silent auction, and could use donations and help. 50/50 raffle tickets may be purchased from "Spook" Roussin.
- f. The sports calendar is such that play will continue during midterm week, but travel will be limited. Study halls are ongoing for athletes, and are scheduled by the coaches.

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

- a. Review of revised Bylaws was tabled until a future meeting.
- b. An omission of two long-term SAC members was noted; Ms. Nelson made a motion to include Regina Ryan and Gerard "Spook" Roussin as SAC members; Karen McKeon seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

12. *Adjournment:*

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted this 16th day of November, 2011, by
Anita J. Nelson, Secretary

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