

# Marathon Middle/High School Advisory Council

## MEETING MINUTES

December 6, 2011

6:00 PM MMHS Media Center

**SAC Members in Attendance:** Principal Hammond Gracy, Assistant Principals Liz Logan and Wendy McPherson, Chairperson Luis Gonzalez, Vice Chairperson Karen McKeon, Secretary Anita Nelson, SGA Representative Alexander Morato, Karen Angle, Beth Ann Connell, Diane Culver, Delvis DelPozo, Mike Puto, Gerard “Spook” Roussin, and Suzanne Ryals. *Not in attendance:* Teresa Konrath, Lisa Maeder and Regina Ryan.

**1.,2. Welcome:**

- a. The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Luis Gonzalez at 6:15 p.m., following the serving of a holiday buffet. Mr. and Mrs. Stan Haines from Collector’s Corner were introduced; they are partnering with MMHS music instructor Mr. Rayhill in a fundraising effort to repair 108 band instruments @ \$75 each; twenty-two have been repaired so far with \$1,650 in donations, leaving about \$6,450 yet to be raised for repairs. Donations payable to “Marathon High School Band” will be accepted at Collector’s Corner, and brass plates with the donors’ names will be affixed to each repaired instrument.
- b. The pledge of allegiance followed.

**3. Approval of Minutes:**

Mike Puto made a motion to approve the minutes to the November 8, 2011 meeting. The motion was seconded by Karen McKeon and unanimously approved.

**4. Dolphins of Distinction:**

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

- a. The support personnel recipient for the month of December is Middle School office assistant Jackie Gonzalez. Jackie has been a team player with Ms. Logan in running the Middle School office, plus has volunteered where needed, including in the front office, with sports events, as a translator, and in general has been the “face of Marathon” for the school.
- b. Certificated staff member recipient for December is Christina Belotti. Christina has a Master’s in Reading, and has assisted with the school’s summer camp, worked a supplemental 6<sup>th</sup> period to meet instructional needs, handled intensive reading and ESOL mentoring, and sponsored Boxtops for Education, pizza nights, and National Junior Honor Society.

**5. SGA President’s Report:**

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

- a. SGA is sponsoring a “King of Spring” and “Queen of Hearts” this year. More info to follow.
- b. SGA recommended that the entire school be at the honor roll and perfect attendance ceremonies, as opposed to just recipients.
- c. Seniors are sponsoring a talent show after the winter break; auditions will begin December 12<sup>th</sup>. They are working on raising money for graduation expenses.

- d. Juniors are holding meetings to plan for prom and raising money for prom expenses. Prom location to be announced.
- e. Sophomores are having a carnival in January.
- f. Freshmen will have their T-shirts and theme by winter break.

6. **Principal's Report:**

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

- a. A December 1, 2011 St. Petersburg Times article reprinting a communique from Governor Scott's office declared that he would "(commit) to investing more in education." The state foresees a \$1.2 billion **budget gap** for Florida schools in 2012-13, but few solutions have been brought forth. Governor Scott encourages comments and ideas forwarded to his e-mail @ [Rick.Scott@eog.myflorida.com](mailto:Rick.Scott@eog.myflorida.com) .
- b. The Middle School **dress code** has been largely successful in ensuring proper student dress. There has been some confusion about what fabrics, colors and patterns meet the code; for example, pants can be in khaki, navy or black, and white is acceptable, but blue jeans are not. Striped shirts in proper colors are acceptable, but some stakeholders want a stricter policy. Some economically disadvantaged students need help to purchase clothes, and the Middle School office has maintained a supply of acceptable clothes which students may get before school hours if necessary. The advantages of using an official uniform company next year were discussed. Mr. Gracy requests input from SAC on these issues in the spring.
- c. A District **accreditation** team will be meeting with school personnel tomorrow, December 9<sup>th</sup>.
- d. Mr. Gracy emphasized the prohibition, according to state statute, of parents **dropping off students** in the Middle School bus loop. Students should instead be dropped off in the parking lot, or in the High School drop-off loop. Signs have been posted, and personnel are monitoring drop-offs.
- e. Several "**Principal Goals**" to be presented in Mr. Gracy's upcoming meeting with Superintendent Jara were mentioned:
  - To increase AYP to at least 80% (from the present 79%, in spite of the fact that AYP will probably be discontinued); it was noted that the 2010-11 high school grades may not be posted until next month;
  - To increase the percentage of students who pass AP tests from the present 37% to 42%; and
  - To improve MMHS's attendance rate 2% from 93.8% to 95.8%. Intervention teams, backed up by the truancy laws, will assist in this goal.
- f. The MMHS band concert is December 14<sup>th</sup> @ 7:30 p.m.
- g. Several donations have been made to the school, including \$300 from the Zonta Club for magazines for young women; a \$525 donation from the Coldwell Banker Schmitt Realty Charitable Foundation for the band; and \$800 from the Marathon Church of God congregation for athletic travel. Pastor Vaughn and his wife were on hand, and were thanked for their donation.
- h. In addition to Governor Scott's letter, the .5 mil January referendum was discussed; it was emphasized that although it is a Republican primary, all registered voters of any party may vote in the referendum.

7. ***Approval of Bylaws:***

Mr. Gonzalez and Ms. Nelson presented a revision to the MMHS SAC Bylaws; after review of same, Mike Puto made a motion to accept the revised Bylaws as presented; Karen McKeon seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved. Revised Bylaws will be presented to the District and published on the school Website.

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

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

- a. PLC meetings by grade level are being instituted; for example, all 6<sup>th</sup> grade teachers of English will meet, as will all 6<sup>th</sup> grade teachers of math.
- b. Of the approximately 71 seniors, there have been issues with some who are not turning in work on time. "Saturday school" is being held to help students catch up, and one more school is planned in January. 14-17 students attended the last one. Mr. Sutton, Ms. Costello, Ms. Cavanah and Ms. Ryals have been assisting. The credit recovery classes, "Novel Stars," are helping about 80 students make up credits, but there is some uncertainty as to whether the \$185 per student per course will continue to be funded by the District, or whether parents would have to pay the cost. Ms. McPherson has been assisting in English, and Mr. Sutton in science. CLEP tests may also help with credit recovery.

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

- c. According to state law, Middle School students must pass classes in all four core subject areas for the three years in order to advance to High School.
- d. It is unlikely that there will be summer school this year; a credit recovery program offered through the Keys Center Academy is one possible option.

9. ***Athletic Report:***

In Ms. Konrath's absence, Mr. Gonzalez reported on the following:

- a. Kudos to the girls' soccer team, who won their game 5-0 today.
- b. "Pig Day" will be this Saturday, December 10<sup>th</sup>, at the Stuffed Pig Restaurant from noon to 5 p.m. It is sponsored by the Mid-Keys Booster Club, benefits MMHS athletics, and features an all-day BBQ, games for the kids, a silent auction, and a "tip jar" for donations for school uniforms.
- c. An alumni soccer game will take place December 19<sup>th</sup> from 6-8 p.m. with a pork dinner @ 7 p.m. to benefit MMHS athletics.
- d. Marathon will host a District soccer tournament the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> weeks of January.
- e. The fall sports awards assembly (and a poetry theater) will be on December 15<sup>th</sup> @ 6:30. Attendance in proper attire at the awards is mandatory for participating athletes.
- f. A Diamond Spring Sport Golf Tournament to benefit the softball and baseball teams' travel expenses has been scheduled for December 17<sup>th</sup> on the KCB course, with tee-off at 9 a.m.
- g. Sports games during midterms week have been scheduled for at-home or within the county to minimize travel.
- h. Spring sports will be starting in early February.

- i. Some discussion occurred about whether funding/fundraising for the various teams is equitable. Mr. Gracy requested that parents see him or Ms. Konrath if they have any complaints.

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

- a. Mr. Gonzalez reported that there was a conflict with the food service regarding the honor roll/perfect attendance luncheons which have taken place. The food service considers the luncheons in competition with them, therefore the luncheons have been discontinued.
- b. Mr. Gonzalez reported on topics that he will present at the upcoming District Advisory Council meeting, including discussion of how to resolve the above-mentioned food service conflict and to reinstate the luncheons; the lack of funds for summer school; and the possible loss of credit recovery program funding.

**11. Adjournment:**

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted this 14<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2011, by  
Anita J. Nelson, Secretary

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