

# Marathon Middle/High School Advisory Council

## MEETING MINUTES

February 1, 2011

6:00 PM Marathon High School Media Center

**SAC Board Members in Attendance:** Principal Hammond Gracy; Assistant Principals Wendy McPherson and Liz Logan; Athletic Director Teresa Konrath; Luis Gonzalez; Cindy Durkin Bull; Anita Nelson; Karen McKeon; Karen Angle; Delvis Cabrera (DelPozo); Tara Coleman; Beth Ann Connell; Diane Culver and Tracy Hannah. **Not in attendance:** Tammy Bruland; Debra Davis; Mike Puto; “Spook” Roussin and Annabelle Walker.

**1. Approval of Minutes:**

Following Mr. Gonzalez’ welcome and the Pledge of Allegiance lead by MHS cheer squad members Takara Coleman, Zamaira Richart and Stacie Colon, a motion to approve the January 11, 2011 minutes was made by Karen McKeon, seconded by Tara Coleman, and unanimously approved.

**2. SGA Report:** In Ms. Walker’s absence, Assistant Principals McPherson and Logan reported on Student Government Association activities as follows:

- a. Carnations for Valentine’s Day @ \$1.50 each are being sold by the freshmen. The SGA is also distributing the compatibility surveys.
- b. Planning for prom, with the theme of “A Masked Affair,” is underway. Students will be allowed to wear half-masks to prom, which will take place at the airport terminal.
- c. Seniors are planning a “Homegoing Week” in May, to include activities similar to field day, with more information forthcoming.

**3. Keynote Topic: Anti-Bullying Task Force:** In Dr. Lancaster’s absence due to an emergency, Ms. Logan passed out flyers and gave an overview of this new task force, as outlined below. Ms. Lancaster also has a list of “Outstanding Books for the College Bound” which was passed out, and copies of which are available in the Media Center and from English and Language Arts teachers. There is a special section of books from the list which are in the library collection available in the Media Center. Regarding the anti-bullying task force:

- a. A meeting seeking input from parents and other interested parties will take place on Wednesday, February 23<sup>rd</sup> at 3 p.m. in the Media Center.
- b. The task force may include parents, educators and law enforcement personnel, including MMS/MHS’s Sgt. Test.
- b. The purpose of the meeting is to share information about adolescent and teen bullying behaviors, to understand district reporting and responding policies and procedures, and to share ideas and resources for reducing bullying behaviors and empowering victims.
- c. Some goals of the task force will be to give guidance to the victims as well as to the bullies, and to encourage students to be proactive in discouraging bullying behavior.

**4. Dolphins of Distinction:** Mr. Gracy and Mr. Gonzalez presented this month’s awards to Katharine Mayan (instructional recipient) and to Evalina Lezcano (staff recipient). Ms. Mayan is invaluable as a liaison with our Hispanic students and parents, and in

her work with ESOL students; and Ms. Lezcano does an outstanding job keeping our campus clean. Thanks to Karen Angle for providing the baskets, and thanks also go to Office Depot, Walgreen's and the Athletic Department for providing donations.

5. **Principal's Report:** Mr. Gracy reported on the following:

- a. The recent bomb threat at the school resulted in a brief lockdown and search of the campus. Nothing was found, and the perpetrator was identified. As a "code red drill," the lockdown provided the school with valuable practice as to what to do in such a situation. Several such drills are normally held each year.
- b. Inappropriate behavior on buses, possibly including smoking, was discussed. Mr. Gracy encouraged parents and students to report specifics of any such observed or suspected misbehavior so that it can be investigated and reported to District transportation supervisor, Kayleen Watts. Bus drivers are responsible for behavior on buses; in the event of serious misbehavior, normal procedure is to bring a bus back to the school where such students are removed and referred for disciplinary action. What's best for the school is the main criterion in determining consequences.
- c. Regarding school grades and testing, the District is working on district-wide, consistent end-of-course (EOC) exams, which will start with Algebra I this year. Uniform tests will eliminate grade inflation and promote progress monitoring. Students who fail exams may be allowed to resit for them without taking the course again. There was some question as to whether most 8<sup>th</sup>-graders will be ready for the Algebra I EOC exam, which will be 30% of the grade this year. Having high-quality teachers will be a must, since the U.S. is 16<sup>th</sup> or 17<sup>th</sup> in the world in math achievement.
- d. Dr. Jara will be invited to attend the March 1<sup>st</sup> SAC meeting to give an overview of a position paper on how accelerated math and uniform EOCs will help students succeed.

6. **Assistant Principals' Reports:** Ms. Logan and Ms. McPherson reported on the following:

- a. A free RIF (Reading is Fundamental) book hand-out has been underway, one of three that takes place during the year.
- b. Ms. Skaggs and Ms. Belotti have been coordinating MMS/MHS's participation in the national "Million Minutes Competition." Our students have contributed 20,000+ reading minutes.
- c. The honor roll assemblies and cookouts will be this Friday, February 4<sup>th</sup>. Assembly for high schoolers will be first period, and for middle schoolers, second period. To emphasize the theme of "doing the right thing," honor roll students will now have the privilege of eating lunch on the patio.
- d. The FCAT writing test is the first week in March and the FCAT reading and math tests the second week of April. Students are encouraged to access the District link for FCAT help/practice, since completing practice exams can raise scores by 100 points or more. PSAT results were also handed out Monday, January 31<sup>st</sup> and are being reviewed by teachers and students; individual results were not distributed, and Ms. McPherson will check into this.

- e. For the second day of Dolphin Days/FCAT testing in April, arrangements are being made so that juniors and seniors can go to Boomer's. More information is to follow.
  - f. Students are encouraged to check with social studies teachers about signing up for SATs.
7. ***Athletic Update:*** Ms. Konrath reported on athletic activities as follows:
- a. Ten MHS Cheerleaders placed first in the "Miami Meltdown Competition," a non-tumbling state competition that was held this past week; Takara Coleman's cheerleading was televised nationally.
  - b. The girls' varsity basketball team will go to districts this weekend, and the boys, next weekend. "Senior night" will be held for the boys' and girls' teams. Middle school teams had competitive seasons, with the girls winning a second-place trophy, and the boys, third-place.
  - c. The soccer team is going to districts.
  - d. The AYSO (JV) soccer team took first place in the state.
  - e. Baseball and softball seasons are starting, and the tennis schedule is being finalized, with an assistant coach being sought. Coaches are being flexible with tryouts, as the winter and spring sports seasons tend to overlap.
  - f. Ms. Konrath is proud to report that the overall GPA for the girls' basketball team is 3.01.
  - g. The assembly for fall sports will be Thursday evening, February 3<sup>rd</sup>.
  - h. The alumni basketball/softball fundraiser was held this past week, and will contribute to a new batting cage for MM/MHS. A fundraising raffle and March 27<sup>th</sup> benefit at Keys Fisheries will take place.
  - i. The Seven Mile Bridge Run is April 9<sup>th</sup>; Ms. Konrath has applications for students, which need to be completed and returned soon; students run free if the application is obtained from her. The Marathon Runners' Club gives a yearly donation to the MM/MHS athletic department.
  - j. Some upcoming dates: A grocery-bagging fundraiser for the baseball team will take place this Sunday at Publix; February 8<sup>th</sup> is the first softball game; and February 15<sup>th</sup> is the first home baseball game. The school Web site has been updated with all sports schedules.
8. ***SAC Dollars:*** Mr. Gracy will check on whether SAC dollars for this year and/or last are available, for what dollar amounts, and report at our March 1<sup>st</sup> meeting.
9. ***Adjournment:*** There being no Open Agenda or other business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 7:05 p.m.

(Note: The monthly academic and sports calendars and testing schedules are available on the MHS and District Web sites, respectively; school accountability reports are available on the Florida Department of Education website.)

Minutes submitted February 9, 2010 by Anita J. Nelson, SAC Secretary