

# Marathon Middle/High School Advisory Council

## MEETING MINUTES

March 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; Anita Nelson; Beth Ann Connell; Mike Puto and SGA President Annabelle Walker. **Not in attendance:** Luis Gonzalez; Cindy Durkin-Bull; Karen McKeon; David and Tara Coleman; Diane Culver; Karen Angle; Delvis Cabrera; Debra Davis; Tracy Hannah; “Spook” Roussin; Tammy Bruland and Regina Ryan.

**1. Welcome and Approval of Minutes:**

The meeting was called to order at 6:05 p.m. by 2009-10 SAC Chairperson Katrina Wiatt, in Mr. Gonzalez’ absence due to sports commitments. The pledge of allegiance followed. A motion to approve the February 1, 2011 minutes was made by Beth Ann Connell, seconded by Teresa Konrath, and unanimously approved by those present. Minutes will be forwarded to absent board members for their approval.

**2. Keynote Topic: End-of-Course (EOC) and Math Exams:** District

Assessment/Accountability and Math administrators Janet Meinke and Serge Sanchez provided handouts and outlined upcoming changes in testing schedules, which include computer-based testing (CBT) and critical End-of-Course (EOC) exams. Main points included:

- a. Senate Bill 4 (still under consideration) provides a 7-year timetable for implementation of EOCs, beginning with Algebra I this year for incoming 9<sup>th</sup> graders; this year’s EOC counts as 30% of a student’s grade. Next year, the EOC will be pass/fail, meaning that a student must pass the test to get credit for the course.
- b. A student may get credit for a course by passing an EOC exam or re-take exam. In the Credit Acceleration Program (CAP), a student does not have to take the course to get credit, as long as he/she passes the EOC. Exemptions to taking the EOCs will be made for certain ESE students.
- c. As course EOCs or completion requirements are implemented (Geometry, Biology, Algebra II, Chemistry, Physics and/or another rigorous science course), baseline scores will be determined, and the EOC, if applicable, may count for 30% of course credit prior to becoming pass/fail. Ninth and 10<sup>th</sup> grade FCATs are being phased out, as will the 11<sup>th</sup> grade science FCAT, replaced by the Biology EOC.
- d. CBTs and Next Generation Sunshine State Standards (NGSSS’s) are being implemented, while “major area of interest” is being eliminated. This year, baseline scores in the new standards – which emphasize fewer standards to be taught more in-depth at earlier ages - will be evaluated in the grades 3-10 Reading FCAT, Math 3-8, and Science 5 and 8, the latter field-tested and embedded in the FCAT. Baseline scores for the Algebra I EOC/CBT will be determined this year. Grade 10 FCAT math will be via CBT this year.
- e. Seventh graders will take a Civics EOC this year.
- f. the 18-credit accelerated diploma now requires 4 math credits.

- g. Goals of the new standards and testing are to provide students with skills that will allow them to secure jobs which will prepare them for life in the 21<sup>st</sup> century while preparing for their careers of choice at livable wages. These efforts are also meant to address achievement gaps, dropouts, and the fact that 55% of incoming college students need remediation.
- h. ACT or SAT (concordance) scores can replace EOC scores.
- i. Specific information about CBTs and NGSSS's can be found at <http://fcats.fldoe.org/fcat2/cbt.asp> . Information about EOCs is at <http://www.fldoe.org/asp/k12memo/pdf/tngcbtf.pdf> . Ms. Meinke also has information about testing schedules, EOCs and CBTs, and FCAT study guides via the District website links ( <http://keyschools.schoolfusion.us/> , then "district information," "administrative team," "assessment and accountability," and further links).

Other information provided includes:

- j. High school AP, CAP and DE credits are not part of a student's college GPA.
  - k. Middle schoolers will now be taking midterms and finals.
  - l. Grade forgiveness (re-takes) and doubling up on courses may be necessary. A prognosis test may be implemented to determine if students are ready for Algebra I and EOCs, plus AVID, tutoring and the Century 21 program for preparation and remediation.
  - m. Programs to be implemented and utilized District-wide include AVID, AP, IB, a Teaching American History grant and Title I.
3. **SGA Report:** Student Government Association President Annabelle Walker summarized SGA activities as follows:
- a. In February, SGA members attended a rewarding FASC/SGA conference, a team-building, leadership training.
  - b. The SGA is continuing with plans for "Homegoing." More information is to follow.
  - c. Field Day will be April 29<sup>th</sup> and Prom April 30<sup>th</sup> at the airport terminal.
  - d. The "computer fun" (compatibility) fundraising survey results are back, and will be available for student purchase.
  - e. Voting for next year's SGA officers will take place in April. Candidates from this year's junior class may run for SGA president.
  - f. The Sadie Hawkins dance, now a middle school dance, will be on March 25<sup>th</sup>.
  - g. Potential prom attendees are advised that all library fines must be paid before they may purchase prom tickets.
4. **Dolphins of Distinction:** Ms. Wiatt presented the March "certificated teacher" Dolphins of Distinction gift bag to Roxanne Skaggs. Ms. Skaggs is a former Teacher of the Year at Stanley Switlik School, and uses a variety of methods to help her students excel, including the Springboard and AVID programs. The staff "Dolphins" recipient for March is Ms. Tara Smith, a teaching assistant and certificated staff member who pitches in wherever needed at the school. Kudos to Fish Tales Restaurant, Quiznos and OFF/Chamber of Commerce, among others, for their contributions to this month's gift bags.
5. **Principal's Report:** Mr. Gracy, with input from Ms. Skaggs and Ms. Logan, reported on the following:

- a. An MMHS team, including these three, recently visited Howard Middle School and Stonewall Jackson High School in Orlando to evaluate their very successful, focused academic cultures. These schools have a “no fail” vision and methods which utilize Springboard, AVID, college student tutors and computer labs, among other things, in ensuring student success.
6. **Assistant Principals’ Reports:** Ms. Logan and Ms. McPherson reported on the following:
  - a. FCATs will be administered between April 11<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>; the Algebra I EOC will be between May 16<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>. Seventy-minute reading and math exams, respectively, will occur on April 11-12 and April 13<sup>th</sup>. Grade 10 math and math retakes will occur in rotating groups.
  - b. Curriculum Night is March 24<sup>th</sup>; scheduling questionnaires are being sent home and parent and student input regarding next year’s schedules is being requested.
  - c. The goal is to have schedules for next year completed before the end of this year.
7. **Athletic Update:** Ms. Konrath reported on athletic activities as follows:
  - a. Spring sports are well underway; the softball team has swept two games against Ransom, and the baseball team –with star pitcher Matt McKeon, among others - has defeated Westminster. The tennis team staged a “fan appreciation day” on February 28<sup>th</sup>, and senior Marisa Brossard has won all matches to date.
  - b. The winter sports awards assembly (soccer, basketball) is tomorrow night, March 2<sup>nd</sup>, in the auditorium.
  - c. Fundraising efforts underway or coming up are the Alumni Association \$10K raffle and the March 27<sup>th</sup> stone crab dinner at Keys Fisheries.
  - d. The website [www.c2cschools.com](http://www.c2cschools.com) with links to MMHS is in development and will feature sports team schedules, a shopping site and more.
8. **SAC Dollars:** Mr. Gracy received a reply from the District that SAC/FTE dollars will be available in March or April in the approximate amount of \$3,000.00. Mr. Gracy recommends purchasing one or two items with the money that would benefit the school as a whole.
9. **Open Agenda Items/Announcements:**
  - a. Ms. Nelson reminded attendees that the Superintendent’s Ultimate Readers Awards ceremonies are upcoming on May 24<sup>th</sup>; now is the time to get students reading so they qualify for the awards. Ms. Lancaster also passed along a message that she is still seeking donated magazines for the media center.
  - b. A blood drive will take place at MMHS on March 10<sup>th</sup>; we are attempting to beat Coral Shores’ and Key West High’s donation numbers. \$20 from each donation goes to Take Stock in Children.
  - c. Mr. Puto mentioned that the band under Mr. Whitfield’s direction managed all “excellents” at the recent competition.
10. **Adjournment:** There being no other topics to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 7:20 p.m. on a motion by John Vassil, seconded by Mike Puto and unanimously approved.

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

Minutes submitted March 8, 2010 by Anita J. Nelson, SAC Secretary