

Marathon Middle/High School Advisory Council

MEETING MINUTES

April 5, 2011

6:00 PM Marathon High School Media Center

SAC Board Members in Attendance: Principal Hammond Gracy, Assistant Principals Wendy McPherson and Liz Logan, Luis Gonzalez, Anita Nelson, Karen McKeon, David and Tara Coleman, Diane Culver, Karen Angle, Delvis DelPozo, Tracy Hannah, and SGA President Annabelle Walker. **Not in attendance:** Cindy Durkin-Bull, Beth Ann Connell, Debra Davis, Gerard “Spook” Roussin, Tammy Bruland, Mike Puto, Teresa Konrath and Regina Ryan.

1. Welcome and Approval of Minutes:

The meeting was called to order at 6:05 p.m. by Chairman, Luis Gonzalez. The pledge of allegiance followed. A motion to approve the March 1, 2011 minutes was made by Karen McKeon, seconded by Diane Culver, and unanimously approved. Minutes will be published on the school web site.

2. SGA Update: Student Government Association President Annabelle Walker reported on SGA activities as follows:

- a. Decorations have been received and preparations for prom, to take place April 30th at the airport terminal, are underway.
- b. Class/SGA elections will occur April 6th during first through third periods.
- c. A reminder was given that all library fines and class dues must be paid before students will be allowed to participate in field day, field trips, or prom.

3. Dolphins of Distinction: Luis Gonzalez and Principal Gracy presented the April “Dolphins” awards. Certificated teacher recipient is Lyn Cox, who spearheaded the Academic Challenge effort at MMHS, and who exhibited flexibility while assisting with DE and AP courses and exams. Staff recipient is Karen Miller, the school’s new bookkeeper, who has worked overtime in keeping the school’s books in order. Some of the gift donors for this month’s awards included the Marathon Community Theater/Cinema and the Cracked Conch Café. Thanks to Beth Ann Connell for compiling the gift bags.

4. Keynote Topic: Scholarships: College and Career Academic Program (CCAPs) Counselor Robin Lynn gave a presentation on scholarships which are available to graduating seniors, and information available on her web site, which can be accessed from the school web site. Main points made and information available on the site include:

- a. Community service forms: Colleges look at students’ community service as one aspect of admissions decisions.
- b. Students are allowed five excused absence days during their junior and senior years to visit colleges, but a form must be filled out and approved by Ms. Lynne.
- c. A “Letter of Recommendation” form is on the site.
- d. SAT/ACT exam dates, sign-up deadlines and locations are included on the site.
- e. A PowerPoint on the site gives information about job markets, degrees, university requirements (e.g., GPAs), AP credits, application processes, community and Bright Futures scholarships and other financial aid, the

AmeriCorps program, and more. The PowerPoint has been presented to MMHS juniors and seniors, and Ms. Lynne is in the process of meeting with seniors one-on-one to answer questions and to assist them in the college selection/admission processes.

- f. A list of approximately forty local scholarships available to seniors is on the site, with application forms and requirements in Ms. Lynne's office.
 - g. This year's Class Night, during which local scholarships are awarded to seniors, will take place on June 7th at 7 p.m. in the auditorium.
 - h. It was announced that the Boomer's trip, a reward for juniors and seniors, will take place on Wednesday, April 13th rather than Tuesday. Buses will leave at 7 a.m. and return at 5 p.m.
5. **Special Request: SAC Dollars:** Mr. Gracy presented a request from the BLPT (Building Level Planning Team) to purchase a pallet of copy paper at a cost of \$1200 and a supply of Scantron sheets, at a cost of \$250, to come out of the approximate \$3000 coming in SAC funds. The paper and sheets are needed to finish out the school year. On a motion by Karen McKeon, seconded by Karen Angle and unanimously approved, it was agreed that SAC dollars will pay for these two expenditures. Requests for additional expenditures, to include DVDs and Springboard materials to support Language Arts classes in the approximate amount of \$150, will be presented at an upcoming meeting, as SAC dollars become available. Additional points made by Mr. Gracy included:
- a. Our copier rental agreement allows a certain number of copies; in future, the copier will be programmed for each teacher, and if teachers go over their allotments, they will have to trade copy "rights" or pay to make copies elsewhere.
 - b. Paper for tests such as finals will be charged to the principals.
 - c. It was noted that parents should be made accountable for such supplies as filler paper, so that the schools do not have to provide it.
 - d. The District is looking into a bulk copy contract for all 11 schools, but this is made difficult by the varying contracts and differing expiration dates.
6. **Principal's Report:** Mr. Gracy gave a school update, reporting on the following:
- a. For FYI purposes, it was noted that the 2011-12 proposed school calendar has been published, and some negative feedback has been received regarding the winter break, which is scheduled for December 23, 2011 through January 9, 2012: The break begins just two days before the holiday, which is not beneficial for travelers; plus there are some conflicts with sports schedules.
 - b. Mr. Gracy urged attendees to stay informed about School Board meeting agendas, which must be published in advance of the meetings, primarily to monitor what happens with next year's budget: Mr. Kinneer projects an \$8-10 million shortfall. Busing, athletics, and school hours, among many other things, could be targeted for cuts. Additional points made:
 - i. School personnel are being asked to contribute an additional 3% of their salaries toward their pensions, which amounts to a salary reduction.
 - ii. About \$400 per student (7%) in reduced funding is being anticipated.
 - iii. Class size requirements will equal more students in electives classes.

- iv. Accountability will be enhanced with the new teacher evaluations.
 - v. Forming an **A**cademic **B**ooster **C**lub, similar to the Alumni Athletic Booster Club and controlled at the local school level, may help to provide resources to offset some school funding shortfalls. Mr. Gracy will also continue to advocate for the continuation of AVID, SpringBoard, and AP/DE/IB programs.
7. **Assistant Principals' Reports:** Ms. Logan and Ms. McPherson reported on the following:
- a. Honor roll assemblies will be on April 15th, with the high school's starting at 7:45 in the auditorium followed by a breakfast; and the middle school's during 6th period, followed by an ice cream social.
 - b. FCATs start April 11th, with reading tests in a 70-minute segment during 2nd and 3rd periods, and a second part April 12th; and math, 10th grade and retake tests will be on April 13th. Some CBTs (Computer-Based Tests) will be given this year. Students have been given information on accessing the ePATS site for practice CBTs, and may also practice with FCAT Explorer.
 - c. Eighth and 11th grade science FCATs will be administered April 19th, and will be in two 70-minute sections, during periods 2, 3 and 4.
 - d. Ninth graders were scheduled to take Algebra EOC exams, but a waiver is being requested this year by all Florida school districts.
8. **Athletic Update:** In Ms. Konrath's absence due to sports commitments, Mr. Gonzalez gave an update on sports activities as follows:
- a. A few changes in the following two weeks' game schedules were noted, including the postponement, so as to not conflict with the Seven Mile Bridge Run, of the JV/MS baseball game which was scheduled against Miami Christian on April 9th. Check the school web site for updates.
 - b. Spring football will be underway shortly, with a first game scheduled for May 20th.
 - c. Congratulations to the girls' tennis team #1 player, Marisa Brossard, who will be going to the state tournament.
 - d. The Seven Mile Bridge Run is this Saturday, April 9th, with proceeds going to benefit Marathon area athletics.
9. **Open Agenda Items/Announcements:**
- a. To a question about PSAT test booklets which were not retained this year - although answer sheets were - Ms. Lynne mentioned that test booklets would be retained next year, to better help students review.
 - b. A thank-you letter from last month's instructional Dolphins of Distinction winner, Ms. Roxanne Skaggs, was read.
 - c. Information from Tina Belotti regarding the "Colors of the Rainbow" Dancing Classrooms performance that will take place in the MMHS auditorium at 3 p.m. on Sunday, May 15th was presented. Dancers from 5th and 8th grade classes in eight schools/programs will be represented. The performance is co-sponsored by the Educational Coalition for Monroe County.
 - d. An incident whereby baked goods suspected of containing illegal substance(s) and being brought into the school and shared was discussed; although the baked goods tested OK, the school now has a policy that no baked goods to be

shared with other students may be brought in. Students may, however, bring baked products into school for their own lunches.

- e. An incident involving several Middle School students, wherein a female was injured, was discussed; Mr. Gracy emphasized that there is a zero-tolerance rule for violence at MMHS, that consequences are applied consistently, and that Resource Officer Deputy Test is at the school throughout the day to help prevent, or deal with, misbehavior.
- f. Mr. Gracy mentioned that an end-of-year newsletter would be going out, outlining expectations for next year; he will also have an announcement at the next meeting regarding a Dartmouth College award.
- g. The fact that Middle School students were not able to go to the Miami Youth Fair this year due to scheduling conflicts was mentioned; an effort will be made to find an alternative for them.

10. *Adjournment:* There being no other topics to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

(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 April 11, 2010 by Anita J. Nelson, SAC Secretary