

# Marathon Middle/High School Advisory Council

## MEETING MINUTES

May 3, 2011

6:00 PM Marathon High School Media Center

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

1. **Welcome:**

The meeting was called to order at 6 p.m. by Chairman, Luis Gonzalez. The pledge of allegiance, lead by SGA President Annabelle Walker, followed.

2. **Dolphins of Distinction:**

Patti Bourcier was named the staff “Dolphin” recipient for May for her efficiency as the new data entry clerk. Certificated teacher recipient is James Murphy, who in addition to his regular classroom duties, has assisted with AP testing and served as a coach for both soccer and cross country.

3. **SGA Update:** Ms. Walker announced the results of SGA and class elections for 2011-12 as follows:

a. **SGA Officers:**

President: Alexander Morato	Secretary: Christina Rios
Vice President: Cassidy Burgos	Treasurer: Tommy Dodamead

b. **Class of 2015 Officers:**

President: Sharon Rodriguez	Secretary: Zamaira Ricart
Vice President: Taja Hidalgo	Treasurer: Alvaro Fregoso

c. **Class of 2014 Officers:**

President: Edmund Thompson	
Vice President: To be elected at beginning of school year	
Secretary: Hailey Salyers	Treasurer: Xavier McKnight

d. **Class of 2013 Officers:**

President: Taylor Konrath	Secretary: Yelixa Larios-Lopez
Vice President: Jania Diaz	Treasurer: Sean Roussin

e. **Class of 2012 Officers:**

President: Kyra Simcic-Swanton	Secretary: Wendy Beumel
Vice President: Cynthia Garcia	Treasurer: Erinn Buhyoff

Prom and Field Day were great successes, with seniors taking first place in Field Day competition. Grad Bash is this weekend, and Homegoing preparations (a new tradition for saying good-bye to seniors and seeing them “off to college”) is underway. This year’s SGA luncheon will be on Tuesday, May 24<sup>th</sup> at 11:15, with venue TBA. Dates for Homecoming 2011 have been set: October 13, 2011 for the parade; the 14<sup>th</sup> for the game, and the 15<sup>th</sup> for the dance, tentatively to be held at Switlik School.

4. **Dartmouth Award/PSAT Achievement:** Two students, Marina Kay Wiatt and Duncan McCarthy, were recognized by Sid Goldman and Robin Lynne, respectively, for their academic, sports and leadership achievements, which include receiving top

- results on the PSAT test. Mr. Goldman, who along with School Board member Duncan Mathewson is a member of the Dartmouth Club of the Florida Keys, presented Ms. Wiatt with the club's Dartmouth Award, a book of Robert Frost poetry.
5. ***Save Old Seven Petition Drive:*** Riet Steinmetz, who is active with the Pigeon Key Foundation, gave an update on the Save Old Seven organization, a grassroots petition drive effort to advocate for the public funding of repairs to the deteriorating section of the Old Seven Mile Bridge which connects Knights Key and Pigeon Key. FLDOT has endorsed saving this section of the bridge, but is not funding it. There is a centennial celebration for the bridge this year, and presentations will be made in the schools, including a May 20<sup>th</sup> presentation by a Henry Flagler impersonator. Mrs. Steinmetz provided a brochure and petition form to sign for those who wish to. See [www.saveoldseven.org](http://www.saveoldseven.org) for more information.
  6. ***Personnel Cuts for the 2011-12 School Year:*** Mr. Gracy outlined the following:
    - a. Personnel and program cuts and changes will be necessary for the 2011-12 year in order to balance the school budget. Eighteen people at MMHS will be affected, in part due to a reduction from 7 to 6 class periods in the high school. Shortfalls in school property taxes, cessation of stimulus dollars, plus reductions in state allocations of about 7% have resulted in an approximate \$7.8 million deficit. Reserves are not available to offset this amount. The AP and Counselor will be cut at Switlik, along with ½ of the AP duties for Ms. McPherson and Ms. Logan at MMHS (they will have classroom duties for the other ½). There was some discussion about central office-based allocations vs. school-based management; it is felt that the latter would be more flexible, and allow principals to institute cuts that would be least damaging to each school. SAC members and parents are encouraged to attend the May 10<sup>th</sup> School Board meeting in the MMHS Media Center starting at 3 p.m. for details. The agenda for the meeting is posted on the School Board Web site. Specific cuts that are being recommended have been well-publicized in the press.
    - b. In spite of budget issues, MMHS will continue to press forward with plans to institute the International Baccalaureate (IB) program; and to continue with rigorous courses such as Advanced Placement.
  7. ***Athletic Report:*** Ms. Konrath reported that spring sports have concluded. Kudos to the baseball team, which closed with a 14/10 record. Spring football practice has begun, with the spring game scheduled for Friday, May 20<sup>th</sup> at home at 7:30 against Ransom. Kudos to three MMHS athletes who scored sports college scholarships in soccer and tennis, respectively: Kelley Struyf, Manny Perez and Marisa Brossard. Ms. Konrath emphasized the need for fundraising over the summer and into next year, as sports funding is also being cut. The biggest need will be for transportation.
  8. ***Adjournment:*** The meeting was temporarily adjourned at 6:45 p.m. due to the need for the National Honor Society to use the room for their induction. The meeting will be continued at 6 p.m. on Monday, May 9, 2011, in the Media Center.

Respectfully submitted on May 13, 2011 by Anita J. Nelson, SAC Secretary.

# Marathon Middle/High School Advisory Council

## MEETING MINUTES (Continued from May 3<sup>rd</sup>)

May 9, 2011

6:00 PM Marathon High School Media Center

**SAC Board Members in Attendance:** Principal Hammond Gracy, Assistant Principals Wendy McPherson and Liz Logan, Teresa Konrath, Luis Gonzalez, Anita Nelson, Karen McKeon, Beth Ann Connell, Karen Angle, Delvis DelPozo, Tracy Hannah, “Spook” Roussin, and Mike Puto. Also in attendance: School Board member John Dick, COO Jesus Jara, Switlik Principal/Asst. Principal Dave Murphy and Ana Hortensi. **Not in attendance:** Cindy Durkin-Bull, David and Tara Coleman, Diane Culver, Debra Davis, Tammy Bruland, Regina Ryan and Annabelle Walker.

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

The meeting was called to order at 6:07 p.m. by Chairman Luis Gonzalez, followed by the pledge of allegiance. A motion to approve the minutes of the April 5, 2011 meeting was made by Mike Puto, seconded by Karen McKeon, and unanimously approved.

**2. IB Presentation:** In Jeannie Sanford’s absence, Ms. Logan outlined the progress of MMHS’s application to provide an IB (International Baccalaureate) program. Points made were:

- a. Florida is third in U.S. states or Canadian provinces in IB implementation. It is a worldwide program, with international standards and internationally-recognized diplomas.
- b. The program emphasizes academic rigor, essays, the whole person, good character, and a service component. This year’s 8<sup>th</sup> grade students will be the first cohort (we are about 2 years from implementation), and it will be administered to then 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> graders.
- c. Students may pursue either a diploma program or a certificate in a particular area of concentration, and courses will mesh with AP courses.
- d. Race to the Top and Title II dollars (which can’t be used for anything else) will fund the program and related teacher training, up to implementation.
- e. A “feeder pattern” from elementary and middle schools will be pursued.

**3. AVID Presentation:** Ms. Buhyoff gave a middle school AVID update as follows:

- a. The program is intended to prepare “middle-of-the-road” students for participation in AP classes and as preparation for college.
- b. High school AVID students have visited the U of FL, FIU and Gulf Coast University.
- c. Pursuit of grants and fundraising to benefit the program (as well as Springboard and AP) will commence next year, with sponsorships being encouraged. Sponsors will receive names on banners and T-shirts.
- d. A review of student data will be provided at the first SAC meeting next year to show improvements in academic performance as a result of the AVID program.

**4. Principal’s Report:** Mr. Gracy reported on the following:

- a. **Disciplinary incidents** of all types have gone down, last year to this, by about 40%. There were still over 300 incidents each in the middle school and high school this year, and efforts will continue to further reduce them. One method of doing this is with “social contracts”: students to adults, and faculty to administration (e.g., to be punctual in arriving at school).
  - b. Gains in **FCAT writing scores** were encouraging this year. In spite of the standards bar being raised this year, the percentage of MMHS 8<sup>th</sup> graders scoring 4+ on the 6-point scale increased to 73% (from 54% last year), an increase of 19%. 10<sup>th</sup> graders increased from 73% to 78%, an increase of 5%. More details are available on the MCSD Web site.
  - c. MMHS administered “Right Score” practice exams three times this year to prepare students for FCAT Writing.
  - d. Mr. Murphy reported that Switlik School’s FCAT Writing scores were among the highest in the District, at 85% of 4<sup>th</sup> graders scoring 4+. 100% of Switlik students took FCAT Writing.
5. **Planning for 2011-12:** Mr. Gracy reported on the following:
- a. MMHS is considering implementing a **uniforms** dress code for next year for middle school students; it is believed that this will help to reduce disciplinary issues while providing some relief to low-SES families. Middle school students will also be easily identified. An opt-out policy would not be a part of the dress code. Other District schools are also considering implementing uniforms. A survey will go out to parents next year to gauge the level of support.
  - b. AVID-type binders will be implemented next year for all middle school students. A goal is to have all students take either a critical thinking course, AVID, or intensive reading. A further goal is for 85% of students to eventually take either IB or AP courses.
  - c. Mentors for students from area churches, chambers of commerce, Sheriff’s Explorers, and firefighters, to name a few organizations, will be encouraged next year.
  - d. The policy regarding random searches, including the use of police dogs, was clarified: These occurred three times this year, and will be utilized before any school field trips, or as otherwise needed. A search of luggage was made before Grad Bash, and there were, as a result, no disciplinary incidents. It is believed that searches communicate safety to students.
6. **Assistant Principal Reports:** Information was reported as follows:
- a. **High School:** Ms. McPherson noted that the senior exam schedule has been posted and the underclassmen exam schedule will be posted Wednesday. There will be a limited summer school credit recovery program offered between June 15<sup>th</sup> and July 13<sup>th</sup> at MMHS (one more week for 3<sup>rd</sup> graders); the main offering will be a HOPE class for 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> graders, due to the cutback in next year’s high school class periods. HOPE may also be taken online, but it includes a CPR certification component.
  - b. **Middle School:** Ms. Logan noted that a moving up ceremony for 8<sup>th</sup> graders will take place on June 3<sup>rd</sup> at 6 p.m. A celebration dance is tentatively in the works, and the middle school Field Day will take place on May 27<sup>th</sup>. The EOC

geometry exam will take place next week, and the EOC algebra exam the following week. Students who have already passed algebra do not have to take an EOC.

7. ***Election of SAC Officers for the 2011-12 School Year:***

- a. After nomination of candidates, by unanimous acclimation, the following slate of MMHS School Advisory Council officers was approved:  
Chairman: Luis Gonzalez  
Vice Chairperson: Karen McKeon  
Secretary: Anita Nelson and  
Middle School Liaison: Lisa Maeder.
- b. Additional SAC members will be selected at the first meeting of the new school year and after the makeup of the student body is known.

8. ***Open Agenda Discussions:*** The following topics were discussed:

***Budget cutbacks:***

- a. The planned ratio of assistant principals to student body counts at various schools, and plans for cutting staff and administrators for the 2011-12 year was discussed. The unique situation at MMHS was noted, in that the campus is both a middle and high school as well as a site for an FKCC satellite campus, with adults comingling with middle school students. It was noted that, when this configuration for the school was determined, two assistant principals were guaranteed to ensure safety of all students at MMHS.
- b. It was noted that MMHS is at 45% capacity. The District plans to bus students between mile markers 29 and 72 to MMHS, which should create an increase of about 60 students.
- c. Other budget cutbacks or cost-cutting measures - other than staff reductions - some yet to be determined, may include:
1. Eliminating busing of students within a 2-mile radius of schools;
  2. Restructuring at the District office;
  3. Videoconferencing instead of traveling to meetings;
  4. Utilizing Florida Virtual School, or other online course vendors;
  5. Implementing school-based budgets; and
  6. Reducing high school schedules from 7 periods to 6.

***Announcements:***

- d. A pass-along from Media Specialist, Ms. Lancaster, was noted: Parents are encouraged to donate new or used, age-appropriate magazine subscriptions to the Media Center. Also, the Superintendent's Ultimate Readers and Young Readers Awards will take place on May 24<sup>th</sup>. The assembly for high school students who have read 15 or more books (as submitted to their teachers) will be from 8:35 to 9:25 in the Media Center, and includes a light breakfast. Middle schoolers who have read 12 or more books will assemble from 10-10:30 a.m. in the auditorium.
- e. A portion of a thank-you note from April's certificated teacher Dolphin of Distinction, Lyn Cox, was read.
- f. Mr. Gonzalez noted that an all-call for the first SAC meeting of the 2011-12 school year will be made in August.

9. **Adjournment:** There being no other business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted May 13, 2011, by SAC Secretary, Anita J. Nelson

(Note that the School Improvement Plan is posted on the school Web site via links from <http://keysschools.schoolfusion.us/> FCAT results, after they are posted, are on the Florida Department of Education Web site at [www.fldoe.org](http://www.fldoe.org) .)