

Marathon High School Advisory Council

MEETING MINUTES

August 31, 2010

6:00 PM Marathon High School Media Center

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

Meeting was called to order at 6:07 pm by SAC Chair, Luis Gonzalez, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

1. **SAC Chair Report:** Mr. Gonzalez reported on and asked for approval of the following items:
 - a. Approval of Minutes: “Pop” Stiglitz made a motion to approve the minutes of the May 5, 2010 meeting; Mike Puto seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously. SAC minutes are published on the Marathon High School Web site.
 - b. Mr. Gonzalez welcomed and introduced new and continuing Council members.
 - c. Mr. Gonzalez outlined the “Dolphins of Distinction” program, which will replace last year’s SAC Good News Bear awards. A gift basket of items similar to those given new teachers at the start of the year will be awarded to one recipient each month.
2. **SGA Report:** Student Government Association Vice President Kelsey Wonderlin reported on SGA activities as follows:
 - a. Homecoming is set for the week of October 18-23.
 - b. Seniors already have their T-shirts, and were wearing them on the first day of school, when they were escorted to school in limousines. Other classes are working on their T-shirt designs.
 - c. Upcoming activities and fundraisers include a movie night on the football field; a senior sunrise breakfast coming soon and a sunset dinner later in the year; and a two-night senior trip, perhaps to Busch Gardens or to Wet and Wild, Disney.
 - d. Juniors will host a fashion show in the auditorium on October 2nd, to include a raffle; a talent show is in the works; and juniors will also sell lanyards and pom-poms. Sophomores are working on their T-shirt design.
 - e. At this time, the only freshman leadership class representative is David Campbell; the SGA is mentoring him.

3. **Principal's Report:** Mr. Gracy reported on the following, including some issues which the school will be tightening up on:
- a. Mark and Michelle Van Voorst, **new MHS teachers** in attendance, were introduced. Mr. Van Voorst is a math teacher and data coach; and Mrs. Van Voorst teaches science. The Van Voorsts expressed appreciation for the gift bag presented to them by the SAC.
 - b. **“Start on Time:”** This is a new initiative whereby teachers promptly close their doors at the start of each period; tardy students are “swept” to their respective Assistant Principal’s area for processing, then are escorted to class. This relieves classroom teachers from the interruption of having to deal with late students.
 - c. **Dress code enforcement:** The dress code will be tightly enforced, with the Administration making determinations as to when students are violating the code. Violators will be loaned alternate clothing, instructed to go home and change, or admitted to ISS (In-School Suspension). Some discussion ensued as to what might constitute violation of the code, particularly for the young ladies. Mr. Gracy vowed that there would be no “implementation dip” (lax enforcement after a period of time). It was noted that the alternative is uniforms.
 - d. **Staff visibility:** Teachers will be at their doors between classes, which will result in about 50 personnel observing what goes on between classes. Mr. Gracy also encouraged community members to be visible and attend sporting and other events.
 - e. **Planners:** Student planners are now students’ hall passes, since they contain a log whereby students’ travels can be recorded. There was some discussion about how hygienic it is to carry planners into restrooms. Mr. Gracy will investigate whether shelves or other specific areas can be set aside in the restrooms to hold planners.
 - f. **Leadership philosophy:** Mr. Gracy expressed his view that he is the main “custodian” of the school and students; that dealing with small things will help resolve the larger things; and that he would like to have the “best school in America if it kills me.” MHS will continue to encourage students and parents to opt for enrollment in rigorous Honors, AP and DE courses.
4. **Assistant Principals’ Reports:**
- a. **High School:** Assistant Principal McPherson reported some trends relating to most recent assessment (primarily FCAT) performance: Ninth grade scores were up, but 10th grade reading scores were lower, and writing scores dropped a point. AP (Advanced Placement) performance was on track in the first year, and have been good in subsequent years.
 - b. **Middle School:** Assistant Principal Logan reported on the following:
 1. 8th grade FCAT math scores were up.

2. "SpringBoard" is being implemented, which is a new resource from the College Board for middle school reading and math. Social studies will now incorporate a reading focus.
 3. The timing and makeup of the MBA's (Monroe Benchmark Assessments) is changing: They will now be administered in September, November and February, and are being written by NEFEC (Northeast Florida Educational Consortium), rather than by the District.
 4. The "Ready Step" assessment, similar to the SAT, will be administered to the 8th grade in October.
 5. It was noted that the Administration would be writing academic goals for this year's School Improvement Plan, but the SAC's assistance in writing some recommendations for the parent involvement goals was requested. These suggestions were collected by Ms. Logan after a short discussion period.
5. **SAC Meeting Date and Time:** After some discussion, it was decided to continue to hold SAC meetings on the first Tuesday of every month at 6 p.m. in the Media Center, with rescheduling in the event of conflicts. The next meeting will be October 5th.
 6. **Athletic Update:** In Ms. Konrath's absence due to sports commitments, Mr. Gonzalez and Mr. Gracy outlined upcoming sports schedules. Kudos for Ms. Konrath's efforts as Athletic Director and Volleyball Coach. Some discussion followed about where to find the most up-to-date information: There is a link to the calendar, which lists sports and other events, on the school's Web site. Each sport also has its own Web page, which may not be as up-to-date. Mr. Gracy noted that a "refrigerator calendar" of events will be going out to students.
 7. **Open House:** Mr. Gonzalez noted that the MHS open house will take place on Wednesday, September 15th, from 6-8 p.m. Students and parents will meet in the auditorium and receive schedules prior to "making the rounds." It was noted that this is not a time for individual parent-teacher conferences, but simply to acquaint parents with schedules, procedures, etc. An athletic spaghetti dinner will take place in the cafeteria the same evening, from 5-7 p.m.
 8. **Open Agenda Items:** The issue of a lack of parking for visitors in front of the administration building, primarily due to District maintenance staff parking, was discussed; it was determined that Ms. Logan will address this issue.
 9. **Adjournment:** There being no other business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

Upcoming Events/Dates:

Please see the calendar link on the school Web Site for additions and changes.

Sports:

- Sep 1st Swimming (A) vs. Key West, 4:00 p.m.
 Volleyball (H) vs. GMA, 4:30/6:00 p.m.
 Cross Country District Meeting (fall schedule to be determined)

Sep 2nd Volleyball (H) vs. Mater Lakes, 5:30 p.m.
 Sep 3rd Football (H) vs. Doral, 7:30 p.m.
 Sep 7th Volleyball (H) vs. Palmer, 4/5:30 p.m.
 Golf (A) vs. Palmer
 Sep 8th Swimming (A) vs. CSHS, 3:00 p.m.
 Sep 10th Volleyball (H) vs. Westwood, 3:00/4:30/6:00 p.m.
 Football (H) vs. Barrington Christian, 7:30 p.m.
 Swimming (A) vs. Country Day, 3:00 p.m.
 Sep 14th Volleyball, J.V. (H) vs. Doral, 3:00/4:30 p.m.
 Sep 16th Volleyball (H) vs. Key West, 5:00/6:30 p.m.
 Football, J.V. (A) vs. Country Day, 4:00 p.m.
 Sep 17th Football (A) vs. CSHS, 7:30 p.m.
 Sep 17th-18th Golf (A) vs. Key West
 Sep 21st Volleyball (H) vs. Carrollton, 3:30/5:00 p.m.
 Sep 22nd Swimming (A) vs. Ransom, 3:30 p.m.
 Golf (H) vs. Ransom
 Sep 23rd Volleyball, M.S. (A) vs. KLS, 4:30 p.m.
 Volleyball, J.V. & V. (A) vs. CSHS, 4:00/5:30 p.m.
 Sep 24th Football (A) vs. Key West, 7:30 p.m.
 Volleyball (A), Key West Tournament, time TBA
 Golf (H) vs. Miami Country Day, 5:30 p.m.
 Sep 29th Volleyball (A) vs. Mater Lakes, 5:30 p.m.
 Swimming (A) vs. CSHS, 3:00 p.m.
 Sep 30th Volleyball (H) vs. Champanat, 5:00 p.m.
 Football, J.V. (H) vs. Country Day, 3:30 p.m.
 Oct 1st Football (A) vs. Dade Christian
 Swimming (A) vs. Gulliver
 Oct 2nd Swimming (A) vs. Gulliver, Tournament
 Oct 5th Volleyball (A) vs. Westwood, 3:00/4:30/6:00 p.m.

Other Days to Remember:

Sep 6th Labor Day Holiday – no school
 Sep 9th District Early Release, 11:30
 Sep 15th MHS Open House 6-8 p.m.
 Athletic Spaghetti Dinner 5-7 p.m.
 Sep 18th Culinary Food Sale @ Hawk's Cay
 HS Relay Team Dunk Booth @ Conchtoberfest
 Sep 23rd Early Release, 11:30
 Oct 2nd Junior Class Fashion Show, MHS Auditorium

Minutes submitted September 2, 2010 by Anita J. Nelson, SAC Secretary