

# Marathon High School Advisory Council

## MEETING MINUTES

October 5, 2010

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; Cindy Durkin-Bull; Anita Nelson; Karen McKeon; Karen Angle; David and Tara Coleman; Beth Ann Connell; Diane Culver; Mike Puto and SGA Representative Matt McKeon; **Not in attendance:** Tammy Bruland, Delvis Cabrera, Debra Davis, Tracy Hannah, Gerard “Spook” Roussin, Teresa Konrath and Regina Morgan.

Meeting was called to order at 6:05 pm by SAC Chair, Luis Gonzalez, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

1. **SAC Chair Report:** Mr. Gonzalez reported on the following item:
  - a. The October “Dolphins of Distinction” gift basket will go to Jamie Buhyoff, who is recognized for her efforts as a Reading and AVID coach as well as for her role as Junior Class sponsor. Food for Thought, Marathon Community Theater, Fish Tales Restaurant and Market, the MHS Athletic Department, Roger of National Distributors and Anita Nelson are acknowledged for their donated items for the gift basket.
2. **Keynote Topic: School Improvement Plan:** Middle School Assistant Principal Logan reported on goals included in this year’s School Improvement Plan, which can be accessed after submission via the Florida Department of Education Website ( [www.fldoe.org](http://www.fldoe.org) ) by clicking links for SIP, the District, the school and the “read only” file. Efforts will be made to reach every child, whether a high- or low-achiever, ELL, ethnic, disadvantaged or reduced lunch student. Strategies include AVID, 21<sup>st</sup> Century Program/tutors, catch-up slips, departmental insights as to what barriers may exist, and the development of Professional Learning Communities. Goals and improvement efforts will include:
  - a. 79% of students will achieve proficiency on the 2011 Reading FCAT.
  - b. 80% of students will meet FLDOE-defined high standards in 2011.
  - c. 50% will score level 3 or higher on the grade 11 FCAT science and 51% a level 3 or higher on the grade 8 FCAT science assessment.
  - d. 91% will score proficient on the 2011 writing assessment.
  - e. Improved attendance and reduced tardiness will occur.
  - f. In-school and out-of-school suspensions will be reduced while maintaining a safe and orderly campus.
  - g. Drop-out and retention rates will be reduced, and middle school interventions will be put into place.
  - h. 25% of parents will become actively involved in the school.
  - i. AP programming, ACT/SAT participation and middle school pre-AP strategies will be implemented and encouraged to improve college readiness.

- j. Current sixth grade students will be prepared to take Algebra I in 8<sup>th</sup> grade.
  - k. Regarding SAC involvement, more Hispanic members will be recruited to better reflect school demographics; student achievements will be highlighted; and topics will remain relevant in order to keep parents informed and involved in the education of their children. “Los Padres” will be implemented to involve Hispanic parents. Spanish/ESOL teacher Ms. Mayan will be approached to possibly assist with the latter.
  - l. A fund-raising method was noted: Papa John’s is partnering with local schools on “pizza nights,” and will donate \$2 to the school of choice for every pizza purchased.
3. ***Student Government Association (SGA) Report:*** In President Annabelle Walker’s absence, Treasurer Matt McKeon reported on SGA activities:
- a. All classes are working on floats for Homecoming (parade on Thursday, October 21<sup>st</sup>) as well as on class T-shirts.
  - b. Upcoming events and activities include:
    - i. A junior class-sponsored fashion show, featuring fashions by Keykers and Sea Boutique, on October 16<sup>th</sup> in the auditorium.
    - ii. Homecoming theme (game, Friday October 22<sup>nd</sup> and dance Saturday, October 23<sup>rd</sup> in the Switlik cafeteria) is “Life is a Circus”.
    - iii. Junior and senior class dues are due: Class representatives have information, and a senior payment plan is possible; deadline is October 15<sup>th</sup> to set this up. See information in the office.
    - iv. Planning is underway for the senior Grad Bash.
4. ***Principal’s’ Report:*** Principal Gracy reported on the following:
- a. The School Accountability Report covers 39 categories, including the school’s overall grade, which will be released in late November. It was noted that MHS is in a “correct 2 status” along with two other county schools, which means that, although we may receive a good overall school grade, we did not meet AYP (Adequate Yearly Progress) in one or more categories. Unless the law changes, NCLB requires that 100% of students meet criteria goals by 2014. It was also noted that if a category of students (e.g., Blacks, American Indians, Asians) do not comprise 30 students **and** 15% of the student population, they are not “counted” in that category for AYP. This past year’s benchmark was that 80% of students meet the criteria, and we achieved 79.2%.
  - b. It was noted that the “start on time” initiative is working in reducing tardiness and truancy.
  - c. Some discussion ensued about the de-emphasis of reading classes in Middle School; it was noted that the college board-developed (AP focused) “Springboard” alternative, which develops speaking and thinking skills as well as reading and writing, is being integrated into English and Math classes. Springboard will be implemented in 9<sup>th</sup> grade next year and 10<sup>th</sup> grade the following year.

- d. It was noted that the Scuba Club will resume, since it was vetted by the District's legal department. Vendor will be Doug Morgan of Captain Morgan's Dive Tours.
- e. Attendees were encouraged to watch the upcoming film, "Waiting for Superman," a left-leaning documentary which discusses the pros and cons of public education vs. charter schools. Mr. Gracy expressed his concern that a flight to charter schools, in addition to drawing public funds and top-performing students away from traditional public schools, could have a negative impact on community character.
- f. Teaching needs to "step up to the plate" and keep up with our wired kids and global outsourcing challenges.
- g. Midterms will be the week of January 14<sup>th</sup>, and efforts will be made to have them align more with the curriculum.
- h. Upcoming requirements are that 8<sup>th</sup> through 11<sup>th</sup> graders must pass end-of-course exams to pass the courses. Writing assessments will be administered to 8<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> graders. "Ready Step" or PSAT exams will be administered to 8<sup>th</sup> graders. MBA test writing has been outsourced, and there have been some glitches, which are being resolved.

**4. *Assistant Principal's Report:*** High School Assistant Principal McPherson reported on the following:

- a. Scores on the 2010 SATs were up significantly in critical reading, math and writing, with resulting scores of 502, 502 and 478, respectively. ACT exam scores showed a small increase in English and math.
- b. 2009-10 scores on AP exams continued an upward trend. Of 119 tests taken, 61 scored a 3, 4 or 5, which means college credit.
- c. It was noted that more elite colleges are asking for subject area exam scores, particularly for SAT writing test scores.
- d. SAT/ACT after-school boot camps have been underway, and can be started at any time, but it is recommended that students begin at least four weeks prior to the test dates. Also helpful are the College Board's online practice exams. There was some discussion about conflicts between sports and other activities, and the after-school boot camps; the possibility of Saturday or evening camps will be explored.
- e. Bell-ringer SAT/ACT test items which teachers have been implementing are helping.
- f. Parents or students with questions about SAT/ACT testing should check with Ms. Lynne.
- g. The PSAT (Ready Step) will be administered to 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> graders.
- h. There was a question as to whether SAC dollars (last year's and this) would be available for purchase of school supplies, exams and tutorials; this will be determined.

**5. *Assistant Principal's Report:*** Middle School Assistant Principal Logan reported on the following:

- a. The Middle School SGA is meeting on Mondays at lunchtime.
- b. A Middle School Homecoming float is being built under the direction of Richard Mangel; e-mail him about any questions or contributions.

- c. A Mr. and Ms. 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade will be named for the Homecoming Court. The Middle School Homecoming dance will be at the Marathon Rec Center.
6. ***Athletic Update:*** SAC President Gonzalez presented the athletic report in Ms. Konrath's absence due to sports commitments. See the sports schedule, attached. It was noted that:
- a. Fall sports will wrap up soon, and soccer and basketball will soon begin. It was noted that Swim Team and Cross Country competitors have been beating their personal records: e.g., four male Cross Country runners recently beat their former records by 4 minutes.
  - b. There is a Swim Team fundraiser/car wash at IberiaBank on Sunday, October 10<sup>th</sup>.
  - c. There was some discussion about working with Jason Koler of the Marathon Weekly to better publicize MHS sports.
  - d. Takara Coleman has been named an All-American Cheerleader, and will soon be competing in Orlando.
7. ***Open Agenda Items:***
- a. Picture Day is on Friday, October 8<sup>th</sup>; there was some discussion about athletes not being in school that day, and it was noted that there would be a make-up day, or efforts would be made to take athletes' pictures earlier in the day.
  - b. Flowers by J & J has a Homecoming package whereby they donate \$5 back to the school for each corsage/boutonniere package purchased.
  - c. A motion was made by Pop Stiglitz to approve the minutes to the August 31<sup>st</sup>, 2010 SAC meeting, motion was seconded by Cindy Durkin-Bull and unanimously approved.
  - c. The next SAC meeting will be on November 2<sup>nd</sup> at 6 p.m. in the Media Center.
8. ***Adjournment:*** There being no other business to discuss, a motion was made by Diane Culver, seconded by Pop Stiglitz, and unanimously approved to adjourn at 7:35 p.m.

**Upcoming Events/Dates:**

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

***Sports:***

- Oct 1<sup>st</sup> Football (A) v. Dade Christian, 7:30
- Oct 1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup> Swimming (A) v. Gulliver
- Oct 1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup> Golf (A) v. Key West: 1<sup>st</sup>: 2:30; 2<sup>nd</sup>: 11:00
- Oct 5<sup>th</sup> Volleyball (A) v. Westwood, 3:00/4:30/6:00  
Cross Country (A) v. Coral Shores;, 4:00  
Golf (A) v. Ransom/KW, 3:30
- Oct 6<sup>th</sup> Swimming (A) v. Key West, County Meet  
JV Football (A) v. FL Christian, 6:00  
MS Volleyball (A) v. St. Mary's, 5:00/6:30
- Oct 7<sup>th</sup> Volleyball (H) v. Sommerset Acad., 4:00/5:00/6:00  
Golf (H) v. Palmer, 4:00

- Oct 8<sup>th</sup> Football (H) v. Choice Prep, 7:30  
Swim (A) Orlando Meet
- Oct 10<sup>th</sup> Swim Team Car Wash, IberiaBank, 10:00-3:00
- Oct 11<sup>th</sup> Volleyball (A) v. Sommerset Acad.
- Oct 12<sup>th</sup> Volleyball (A) v. Palmer, 4:00/5:30  
Golf (A) v. Miami Country Day, 3:30
- Oct 14<sup>th</sup> JV Football (H) v. Doral, 6:00
- Oct 15<sup>th</sup> Football (H) v. Curley, 7:30  
Swim Team (A) Country Day Meet
- Oct 18<sup>th</sup> Volleyball (A) v. GMA, 4:00/5:30  
Golf Districts (A)
- Oct 19<sup>th</sup> Volleyball (H) v. Coral Shores, 4:00/5:30  
Cross Country (A) v. Westwood, 4:00
- Oct 20<sup>th</sup> Volleyball (A) v. Key West, 5:00/6:30  
Swimming (A) v. Coral Shores, 3:30
- Oct 21<sup>st</sup> JV Football (H) v. FL Christian, 6:00
- Oct 22<sup>nd</sup> Football (H) v. FL Christian, 7:30: **Homecoming Game**
- Oct 25<sup>th</sup>-27<sup>th</sup> Volleyball District Tournament (A)
- Oct 26<sup>th</sup> JV Football (A) v. University, 4:00
- Oct 27<sup>th</sup> Swimming Districts (A) @ Gulliver  
Cross Country Meet (H), 4:00
- Oct 28<sup>th</sup> Football (A) v. Miami Country Day, 7:00
- Oct 29<sup>th</sup> Girls' Soccer (A) v. Key West, 6:00
- Oct 30<sup>th</sup> Girls' Soccer (A) v. Key West, 12:00

**Other Days to Remember:**

- Oct 6<sup>th</sup> Early Release
- Oct 9<sup>th</sup> SAT Testing
- Oct 11<sup>th</sup> Professional/Columbus Day – No School
- Oct 14<sup>th</sup> MS Relay Team Pasta Dinner @ Moose Lodge
- Oct 18<sup>th</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup> Homecoming Week
- Oct 18<sup>th</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup> FCAT Retakes
- Oct 21<sup>st</sup> Early Release for Homecoming Parade
- Oct 22<sup>nd</sup> Homecoming Football Game, 7:30
- Oct 23<sup>rd</sup> ACT Testing  
Homecoming Dance
- Oct 24<sup>th</sup> Booster Club Fun Day @ Stuffed Pig, 12:00-5:00
- Oct 25<sup>th</sup>-Nov 5<sup>th</sup> Cookie Dough Sale
- Oct 26<sup>th</sup> End of 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter – 3 More to Go!!!!
- Oct 29<sup>th</sup> Professional Day – No School
- Nov 2<sup>nd</sup> SAC Meeting, Media Center, 6:00

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