

Marathon High School Advisory Council

MEETING MINUTES

December 7, 2010

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; Beth Ann Connell; Diane Culver; Mike Puto and SGA Vice President Kelsey Wonderlin; **Not in attendance:** Cindy Durkin-Bull; Karen McKeon; David and Tara Coleman; Karen Angle; Delvis Cabrera; Debra Davis; Tracy Hannah; Gerard “Spook” Roussin; Tammy Bruland and Regina Morgan.

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

1. **Student Government Association Report:** SGA Vice President Kelsey Wonderlin reported on the following:
 - a. A canned food drive competition for grades 9-12 began December 6th. A prize will be awarded to the winning class.
 - b. A “leap frog” competition event is planned for April 16th, to take place on the old Seven Mile Bridge.
 - c. Classes are working on fundraisers as follows: seniors – will sell Christmas kisses packages; juniors – held a combination car wash/bake sale/yard sale last Saturday, and are tentatively planning a Sadie Hawkins dance; sophomores and freshmen – are brainstorming ideas for fundraisers.
2. **Principal’s Report: School Grade:** Mr. Gracy provided handouts and summarized information as to why Marathon Middle/High’s 2009-10 school grade was a “B.” Major points included:
 - a. Scoring was different this year, with FCAT scores accounting for 70% of the school grade, and other factors, such as graduation rates, college-readiness, subgroup performance (Adequate Yearly Progress, or AYP) and accelerated courses accounting for 30%. GEDs and vocational degrees no longer count in graduation rates.
 - b. Although MMS/MHS had sufficient cumulative points to score an “A,” the school did not make AYP for certain subgroups, most particularly in at-risk students’ graduation rates. 75% of at-risk students must graduate within the four-year time frame, and MMS/MHS achieved a 63% graduation rate. In addition, AYP must be attained for at least half of the lowest 25% of at-risk students, a goal to work toward.
 - c. Initiatives to improve scores include “catch-up” procedures in Middle School, Learning Recovery Contracts at the High School level, ensuring that relevant work is implemented, and providing summer school for those students needing to make up credits. The International Baccalaureate diploma being explored and implemented will also help to boost the school grade.

3. ***Middle School Update:*** Ms. Logan reported as follows on the International Baccalaureate (IB) conference which five staffers attended, and on plans to implement the program at MMS/MHS:
 - a. All three Keys high schools will participate. The program includes rigorous academics as well as a service component, exams administered in a possible six areas (social studies, English, foreign language, science, art and math), and a 4,000-word essay. It is possible for students to receive certificates in one or more individual subjects. Many colleges give a full year's credit to students with a high school IB diploma. Scholarship awards are also possible.
 - b. The current eighth grade class will be the first cohort, and will complete the program as juniors and seniors.
 - c. The program is flexible and inclusive, with dual AP/IB tracts possible.
4. ***High School Update:*** Ms. McPherson reported on the following:
 - a. Mr. Tom Kailian was hired and started teaching Monday in the classes formerly taught by Ms. Atwater. He is a former Florida Keys Community College instructor, so is well-qualified to instruct the mostly college-level courses. Those students in dual enrollment classes are expected to be able to achieve their DE credits.
5. ***Athletic Update:*** Ms. Konrath reported on the following:
 - a. Boys' and girls' basketball and soccer are well underway. Middle School and JV teams are participating. There is a Middle School boys' and girls' basketball tournament at Mary Immaculate School this Saturday and a boys' basketball holiday tournament will take place next Saturday, December 18th.
 - b. Girls' soccer districts will unavoidably take place during exam week.
 - c. The girls' cross country team again made it to the state tournament, scoring 24th out of 25 teams. Naomi Valerdi again gave a standout performance.
 - d. A remaining sports fundraiser is the upcoming Booster Club's/alumni \$10K drawing.
 - e. The fall sports awards ceremony, TBA, will take place after the winter break in the auditorium. Please let Ms. Konrath know if you would be in favor of awards ceremonies taking place during the school day (but still including parents and community members); it is believed that awards given in front of the student body would be more meaningful.
6. ***Approval of Minutes:***
 - a. Mr. Puto moved to approve the November 9, 2010 minutes, Ms. Konrath seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved by those in attendance. (Approval was solicited and obtained via e-mail from four additional board members.)
7. ***Dolphins of Distinction:*** Board member Diane Culver presented the December awards. The instructional recipient was athletic director and coach Teresa Konrath and the staff recipient was attendance/front desk staffer, Lulu Gomez. Kudos to both for all that they do for the school.

8. ***Open Agenda Items:***
 - a. Mr. Gracy announced that Salvation Army bell-ringers are needed, and that Centennial Bank is coordinating volunteers.
 - b. Ms. Nelson passed along a request from Ms. Lancaster for parents and students to continue to bring in magazines for the library; the students are really enjoying the sudden variety of available magazines.
 - c. Mr. Gonzalez announced that a holiday dinner was available to SAC attendees after the meeting. Many thanks to the culinary department for providing the meal.
9. ***Adjournment:*** There being no other business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

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

Minutes submitted December 9, 2010 by Anita J. Nelson, SAC Secretary