

Marathon Middle/High School Advisory Council

MEETING MINUTES

September 4, 2012

6:00 PM MMHS Media Center

SAC Members in Attendance: Assistant Principal Liz Logan, Chairperson Luis Gonzalez, Vice Chairperson Karen McKeon, Secretary Anita Nelson, Middle School Liaison Michelle Franck, SGA Representative Yelixa Larios-Lopez, Beth Ann Connell, Diane Culver, Delvis DelPozo, Marcie Ehrig, Mike Puto, and Gerard “Spook” Roussin. **Not in attendance:** Principal Gracy and Athletic Director Teresa Konrath. It is noted that Suzanne Ryals is no longer with the school, and is therefore no longer a SAC member.

1.,2. Welcome:

The meeting was called to order at 6:05 p.m. by Chairperson, Luis Gonzalez. The Pledge of Allegiance, lead by SGA President Ms. Larios-Lopez, followed. Mr. Gonzalez acknowledged school board candidate, Yvette Mira-Talbot.

3. Introduction of New Staff Members – Ms. Logan:

Ms. Logan summarized the names and duties of six new MMHS teachers as follows:

- Heather Coralluzzo is the new Middle School Guidance Counselor. Her background includes experience in the New Jersey school system.
- Jennifer Richey is the new Chemistry teacher.
- Allison Heyl and Julia Flynn are both teaching upper-level Math courses.
- Liane Edixon is the new Middle School Reading and Language Arts teacher, and will also be spearheading the Middle School newspaper.
- Carl Stanton is the new Culinary Arts chef.

4. SGA Report - Christina Rios, VP:

Ms. Rios summarized recent and upcoming SGA activities. Highlights included:

- “Superhero Smash Days” and a “Happy Ending Dance,” in planning stages;
- A Middle School dance on Sept. 7th in the cafeteria from 7-10 p.m.;
- Homecoming Spirit Week activities between Oct. 8th and 13th, including a parade on Oct. 11th at 2 p.m.; the Homecoming football game against Curley at 7:30 p.m. on the 12th; and the Homecoming dance at 8 p.m. on the 13th; and
- Sophomore class grocery bagging at Publix on Oct. 6th as a fundraiser, and presale orders for T-shirts.

It was noted that the daily school announcements have not yet been activated, but that Middle School Liaison Michelle Franck has an e-mail contact list of Middle School parents. Obtaining contact information from parents at the upcoming Open House should help in otherwise revising contact lists.

5. Administrative Report/School Improvement Plan - Ms. Logan:

In Mr. Gracy’s absence due to illness, Ms. Logan presented the Administrative Report, also directing a brainstorming session to generate ideas on how to enhance parent involvement in the school. Discussion centered around improving communication, with the following areas of improvement suggested:

- a. Update contact information by providing “parent information sheets” at the upcoming Sept. 13th open house;

- b. Provide incentives, such as homework passes, to encourage parent and student participation in meetings and events;
- c. Enhance the school website, including Facebook links for the classes and web pages for individual teachers on which they could include wish lists (it was noted that the classes of 2014, 2018 and 2019 already have Facebook pages);
- d. Use ConnectEd and the school (electronic) sign more effectively;
- e. Make students accountable for getting their parents to meetings and events;
- f. Brainstorm at faculty meetings on how to increase communication, parent involvement, and assistance with “wish lists;”
- g. Address how to make parents for whom English is a second language feel welcomed (translators?); and
- h. Make sure the purposes of meetings and events are made clear, e.g.: Everyone is encouraged to attend SAC meetings, and orientation and open house events are not intended for private meetings with individual teachers to discuss student progress (individually scheduled meetings would serve that purpose).

6. *Athletic Report – Mr. Gonzalez:*

In Ms. Konrath’s absence due to sports commitments, Mr. Gonzalez gave an overview of sports activities. The football, volleyball, cross country, swimming and golf fall sports are well underway. See the school calendar for schedule of events. Mr. Gonzalez commented on the following:

- a. A fundraising athletic boosters dinner and refreshment stand will take place the night of the school open house, Sept. 13th, from 5-6:15 p.m. Tickets are available in the school office.
- b. A private (non-school-sponsored) booster club bus has been chartered to take interested fans to away football games. Contact Mr. Gonzalez or Mr. Roussin for details. Cost is \$25-\$30 per person, which covers the bus and gratuity. Food is provided and area restaurants’ donations of food go along to provide athletes with a buffet, without having to stop at restaurants.
- c. Continuing transportation issues for the sports program were discussed, including the possibility of mimicking Key West’s approach, which is to have CDL-licensed coaches and parents driving buses or vans, rather than using regular school buses.
- d. In answer to a question about how to sign up for sports, parents and students are encouraged to contact the Athletic Director, Ms. Konrath.

7. *Open Agenda Items:*

- a. Ms. Wiatt provided information on the Take Stock in Children program:
 - i. Eligibility applications for new students are in the office. To qualify, candidates may be on free or reduced lunches, have good grades and good scores on the FCATs. Students who may already have a FL Prepaid grandparents’ scholarship fund may still be eligible. Applicants may be in 7th – 10th grades, although a few 11th-graders have applied.
 - ii. Ms. Wiatt has a “senior resource book” that provides step-by-step tips on applying for college.
 - iii. Bright Futures Scholarship requirements are becoming more restrictive: 75 or 100 community service hours, respectively, will be required for

- the Medallion and Academic Scholarships. This year, a 22 ACT score qualified; next year, it will be 26.
- iv. Two upcoming TSIC college field trips will take place for 10th – 12th-graders: FAU on Sept. 26th and FIU on Oct. 24th.
 - v. SAT and ACT sign-up and test dates should be on the web.
 - b. The long lunch lines were discussed, with Ms. Logan's assurance that timing will improve as students become accustomed to the choices. Ms. Logan emphasized that no one would be denied lunch, and that passes would be given out in the event of delays.
 - c. The issue of overcrowded buses and attempts to assuage problems was discussed.
 - d. The debilitating loss of the Century 21 after-school program was discussed.
 - e. Mr. Gonzalez announced the date and time of the next District Advisory Council meeting – the monthly meeting attended by SAC Chairpersons and District personnel: Sept. 12th at 6 p.m. Mr. Gonzalez encourage parents to also attend, and to let him know about topics that they would like to see discussed.
 - f. The next MMHS SAC meeting will be at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, October 2nd in the Media Center.

Respectfully submitted this 2nd day of October, 2012, by
Anita J. Nelson, Secretary

(Please see schedules of activities, sports & testing on the school's website/calendar.)