

Marathon Middle/High School Advisory Council

MEETING MINUTES

October 2, 2012

6:00 PM - MMHS Media Center

SAC Members in Attendance: Principal Hammond Gracy, Chairperson Luis Gonzalez, Vice Chairperson Karen McKeon, Secretary Anita Nelson, Middle School Liaison Michelle Franck, Beth Ann Connell and Mike Puto. **Not in attendance:** Assistant Principal Liz Logan, Athletic Director Teresa Konrath, SGA Representative Yelixa Larios-Lopez, Diane Culver, Delvis DelPozo, Marcie Ehrig and “Spook” Roussin.

1.,2. Welcome:

The meeting was called to order at 6:05 p.m. by Chairperson, Luis Gonzalez. Following the Pledge of Allegiance, Mr. Gonzalez introduced special guest, John Welsh, former Key West High School principal and candidate for school board.

3. Approval of Minutes:

Upon a motion by Karen McKeon, seconded by Michelle Franck, the minutes to the September 4, 2012 SAC meeting were unanimously approved.

4. SGA Report – Principal Gracy/Julia Flynn:

In Ms. Larios-Lopez’ absence, Mr. Gracy commented on upcoming Homecoming Spirit Week activities and introduced math teacher, Ms. Julia Flynn, who has graciously agreed to sponsor the Homecoming dance on Saturday, October 13th. Funding for Homecoming was an issue, and discretionary principal’s funds were “loaned” to pay for activities. The need for volunteers, particularly in decorating for and cleaning up after the dance, was emphasized.

5. “Gifted” Proposal – Mr. Gracy/Michelle Franck:

Mr. Gracy and Ms. Franck outlined a new “gifted program” initiative to benefit Middle School students as follows:

- a. Ms. Skaggs, a certified “gifted” teacher, will offer once-per-week pull-out sessions during her 4th period for select students.
- b. Participating students must have attained a “5” on FCAT math and reading.
- c. A creative thinking curriculum and writing of EP’s (Education Plans) will be developed.
- d. Ms. Coralluzzo, Middle School Guidance Counselor, will assist with “pull-out, push-in” efforts.
- e. Activities may include field trips.

6. Homecoming Week – Mr. Gracy/Mr. Gonzalez/Mr. Puto:

Homecoming Week activities and schedules were summarized and discussed as follows:

- a. Parade: The Homecoming Parade will take place on Thursday, Oct. 11th, starting at 1:30 p.m. Switlik School has reversed their decision to have an early release day, and Switlik students will be allowed to watch the parade. Extra Sheriff’s deputies and reserve officers have been enlisted to keep students and onlookers safe.
- b. Pep rally: A first-ever community pep rally and bonfire are scheduled for 6 p.m. on Thursday on the grounds of the former Marathon Manor. All sports

teams are invited, as well as the community at large and such groups as the Youth Club, Football League, and Scouts. The need to publicize this was noted.

- c. Football game: The Homecoming game will be on Friday night starting at 7:30 against Curley. Seniors will be recognized before the game.
- d. Homecoming dance: The dance, with a “superheroes” theme, will be on Saturday the 13th at the Marathon Airport from 8 p.m. to midnight. Some discussion as to the locale and associated costs followed: Just a \$100 fee is assessed for holding it at the airport. The Booster Club is pitching in by providing refreshments and pizza; other donations of food that could be sold would be appreciated.
- e. Daily “spirit week” themes were noted.
- f. It was noted that the SGA, in part due to not having a regular sponsor, has been struggling.

7. ***Athletic Report – Mr. Gonzalez:***

In Ms. Konrath’s absence due to sports commitments, Mr. Gonzalez gave a brief overview of athletics:

- a. All fall sports – football, cross country, volleyball, swimming and golf – are winding down and/or approaching Districts. Next week’s Homecoming football game is the last scheduled home game, unless a playoff week game is scheduled. Cross Country has only one home match left, on October 15th. Girls’ Cross Country has been struggling due to a lack of members. The swim team has an Orlando trip next week, and an upcoming Key West tri-meet. Golfers have two home matches this week, and Districts coming up. More players are needed.
- b. There is a meeting after school in the gym on October 3rd for those wanting to play basketball. Soccer will be starting soon as well.
- c. When sign-ups for each sport are held, players at all levels (Middle School, JV and Varsity) should show up at the same time. It is recognized that, due to the small size of our school, there may be some mismatches in age levels between our players and team members in other schools.

8. ***Principal’s Report – Mr. Gracy:***

Mr. Gracy summarized and lead discussion on the following topics:

- a. ***Attendance:*** Attendance in the first 30 days this year is up slightly over last year, by .08% (or by an additional 10 students coming to school).
- b. ***Arriving at school at 7:15 a.m.:*** It was noted that limited school personnel are on campus earlier than 7:15 a.m., and that students who show up earlier may be unsupervised. It was further noted that breakfast is served starting at 7 a.m., so the only place that students should be prior to 7:15 is in the cafeteria. It was suggested that a ConnectEd go out to that effect.
- c. ***AP Enrollment:*** Reports summarizing year-over-year AP course enrollment, class size and test results were distributed (see attached). Several points were made:
 - i. Teacher quality, skilled curriculum teams and advance preparation (prerequisites, such as taking Algebra I in 7th grade) will help students

- succeed; “overreaching” may challenge students so that they will succeed.
- ii. There are no class size limits for AP classes, but attempts are made to keep class size below 25 students. Virtual classes are an option if class size exceeds that limit. For low-attendance classes, combining AP and Honors students is one option.
 - iii. Students’ potential to pass AP classes and exams can be predicted from PSAT results.
 - iv. Funding/paying teachers in order to provide students with a variety of AP options is more challenging for a small school such as Marathon Middle/High.
- d. ***Discipline:*** There have been 28 disciplinary infractions so far this year, compared to 72 last year. Teachers are handling more issues themselves, and the students are doing better. Saturday school (a 2-hour detention) is one disciplinary option.
9. ***Open Agenda Items:***
- a. Switlik School’s Halloween Carnival will take place on Sunday, October 28th and help is needed. High school students can get community service hours for volunteering. Contact Michelle Franck.
 - b. Take Stock in Children MMHS coordinator Katrina Wiatt reported that 10-12 new adult mentors are needed to match with local TSIC mentees; contact her if interested or if you know someone who may wish to mentor.
10. ***Adjournment:***
There being no further items to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted this 30th day of October, 2012, by
Anita J. Nelson, Secretary

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