

Milwaukee High School of the Arts  
School Governance Council  
December 16, 2010

*Present:* B. Applewhite, A. Banks, S. Craine, K. Katter, V. Katter, G. Raasch, S. Raasch, T. Turner, and B. Wisniewski.

*Guest:* D. Drews, R. Janes

T. Turner welcomed all present and initiated introductions. T. Turner established that a quorum was present. The minutes from the November 11, 2010 meeting were approved.

**Staff Report:**

S. Craine reported that Naviance is an upcoming program for all students. Students have an account which is a career exploration connecting with colleges downloading grades, transcripts, ACT and SAT scores. It is a national model for students to use to learn and send information. K. Strube has gone to training and S. Craine has gone to initial training. K. Strube is charged with establishing Naviance accounts for MHSA's freshman class.

**Principal Report:**

Learning Team meeting discussed having a consistent culture at MHSA from classroom to classroom and hallways. This would be a step forward toward improving the attendance from 95.6% to 98%, and reduce the number of suspension days. Music in the hallways to indicate passing periods between classes was being used to directly influence the atmosphere and climate of MHSA. The goal would be to use only the 4 minutes of music as the indicator of passing time. UBD, understanding by design, was initiated and implemented by staff previously. Rigorous implementation of UBD as initiated by the Learning Team would be a positive for the staff and students. Special education students are a small percentage of the student body, but represent a large challenge to academic achievement. MHSA needs to do a better job providing the special education student the opportunity to succeed. The special education rate is growing and MPS high schools are closing. The number of special education students will be increasing in our school. MHSA needs a plan or structure in place to deal with some of the most problematic students.

V. Katter suggested that staff participate with what is working with team teaching and what is not working.

S. Craine encouraged an on going shared decision making between staff and administration as to what is the best place for kids and team teaching. Where can we find the best examples of team teaching in the city?

B. Wisniewski suggested that MHSA needs to deal with the practicalities of class size and distribution of special education students.

B. Applewhite indicated the district's focus is teacher planning and preparation. UBD is part of the district focus.

T. Turner requested that B. Applewhite and staff forward agenda items which would lead the school to greater success for all students.

**Community Report:**

V. Katter reported that MHSA annual fundraiser The Crimson Gig, will occur on Friday, March 4, 2011 at Quorum Architects on Highland Ave. at 6:30PM to 9:30PM. It will be a jazz reception, silent auction events. Tickets are \$30 each, \$50 per couple. Donations for the silent auction are being solicited.

**Student Report:**

G. Raasch discussed the senior mentoring program to improve school pride, culture, artistic environment, and performance etiquette. After discussion the program with other senior officers the decision was to individualize the program for each art area. The discussion was to include the juniors in this mentoring.

**New Business:**

The youth option for the Arts Mentors proposal for juniors and seniors was discussed. It would be a means to recruit students to MHSA and give current MHSA juniors and seniors an early student teaching field work opportunity. The proposal was presented to R. Mello, arts education licensing supervisor from Peck School of the Arts at UWM. R. Mello suggested making it a precollege course, an OO1 class needing 16 students.

R. Mello offered to do pre-workshops through CLC. The notion is to plan it, pilot student group, in the fall run the workshops through CLC for a 2-3 week period, initial counseling and cooperative teacher, and 2 credits of field work with the Peck School of the Arts. T. Turner invited the department chairs to give feedback on those ideas.

D. Drews biggest concern is whether or not we would have 16 students at that level to meet class size requirement, and whether or not our MHSA students would have the time.

R. Janes is very favorable with the youth option proposal for Arts Mentors affiliated with UWM.

Discussion ensued as to how to schedule the arts mentoring class, esis verses youth options.

K. Katter made a motion to move forward with a timeline for an Arts Mentoring program and the feasibility of a youth options application with UWM Peck School of the Arts. T. Turner restated the motion as to move forward with a plan including a timeline for details regarding implementation of a field study credit through youth options for students of junior and senior categories of arts areas.

V. Katter added the friendly amendment if legal or administrative issue prevents the stated motion from going forward the proposal would be required to come back to MHSA's School Governance Council. Motion with amendment was approved.

**Action Team for Partnership:**

S. Raasch said the second cake and coffee meeting was very nice. Attendance was more than the first gathering, but it was mostly staff and one parent. Action Team for Partnership is required to take the attendance of parents at their student's events. Discussion ensued how to do this. V. Katter suggested CARS may be able to assist with this requirement. C. Wszalek provided a list of prospective students who were undecided as to their choice of MHSA. From this list invitations are being sent out inviting parent and students to an evening of academic information about MHSA. It will be held on January 3, 2011, light dinner, and an academic talk by department chairs. Consideration was made as to whether or not to offer the information to all new parents and students. S. Raasch went to a seminar on nutrition. A healthy snack was suggested to address the hunger needs of the high school students at 10-10:30AM. Food in the classrooms would be an issue with school engineers. A student union area for this would be a possibility. Cutting class time by 2 minutes to create a 15 minute home base (not necessarily first period) was suggested.

Motion approved to extend meeting 5 minutes.

S. Raasch requested that if we can't find a way to incorporate a nutritious midmorning snack, We come up with a school plan to improve MHSA school nutrition that the staff would also want to eat. B. Applewhite suggested bringing in Kymm Mutch.

Motion was approved scheduling the following meetings:

January 13, 2011  
February 17, 2011

Forensics competition resulted in disqualifications of most awards due a 5 minute introduction being included in the timed event. MHSA did receive the all state award.

Motion approved to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,  
Mary Kane