

Milwaukee High School of the Arts
School Governance Council
March 17, 2011

Present: B. Applewhite, A. Banks, M. Kane, K. Katter, V. Katter, A. Quimby Mathias, N. Peterson, T. Turner, and M. Warren

Guest: A. deLutio

T. Turner welcomed all and initiated introductions. T. Turner established that a quorum was present, and meeting minutes from January 21 and February 17, 2011 were approved.

Community Report: Crimson Gig was a great success. A profit of \$3,000-3,500 is expected. Some receipts and auction pick up items are still pending. Kudos to S. Raasch is extended. The venue was very good which supported unexpected networking.

Staff Report: B. Wisniewski gave a report on the national meeting of National Science Teachers Association in San Francisco. The meeting allowed participants to touch base with vendors and educators with ideas about teaching, funding, and opportunities in teaching science. National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) was at the meeting providing information to teachers. B. Wisniewski and M. Staten, Science Curriculum Specialist who was also at the meeting, discussed a 4 year science curriculum at MPS. Rosemarie Balistreri has struck up a connection with Discovery World to provide interdisciplinary activities.

K. Katter reported that art areas should be doing research papers. My Access has been implemented with instant feedback to junior and some senior students. Not all senior teachers are trained except CW Seniors as R. Tehan is trained. ACT test is coming up and AP fees for those tests are being collected. MHSA took first and second place at the state Poetry at Large competition. Very triumphant moment for MPS as this was our first year of competition. National competition is in Washington DC. K. Katter will be attending a Gilder Lehrman seminar at Columbia University about American civil society.

Principal's Report: Strategic planning group met discussing sustainability of MHSA. MHSA met the district expectation in Math. March 22, 2011 is another MHSA audition day. Enrollment at MHSA may be growing for the 2011-2012 year. N. Peterson reported that efforts are being considered to establish connections outside the community and sources of money outside MPS. Milwaukee Foundation is helping explore opportunities with organizations and grants. B. Applewhite posed the question: can we take in more students either at MHSA, or would we need an annex facility? Discussion ensued considering the pros and cons of increase enrollment, and the problems it would present, and

possible solutions. A. deLutio questioned the logistics of the enrollment expansion ideas and the reality of implementing them for the upcoming school year. A. deLutio sees student climate issues which should be addressed before making changes. K. Katter asked if staff would be increased to address the increase enrollment. A. deLutio suggested alternate teaching plans to accommodate increased enrollment. B. Wisniewski pointed out the absolute limit a laboratory class presents. K. Katter suggested a freshmen/sophomore passing time and a junior/ senior passing time to minimize traffic in the hallways. V. Katter suggested maximum use of existing space as the first approach. A. Quimby Mathias expressed concerns about students easily moving their studies from one building to another. B. Wisniewski suggested students redesign the school. B. Applewhite will distribute the written part of this expansion discussion at the next SGC meeting. Department chairs will also give feedback concerning the expansion discussion. M. Kane has concerns about the school climate created by multi-building/annex trailer campus, and how new parents will perceive these changes. A. Quimby Mathias has concerns that the political environment is going to drive parents away from MPS and toward voucher schools.

After discussion regarding advertizing MHSA on Fox6 News, a motion was made by V. Katter and passed not to advertize on the Fox6 station and that the advertisement of our school be added to the next meeting's agenda.

Motion to adjourn the meeting was approved.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Kane