

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

Present: B. Applewhite, A. Banks, K. Bova, Brian Crawford (substituting for Gunnar Raasch)
J. Felske, M. Kane, K. Katter, V. Katter, N. Obotette, N. Peterson, V. Porter, T. Turner,
M. Warren, B. Wisniewski,

Guest: S. Craine, C. Carter, A. Hopkins, A. Quimby Mathias, C. Mathias, A. Plesho, S. Raasch,

T. Turner welcomed members and guests. Introductions were made. Minutes from the September 2, 2010 meeting were reviewed and approved.

Principal's Report:

B. Applewhite invited SGC and guest to visit B. Wisniewski's Robotics' Lab. B. Wisniewski explained his efforts to renovate the lab. B. Wisniewski demonstrated use of one student programmed robot. Student interest in the course has nearly reached maximum size. The suggestion was made for photos/videos of the Robotics Lab in action to be prepared for presentations recruiting students.

Staff's Report:

K. Katter reported class sizes are still being balanced with slight adjustments here and there.

Student's Report:

B. Crawford reported that the students were wondering if there would be Homecoming at MHSA this school year. B. Applewhite explained the unique situation MHSA is in as an art school. MHSA shares its sports teams with Pulaski High School. Having a Spirit week would be an option. The Senior Class officers need to contact their advisors, and they need to find out what the students want to do and what is possible for Homecoming. Parents could also volunteer to help with Homecoming.

Old Business:

Safety issues raised at dismissal time have improved. Reminding parents of the new drop off and pick up location (student parking lot) will be repeated in MHSA newsletter.

MPS has a recycling program/policy. MHSA needs to get more resources from Central Services. The principals update to staff will include recycling.

New Business:

Action Point: T. Turner will notify C. Wszalek that next month's SGC meeting will be October 21, 2010 so as not to conflict with Parent Teacher conferences. Motion was made and approved that all other SGC meetings will be scheduled for the second Thursday of the month.

S. Craine and C. Wszalek will visit 10 MPS Middle Schools in efforts to recruit auditions/admission to MHSA.

Non-aerobic physical education will be moved to the next meetings agenda.

Discussion ensued regarding supporting the arts at the MPS grade schools and middle schools. Insuring the arts in our feeder schools is critical to MHSA's future.

N. Peterson explained Golda Meir Elementary School's efforts incorporating the arts in their curriculum. It was suggested B. Applewhite approach Elm Creative Arts School's principal to consider this approach.

S. Raasch suggested inviting parents to a monthly morning coffee with the principal and staff at MHSA. Discussion ensued as to whether a weekday morning or Saturday morning would be better. Motion made and carried to try a weekday morning coffee with the principal and staff, and then maybe try a Saturday morning.

S. Raasch presented information about The Great American Salad Bar grant. Discussion ensued about previous salad bars at MHSA, the line-up at the vending machine, the need for another healthy choice at lunch time, and whether or not the students would want it. Motion was made and carried to support MHSA's application for The Great American Salad Bar grant. S. Raasch will apply for the grant.

N. Obotette met with MHSA's neighborhood group. Money donated by the senior class has been used for raised gardening beds on Lynden Hill. J. Felske said that he would assist construction of raised gardening bed on MHSA's campus.

K. Katter will work with MHSA staff in regards to higher education initiative as suggested by S. Raasch.

Action Point:

B. Applewhite will assure that there is a "Parent Assistant" sign-up booth at Open House on September 27, 2010.

S. Craine is interested in SGC membership as staff. Motion was made and approved to include S. Craine as a member of MHSA's SGC.

A. Quimby Mathias presented Milwaukee Families for School Funding. School underfunding imperils the future of our children in the Milwaukee Public Schools. Milwaukee Families for School Funding is looking for a go to legislative champion. The Penny for Kids petition was circulated.

Next meeting is October 21, 2010.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Kane