

Milwaukee High School of the Arts
School Governance Council
September 2, 2010

Present: B. Applewhite, M. Aguila, A. Banks, K. Bova, J. Felske, M. Kane, K. Katter, V. Katter, N. Peterson, T. Turner, M. Warren, B. Wisniewski

Minutes for the June 10, 2010 meeting were approved.

K. Bova welcomed members to the first SGC meeting of the 2010-2011 school year. New parents were welcomed. All attendees introduced themselves. Discussion ensued as to whether or not we had a quorum and a parent majority. K. Katter questioned whether our current roster of 21 represents our current membership. This needs to be established to determine what a quorum and parent majority is. Guest members M. Aguila, J. Felske, and N. Peterson agreed to SGC membership for the 2010-2011 school year. Motion was made and approved to add M. Aguila, J. Felske and N. Peterson to MHSA's Student governance Council. We had an attendance of 12 members of which 7 were parents. Both a quorum and parent majority were established.

Principal's report:

IT did not settle their contract as indicated at the June 10, 2010 SGC meeting. MHSA does not have an IT person at the school as a result of layoff. All other staff members are back. We have a .5FTE librarian who will work 2.5 days per week. We have a new bookkeeper who is also working .5FTE. Currently, we have 946 students enrolled. We are still looking for 40 enrolled students who have not attended school. Our meet or beat number is 881. The School Improvement Plan was discussed. The Annual Yearly Progress Status Report indicates that MHSA did not make adequate progress in the WKCE math scores for the sub-group of African American male students. The tentative date for Open House is September 28, 2010. As part of the corrective action for SIFI Level 1, MHSA must host a parent meeting which will also be scheduled the night of Open House.

Student Report:

Gunnar Raasch was unable to attend this evening meeting. K. Katter suggested that he find a student to replace himself when unable to attend the SGC meeting.

Staff Report:

B. Wisniewski said all was going well in his 3 Chemistry sections, and Robotics. Enrollment in the Chemistry classes is in the mid 30s. Academic classes seem to have gradually gotten very large. Enrollment in science and math classes is in the 30s and 40s. The number of academic instructors has gone down over the years resulting in very large classes. We only have 4 math teachers for 946 students. The arts have not experienced the same reduction in instructors. The school has been very hot these first weeks of school. Staff has concerns for their health, and the students. Use of fans and opening windows is limited. Programming went well with the exception of Special Ed students. B. Applewhite said that they did not get their Language! class scheduled prior to classes starting. Once Language! was scheduled their previous schedule changed. Teachers were not prepared for these changes. B. Applewhite mentioned that it is very common to get Special Ed students without their Individual Education Plan.

New Business:

Nomination and voting of SGC officers for the 2010-2011 school year were made as follows:

Chair: T. Turner

Vice Chair: K. Bova

Recording/Corresponding Secretary: M. Kane

Motion was made and approved to conduct MHSA SGC meeting on the 3rd Thursday of the month. V. Katter accepted the request to sit on MHSA SGC as a community member. Motion was made and approved V. Katter as a community member.

T. Turner requested consideration for non aerobic physical education classes. T. Turner requested better instruction for the use of eSIS tracking student's progress.

Action Point: B. Applewhite will have an explanation of eSIS and Parent Assist in the next MHSA newsletter.

J. Felske has safety concerns for the students at dismissal leaving the school on Highland Avenue. Traffic seems to be going too fast. Parents picking up their children are double parking in front of the school waiting for their students.

Action Point: B. Applewhite will discuss Highland Avenue traffic concerns with the Milwaukee Police department. K. Katter suggested announcing to student the need for safety crossing Highland Avenue. Picking up students in the student parking lot, Exit #9 was made.

New cell phone policy allows students to have a cell phone, but they may not use them during the school day.

There is concern for our feeder schools not supporting MHSA's future enrollments. Elm does not have arts and Roosevelt is dropping arts.

Action Point: B. Applewhite will work with these feeder schools.

Next meeting is September 16, 2010 at 6:00PM, MHSA Library.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Kane