

School Governance Council

February 19th, 2009

6:00 pm-7:30 pm

Present: Janet Goudy, Mr. Applewhite, Deb Verhagen, Kathy Katter, Vince Katter, Mary Jo Glaspey, Alison Keefe, Joe Bova, Nia Obotette, Mr. Wisniewski, Cody Raasch. **Absent:** Blanche Brown

I. Welcome

II. Approval of Minutes: - Minutes from Jan 29th and Feb 12th meeting need corrections. In the interest of time management, a motion was made and 2nd, to hold over approval until March's meeting. Amended copies will be sent out in advance for approval at March's meeting.

III. Principal's Report: Since we did not meet AYP (Adequate Yearly Progress) in reading, a Federal Mandate, MHSA must have a full time literacy coach. MHSA Title I budget will pay for half and Central Services will pay half.

#603 (Board Funds) Budget-We spent \$40,000 less than allotted on County bus passes. MHSA spends approximately 2.2 million in yellow busses which is paid by Central services. Students who live outside the yellow bus zone use county bus passes for which the school must pay. We will cut that line item from \$125,000 to \$100,000 if possible.

**** Action Plan- Check to see if our bus zone can be expanded.**

- Deficit Reduction – The 09-10 budget contains a carry-over debt of \$83,000; mostly due to the discrepancy between CO average teacher wage and actual wages paid by MHSA. We are only required to pay 1/3 of that debt in this budget, approximately \$18,059.
- Parent Advocate (Sara Raasch will be paid out of 613 Supplemental Budget and by independent contract.
- Ed Plan—revisions are needed that address AYP and are in the process of review. If we do not make AYP this year we will become a SIFI-I. Having a literacy coach will help this. The urgent matter is related to subjects where we do not meet proficiency in, the achievement gap between African American males and the rest of the school population and especially critical for scores that are dropping from one year to the next.
- ABC: Mr. Applewhite met with ABC's and architect to look at potential art campus facility, logistics. blueprints and specification of either a move or renovation of existing facility. ABC's is interested in hearing from all teachers and parents about concerns, questions, ideas on K-12 campus.
- Students: 308 MHSA students, or 38% of the school, are on the honor roll meaning that their grade point average is 3.0 or better. That is an 8% increase over last mark period. Mr. Applewhite suggests there be a recognition party for these students.

There was a motion by Joe to provide recognition for the "330 Club" and the motion was seconded. It was suggested to Mr. Applewhite that it be held after mid-March and that it be during school hours. Amendment to the motion of having a party for #304 students on honor roll: The PTSO should manage the event which will be paid for by the school. Alison Keefe and Natalie will take it to PTSO.

******Action plan: Recognition party approved. Mr. Applewhite will find out where and when we can do something for these students.**

IV. Staff Report:

- The six week, all school, research paper is progressing nicely.
- Robotics is moving in a positive direction. Participants may observe at the US Cellular Arena on March 13th-14th. Program sponsored by NASA grant and Technical Support.
- Request for Smartboard- Ms. Halsey is requesting that she receive CARS money to help her create a "Smart" Board using pieces of her own equipment. She needs the white board to complete the system. Cost about \$200. SGC approved that the request for about \$200 be passed on to CARS.

V. Student Report: Cody requests that the school doors be unlocked at 7:10 through 7:30 for zero hour students. The problem for the school is not having an official list of students who should be allowed in the building before regular school hours. The office staff need a list from the various departments of the students authorized for early entry. An entry pass can then be created making it easier on the office.

VI: Old Business:

A. Mary Jo will try to get a hold of Ron Clohessy regarding guidelines related to student requests for additional classes and subsidy of those classes.

B. Cell phone policy- Parent, Cheryl Moran, drafted a letter to Mr. Andrekopoulus regarding the district cell phone policy. She would like the policy to take into consideration that for safety reasons parents want their children to be allowed to carry their cell phones. It was agreed that the letter was well written and that it should be referred to PTSO. It was suggested that MHSA PTSO propose to sponsor a pilot program which would allow students to carry cell phones under certain conditions. Letter will be returned and presented to the PTSO at the next meeting by Alison Keefe.

*** 7:40pm - extend meeting 10 more minutes. Motion made and 2nd.

(OVER)

C. Senior Fees: follow up on sending letter to families informing them of balances due prior to graduation.

*****Action point. When you send letters home for senior fees, send letter for recognition of honor roll students. Work with PTO, try to have letter by the end of the month.**

D. New Student Welcome: It was suggested we go back to the old way of conducting New Student Welcome. More students and parents were in attendance. Students can sign up for classes and extra-curricular activities, sports and after school events. Put this subject on agenda for next staff meeting. *****Action Plan: Mr. Wisiniewski will bring this up for discussion and input at next faculty meeting.**

E. Lynden Hill- Nia will talk to teachers about the concert "Jazz in the Park". The Alderman said it would be a positive initiative. Nia asked for suggestions for the best month to have the concert. June was suggested. Nia also stated that there was no electricity in the Park and that a generator would be needed.

H & I. Moved to next meetings agenda.

All other business moved to next week.

VII. Adjournment/Goodwill