

High School Council Meeting Minutes

For November 10, 2009

Students: James and Connor Davock., and Erin Espinosa

Teachers and Staff: Frank Hoek, Marcelle Foucre, Dot Pearl, Mr. Pearson

Parents: JoAnne Muench, Sue Fasoli, June Miller and Sue Rorke

Next Meeting will be on Tuesday, December 1, 2009 at 3:30

Agenda: MCAS SCIENCE GOAL

Discussion of the council goal to address and improve MCAS science scores in Introductory Physics. Specifically the council agreed to support the reduction of Needs Improvement scores and Failing scores by 50%. The science department has studied the results from last year, and determined that Medway students were struggling with a couple of specific topics – partly because these topics were a 7th and 8th grade focus instead of 9th grade. The Physics teachers are continuing to implement curriculum changes to address these specific topics, and they will also organize curricular coordination discussions with the Middle School to insure topic coverage.

As background information, most school districts take Biology for the MCAS Science requirement. Medway teaches Physics to the 9th grade, so in June, 9th graders take the Physics MCAS to fulfill the Science requirement. MCAS does not supply a retest for Physics, so students who fail must take MCAS Biology after 10th grade to fulfill the Science requirement although students can pass any STE MCAS. Biology is available for retesting again if a student fails a 2nd time.)

Agenda: STUDENT SEMINARS

The council discussed the various seminars, who might be able to lead the seminars, and when specific topics and grades could take them. Dot Pearl has completed the first one called “Your High School Years “with Freshmen, and also gave an evening presentation to parents. We discussed the importance of “Interview Skills” sessions – Dot Pearl will follow up with someone to lead on the topic of college interviews, and _____ will follow up on job interviewing. Mr. Pearson will follow up on Web Etiquette and Car Basics. Mr. Hoek will follow up on Banking. Jimmy will try to set up a Facebook invitation to freshmen and sophomore college students to lead seminars on “College Life” during the first week of January.

Agenda: CAREER DAY

Jimmy handed out a packet from his internet research on how to conduct a successful Career Day. We should look through the packet, and discuss it more at the next meeting.

Agenda: GUIDANCE GOAL (Work with Guidance to assist in the college process)

Jimmy, Connor and Erin started a dialogue with guidance. They are working to come up with lists of “good information”, “not good information” and “missed information”. They complimented Dot Pearl on her Freshmen Seminar which provided some missing information at a helpful time.

Other discussion:

The consensus on the Parent Portal is “great”. Some members are concerned about parents who are not online. The fall report card will be the last one printed and handed out. Mr. Pearson will send home a notice about this, and provide a mechanism for families without computer access.

Renting a big tent for graduation was proposed. The cost is quite high (almost \$3000) and is currently not planned.

The council extensively discussed drinking by high school students. Apparently the police policy is to arrest anyone even present at a party with underage drinking. The Youth Risk Behavior Survey shows Medway students have a concerning amount of alcohol and drug use, as well as bullying behaviors and stress levels. Some council members would like to see more presentations to students, and parents, hoping to avert continued at-risk behavior. Also discussed was the potential denial by some parents of the seriousness of student drinking. This tends to be a serious and complex issue for the council and school.