

Medway High School Council

Dec. 13, 2011

Attending:

Admin: Richard Pearson (RP),
Parents: Kristin Diebus (KD), Shelley Wieler (SW)
Students: Emma Kaeli (EK), Erin Espinosa (EE)
Faculty: Aubrey Rojee (AR), Marcelle Foucre (MF)
Absent: Donna Pereira, Susan Rorke, Amanda Pollack
3:40 pm

I. S.I.P

RP passed out the final School Improvement Plan that was presented to School Committee and approved in November. The Council will be involved in work toward Goals #1 and 4.

Goal #1: Increase participation in Student Activities. Council to help brainstorm ideas; work on handbook, EE to poll input from current Club Officers.

Goal #4: the Career Ed goal was developed quickly at the Nov. 8 meeting, and will need to be coordinated closely with the Guidance Dept. since there had been no time to solicit input from Dot Pearl prior to the SIP presentation. RP will invite Dot to the January Council meeting to begin work on this goal. * One idea to discuss further is a Career Fair – though the resources needed for that may be out of reach.

II. Budget

RP passed out his spreadsheet on class sizes. One challenge in staff planning for 2012/13 is the 30+/- student decrease from class of 2012 to class of 2013. Overall change of student population is -8, meaning no change in staffing, existing staff may need some reassigning.

AR suggested making all electives Accel level to challenge & reward students.

Project Lead The Way (PLTW) engineering classes remain popular, but not able to bring to Capstone level due to 4-year commitment for students, it was mentioned that some freshmen not prepared with necessary math background for the PE course.

VHS enrollment continues to lag. The council offered ideas to stimulate participation including advertising to increase awareness of the opportunities, schedule VHS students in same time slot as much as possible, designated study rooms for VHS students.

Interdisciplinary classes could be popular addition, additional opportunities will be explored. Collaboration time would be necessary to support this direction. AR suggested single semester courses tied by themes. Common Planning Time remains a challenge.

III. Happenings

Weekly E-Newsletter has been growing in content and is popular and effective outreach. SW suggested shortening with less detail, and links to further info. RP would like more web support to implement that.

Half Day Mid-term Exams – students & faculty pleased with concept, feedback all positive. RP will include info in future E-News that school & faculty will remain open &

accessible for the full school days. EE to confirm availability of NHS tutoring room for an extra hour during exam days.

Bullying Awareness Assemblies were provided to all students last week. Feedback was that the presenter was effective. Presentation using real-life & age-appropriate examples better than preaching, students remained engaged.

College Life Panel has been popular with students in the past. RP and Dot are working to recruit recent graduates to come present to seniors – tentative schedule Monday Jan. 9.

Social Networking: RP is working to develop a Facebook page for Medway High School. MHS has also begun a Twitter account. Despite challenges of peer-to-peer social web issues, MHS will continue to be a presence online.

Technology Thursdays for faculty is increasingly successful. Faculty has volunteered their time to attend peer presentations of classroom and web technology that is accessible here at MHS. Examples of presentations include “Using First Class (Email)”, “Web Content”, “Using PowerPoint”, “Clickers in the Classroom” (MHS has 3 sets of 30 clickers/classroom responders), “Interactive Whiteboards/Mimio” etc. SW suggested that presentations be recorded & made available to stream by faculty who could not attend.

Meeting adjourned 4:45 pm

Submitted by Shelley Wieler

Next Meeting: Jan. 3, 2012, 3:30 PM (RP to send email reminder to members late December)

* Action Items:

- RP:
 - Invite Dot Pearl to January SC meeting
 - Announce school resource availability after exam times for Midyear exams
 - Facebook page development
- EE
 - Poll Club Officers for input re. Activities participation
 - Confirm availability NHS Tutoring room for Mid-Terms