

**Mountain Vista High School
School Advisory Council Meeting Minutes**

Thursday, April 2, 2009
Staff Conference Room

X	Angelico, Michael	X	Johnson, Ingrid	X	Rohlfing, Ron
X	Brodsky, Wendy	X	Johnson, Steve	N	Simmons, Jennifer
X	Cravens, Dixon	X	Miller, Sarah	X	Thomas, Rich
X	DeShetler, Paula	N	Morris, Vicky	X	Zynda-Otsuki, Priscilla
X	Foard, Tisha	X	Mustin, Carolyn		
X	Froechtenigt, Margi	X	Peters, Dave		

X indicates attendance

N indicates pre-notification of absence

Other Attendees:

- Jen Vidal, Art Dept. Chair
- Leslie Clemensen, Student & Campus Life TOSA
- Julie Sturgeon, MVHS School Social Worker

Approval of Minutes – Dave Peters

The minutes from March, 2009 were approved.

Review of Norms – Rich Thomas

Rich Thomas reviewed the norms for SAC meetings. They include:

- Begin and end on time (7:00 am – 8:15 am)
- Share the air
- Work with stated agenda items
- Be cautious about bringing personal agenda items to the meeting. (Have methods for “taking things offline” through sub-committees or by assigning an offline discussion with the appropriate person.)
- Use an issue bin. (Document items on yellow stickies to be put into the issue bin for future discussion.)

Art Department Overview - Jen Vidal, Art Dept. Chair

Jen Vidal, the Art Department Chair, gave an overview of the MVHS Art Department. She also brought and displayed examples of student artwork.

- Jen showed us how to access the Art Department webpage.
- A brief description of each class offering was given: Drawing, Painting, AP Studio Art, Sculpture, Ceramics, AP Ceramics, Photography, Art Experience (work with all art forms in this class), Jewelry
- A question was asked about AP art tests. Jen explained that the AP students have to take the exam and also submit a portfolio of 30 pieces of their art.
- The Art Department has been very flexible in accommodating varying needs. For example, if there are not enough students for a class section, teachers may combine

levels in a class and then differentiate instruction (for example, a few AP students may be added to a level 3 class). Some students go to ACC for advanced level classes.

- There are several art shows coming up:
 - Senior Art Show this Friday and Saturday at HRHS
 - Continental League Art Show – Castle Rock Outlet Mall
 - District Art Show – Park Meadows
 - MVHS Art Show
 - Celebrate Ability Art Show – Showcases artwork of special needs students (K-12)

Results of Social Norm Survey – Leslie Clemensen, Student & Campus Life TOSA; Julie Sturgeon, MVHS School Social Worker

A Social Norm Survey was given to all MVHS students as part of a comprehensive drug, alcohol, and tobacco prevention plan. The results were shared with SAC members. The basic premise is that our perceptions lead to our behavior. If our kids perceive that everyone is doing something, they are more likely to engage in that risky behavior. If we can lower perceptions, we can lower these behaviors.

- Survey results show that while students themselves are making good decisions, they think that the majority of *other students* are not.
- MVHS results align with national norms as well as other DCSD high schools.
- Risk taking behavior increases as students get older. One parent suggested that intervention should begin and focus on younger students to prevent this behavior. Currently, much of the attention focuses on seniors.
- Part of the prevention strategy is to get students to focus on the *long-term consequences* of their behavior (i.e. violations on permanent record, which can lead to problems getting accepted to colleges, gaining employment, etc.) vs. short-term consequences/punishments.
- According to the survey, students rank their parents as the most believable source of factual information. Coaches and teachers also rank high. One of the students on our SAC reported that her coach frequently reminds them to make good choices and think about the team, not just themselves. Everyone agreed that coaches and teachers can play a key role.
- Next Step: Working with connect classes to have discussions about social norm survey results.

SIP Progress, Critical Thinking, Grade Analysis, and Budget Update – Steve Johnson, Principal; Rich Thomas, BRT, Tisha Foard, English Teacher

Rich Thomas discussed ways in which teachers are implementing critical thinking. Tisha Foard gave examples of how she has incorporated critical thinking into her 9th grade English classes.

- Staff development has focused on critical thinking lesson studies
- Teachers of all subjects (not just core classes) are emphasizing critical thinking
- A critical thinking blog was created to enable teachers to share strategies

Steve Johnson also reviewed a grade distribution analysis. With regards to the budget for next year, although we will have less, Steve thinks we will be fine as a school because of cost-saving strategies and carry over funds from this school year (schools can now carry over 100% of unused funds to the next year).

Graduation Site for 2010 Graduation – Steve Johnson

Due to budget issues, graduation at Red Rocks may not be possible for the class of 2010. The cost is approximately \$8,000 for the venue. Steve is open to parent suggestions as to ways to pay for the use of Red Rocks (fundraising, charge for tickets, etc.). If Red Rocks is not used, Shea Stadium is a possibility. It was suggested that we bring this issue up at the May SAC meeting for further discussion.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 a.m.

Submitted by Carolyn Mustin on 4/2/09

Future Meetings:

May 7 @ 7:00 am

LMC Conference Room

DAC monthly meetings – open to the public – Wilcox Building, BOE Room

Tuesday April 14, 2009

Tuesday May 12, 2009