

Mountain Vista High School  
School Advisory Council Meeting Minutes  
Thursday, January 08, 2009  
LMC Conference Room

X	Angelico, Michael		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		Morris, Vicky	X	Zynda-Otsuki, Priscilla
X	Foard, Tisha	X	Mustin, Carolyn		
X	Froechtenigt, Margi	X	Peters, Dave		

Guests: Rob Ceglie and Corrie Hitchens

X indicates attendance

N indicates pre-notification of absence

**Approval of Minutes** – Dave Peters

The minutes from November 20, 2008 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.)

**Special Guest – Rob Ceglie (Science Department Chair)** - Steve Johnson

Rob Ceglie and Corrie Hitchens (Assistant Principle who also works in the Science Department) attended and discussed the science department curriculum.

Rob began by discussing the district decision last year to address holes and doubling in curriculum. The district met at grade levels and developed Essential Learnings for each grade. Because of this, Physical Science is moving from the 9<sup>th</sup> grade to the 8<sup>th</sup> grade curriculum and Earth, Space, Environmental (ESE) will be the 9<sup>th</sup> grade curriculum. This year (2008-2009) is a transition for 9<sup>th</sup> grade, and includes both Physical Science and ESE. This addresses the problem of Freshmen, Sophomores and Juniors taking multiple Chemistry classes. There will be no Honors ESE course, but students from the middle school Discovery program could skip ESE and go directly to Biology. This opens up opportunities for them to take AP courses later.

The former Honors IPS course will be gone – it was the Honors Chemistry/Physics split year course. One problem with the Honors IPS course was that Chemistry would not show up on the

student's transcripts. Now, with the new course, the students can take Honors Chemistry if they choose. There will be three levels of Chemistry offered: Chemistry, Honors Chemistry, and AP Chemistry.

The plan for students starting next year is:

Year	Non-Honors	Honors
Freshman	ESE	Biology
Sophomore	Biology	Chemistry or Honors Chemistry
Junior	Chemistry	Choice – probably AP Environmental or Zoology* or Astronomy* instead of AP
Senior	Science Elective	

\*still fulfills Essential Learnings for the students

Clarification was received that, technically, Biology is not required for the county graduation requirements, so a student could choose to take Chemistry, Physics, Honors Chemistry, and Honors Physics for their 4 years of science. Students can take AP Physics if they have taken Calculus, but cannot take AP Chemistry without Chemistry.

The question was raised on how well the AP classes have done in testing. The response was that not all of the classes have received the scores that we would have hoped for. Some of the classes have had less than the National pass rate. The program is still being improved by selection of teachers, and correctly selecting the students.

A concern was raised that it is not always apparent in 8<sup>th</sup> grade what path the student will be on with their 9<sup>th</sup> grade selections. A student can get “locked-in” to the honors path if they were in the Discovery program in middle school.

Next year there are a lot of incoming Discovery program students and MVHS will be offering more Freshman Biology and less ESE classes.

NOTE: Sarah Miller is a Semi-Finalist for the Boettcher Scholarship!! This is a scholarship for Colorado students.

The question was asked, what percentage of students from MVHS attend Colorado vs. out-of-state colleges? Steve Johnson said that he could bring that data.

### **School Accountability Report; “Academic Growth of Students”** - Steve Johnson

The MVHS School Accountability Report for 2007-08 was provided. The overall academic performance is Excellent. New this year is a rating on “Academic Growth of Students”. This reflects a year to year change in the scale score. The state looks at the percentage of students who achieve a certain amount of growth. Douglas County assesses this differently. It is difficult to show high levels of growth when the school continues at an “Excellent” rating.

Note: there is a new acronym in the report. ELL = English Language Learners (was ESL).

### **Budget** - Steve Johnson

A new survey is available for the community to input on what changes should be made in response to the reduced budget available after the failure of the 3A/3B election. Click on this link for information and the survey:

[http://www.dcsdk12.org/portal/page/portal/DCSD/District\\_Information/Budget\\_Reduction\\_Information](http://www.dcsdk12.org/portal/page/portal/DCSD/District_Information/Budget_Reduction_Information)

Also see information included at the end of these minutes.

Information provided refers to a targeted \$37M reduction in expenses. Steve Johnson reported that the target range is \$30M - \$37M. Areas being evaluated for reduction include compensation and staffing ratios. Douglas County currently staffs counselors and administrators at a ratio of 350 students to one. Teachers are staffed at 20.5 students per Full Time Equivalent (FTE) teacher. Teachers don't teach all 7 periods, so there are more than 20.5 students per class. Steve reported that he will be given a \$ budget instead of a FTE/student ratio in the future. The Central Office is looking at absorbing \$10M of the reductions (out of the \$30-\$37M).

One item being evaluated is reducing the number of credits required for graduation from 25.5 to 24. This would save \$ because seniors wouldn't take seven classes. It would only save money if students were limited to the 24. This type of change would have to be phased in as students have already planned out their classes towards graduation. Cherry Creek schools currently require 24. Also, someone in the group reported that Cherry Creek and Denver Public Schools count passing periods as instructional time, while Douglas County doesn't.

Some of the items in the on-line survey may not be well known to everyone. For example, the S.T.A.R. program is "Success Through Automated Resources".

There is no new bond election currently planned, at least not in the next 2 years.

### **Registration Update** – Steve Johnson

8<sup>th</sup> grade parent information night is Wednesday. Freshmen, Sophomores, and Juniors will go to MRMS to talk to 8<sup>th</sup> graders. Next year's Freshmen must be very clear on what electives they want, especially if the graduation requirement goes from 25.5 to 24. This could cause a reduction in elective teachers, or a shifting of responsibilities.

### **Review Dates of Upcoming Tests (CSAP, ACT)** - Steve Johnson

The window for CSAP is 3/2-3/17. MVHS will do the testing during the period of 3/2-3/12, even though there is no school on 3/9 and 3/13. The band is taking their trip the week of 3/16-20, so CSAP needs to be completed before then.

ACT testing will be on 4/22, with a 5/6 make-up day. This test is for Juniors.

### **Open Forum**

Clarification was requested regarding the subject of an upcoming meeting on college courses being offered at Douglas County high schools. Students who take these classes (at a very low fee) will get both High School and Arapahoe Community College credit.

Ron Rohlfsing said that moving SOAR back to the way it was (combining the 2 periods) got a big thumbs up from Ron's daughter.

Ron also asked if students could bring agenda items to SAC. Steve said they can, and that he would talk to the student representatives.

There is another social norms survey coming up shortly. We would like to see the raw data (per last year's discussion) rather than just the interpretation of the data. Freshmen took an additional, different, survey earlier this year

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 am. The next meeting will take place on February 5, 2009 at 7:00 am in the LMC Conference Room.

Submitted by: Margi Froechtenigt on Jan. 09, 2009.

### **Future Meetings:**

**February 5 @ 7:00 am**      LMC Conference Room

March 5 @ 7:00 am Lounge  
April 2 @ 7:00 am LMC Conference Room  
May 7 @ 7:00 am LMC Conference Room

Board of Education Meetings – Wilcox Building, BOE Room

January 20, 2009 @ 5 p.m.  
February 3, 2009 @ 5 p.m.  
February 17, 2009 @ 5 p.m.

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

Tuesday January 13, 2009  
Tuesday March 10, 2009  
Tuesday April 14, 2009  
Tuesday May 12, 2009

DAC Winter Forum – Location TBD – Agenda (District Budget Priorities)

Tuesday, February 10, 2009 6:30 P.M. – 9:00 P.M.

Gifted & Talented Advisory Council Meeting: January 13, 2008, 4:30 pm to 6:00 pm,  
Wilcox building

**DCSD reduction discussion timeline**



Douglas County School District is in the process of budget reductions. The following is a preliminary timeline that DCSD will use to plan for the additional reductions.

Nov 6 - School District Administration and Department leadership begin generating feedback on reductions  
Nov 11 - District Advisory Committee (DAC - parent accountability group) advised of process.  
Nov 11-13 - Teachers and Classified Union building representatives begin discussions  
Nov 14 - Superintendent's Leadership team reviews feedback from school-based leaders  
Nov 17 - Reduction template sent to school sites & departments for internal feedback  
Nov 17 - Dec 9 - Processing continues through school & department staff  
Dec 9 - DAC continues work with processing

feedback on potential reduction areas

Dec 10 - Internal feedback due to Superintendent's office  
Dec 11 - Administrator's Meeting –further discussion of feedback to Superintendent  
Dec 15 - Superintendent's Cabinet to review feedback and propose reduction plan  
Jan 5 - Proposed reduction plan posted in Newslines and District website for input  
Jan 19 - Reduction plan defined  
Jan 23 - Reduction communication begins

Opportunities to provide feedback will be available within the process. Factual updates will be provided on a weekly basis here in the District's Newslines and on the web at [www.dcsdk12.org](http://www.dcsdk12.org). Look for a link to Budget Reduction Info. To provide feedback, utilize Feedback Central, a link located on the front page of the website.