

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

Thursday, November 5, 2009  
Library Conference Room

X	Angelico, Michael	X	Jhaveri Shivani	N	Simmons, Jennifer
X	Cravens, Dixon	X	Johnson Steve	X	Thomas, Rich
X	DeShetler, Paula	X	Kerns-Lynch Deborah	X	White, Dana
X	Foard, Tisha	X	Morris, Vicky	X	Zynda-Otsuki, Priscilla
X	Froechtenigt, Margi	X	Mustin, Carolyn		
N	Heck, Scott	N	Peters, Dave		
X	Hurlburt, Lynne	X	Rohlfing, Ron		

X indicates attendance

N indicates pre-notification of absence

**Other Attendees:**

- Kathy Nodland, Parent
- Kara Shepherd, Principal Mountain Ridge Middle School

**Approval of Minutes** – Carolyn Mustin

The minutes from October 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)

**School District Update** – Steve Johnson

School Board Election

- The four candidates that won are John Carson, Megan Silverthorn, Dan Gerken, Doug Benevento.
- All four candidates will move into their new positions in two weeks. Their first order of business will be to start a nationwide search for a new superintendent.

## Snow Days

- Surprised by the three days taken, although conditions are hard to gauge in the district because of the different terrain throughout the county.
- 20 Hours still left to use for this calendar year.
- The goal is to avoid going over and having to tack on extra days at the end of the year.

## Flu/Absenteeism

- The numbers were very high the last week in September.
- The absentee policy is the same, but school is aware of extenuating circumstances surrounding H1N1.
- H1N1 Clinic at MRMS on Tuesday, November 10<sup>th</sup> sponsored by Tri-County Health. Several thousand people expected.

## Fall Break Homework Policy

- Both teachers and students need a break from homework.
- The policy is not to assign homework during breaks (projects exempt).
- SAC parents support the policy whole heartedly
- Many parents and teachers feel it is very important to power down during breaks – a good life skill to have

## Use of SAC Funds – Steve Johnson

- Release money for tutoring for the remainder of 2009
  - RTI – a national mandate. Schools need to work with kids who are behind – classroom based interventions. If that doesn't work, we need to do other kinds of things. The program will be made available to those kids identified through RTI
  - Some problems are behavioral – these students need help in other ways. The teacher(s) can ask for help outside of the classroom through the student's counselor.
  - Small Group Tutoring is proposed, where 1-3 students would be with a teacher (tutor) and he/she would earn a standard hourly rate. This would possibly happen before or after school. Teachers have been identified and are ready to start.
  - With parent support, most students who need it will be cooperative.
  - The goal is to recover the student's grade and get them back on track.
  - Success will be measured through 1) Grade improvement; 2) Teacher feedback and 3) CSAP scores.
  - A motion was made to approve the program; it was seconded and passed.
- **Computer Lab** – will cost \$50,000

- Steve would like to wait on this expenditure until after first of the year because of budgetary constraints.

### **Controlling School Event Alcohol Abuse – Steve Johnson**

- Pros and cons were presented and charted (see attached)
- Questions were asked:
  - Who is authorized to give the breathalyzer tests?
  - What is the sensitivity of the machine?
- Gut feeling from students on SAC:
  - Good idea, but needs to be pursued carefully
  - Presentation is key
  - Get other high schools to endorse the idea, not just Vista
- Steve would like to invite Darcy Moore, District Legal Counsel to our next meeting to address the legalities of the issue.

### **Open Forum – Margie Froechtenigt**

- There was a discussion on whether Colorado is lowering standards to make improvement scores look better. Concern is that kids may graduate who are not proficient.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 a.m.

Submitted by Dana White on 11/16/09

### **Future Meetings:**

December 3rd @ 7:00 am                      Library Conference Room

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

Tuesday January 12, 2010