

Pedro Menendez High School

SAC Minutes

August 18, 2011

Attendance: Jonathan Higgins, Adrienne Paone, Clay Carmichael, David Morell, Patricia Dominguez, Grace Wyman, Gustavo Ayala

Call to Order:

A meeting of the PMHS School Advisory Council was held in the Media Center on August 18, 2011. Chairperson Jonathan Higgins called the meeting to order at 5:04pm. Jonathan Higgins will record minutes for this meeting.

Minutes:

The meeting begins at 5:04 pm with welcome back and member introductions. Dr. Carmichael discusses his intentions of the SAC, and our responsibilities to the school. He discusses how SAC has changed from allocating money to now being a forum for reporting the positive and negative things going on at our school due to a lack of funds. The purpose of SAC is to listen to the administration and faculty, learn of new classroom strategies, hiring's, and information about school academies and new programs. Because we have little funds to allocate, the purpose of SAC has been transformed into an advisory body which listens to, and discusses with administration and faculty the policies being implemented in the school.

Jonathan Higgins discusses the change in the SAC meeting times from 6:00pm to 5:00pm. We had chosen to change this time in an effort to be less of an inconvenience on the public and faculty and staff of PMHS. The time was deemed too early by some of our members, and a motion was made by Grace Wyman to change the time to 5:30pm. Dr. Carmichael seconded this vote, and a unanimous agreement was met by all in attendance.

Jonathan Higgins passed around copies of the bylaws to be examined for approval. Grace Wyman made a motion for approval with Dr. Carmichael seconding the motion to approve the bylaws for the 2011-12 school year.

Jonathan Higgins discussed the SAC Survey Results and how we intend to review the SAC plan and survey results at the Fall Open House on September 13, 2011.

Dr. Carmichael discussed his plans for the Open House on September 13, and how he would like to have students lead part of it. Open House will begin at 5:30pm in the PAC with Academy parents, and will proceed with the SAC discussion and a student forum at 6:00pm. Students who excelled last year have been chosen to talk with parents and students about their methods to success, especially on how to succeed on the FCAT test. From 6:30-8:00pm parents will be free to visit classrooms and meet teachers.

Dr. Carmichael discussed the instructional plan the district has chosen for evaluation purposes this year. The Marzano program is in line with the AVID program which we already utilize, so Dr. Carmichael does not see a large learning curve for us at Menendez. From the Marzano 9 model, we will be focusing on Design Questions 1, 2, and 8. The district has decided which design questions to focus on. Dr. Carmichael discusses how teachers came in during the summer to learn about the Marzano evaluation tool in district wide inservices.

Dr. Carmichael shows us a bulleted list he had organized following a Marzano Socratic seminar during our first faculty meeting. He also showed the SAC the desk stickers he has chosen to use this year due to their emphasis on Marzano.

Dr. Carmichael discusses observations and how the first few are informal, and the formal ones will not start until next semester. Teachers will be evaluated on a system that will rank them as Beginning, Developing, High, or Innovating.

Dr. Carmichael also discusses a problem with textbooks in that some students have not had their textbooks for classes yet. Textbooks are being ordered on a need basis to reduce any excess spending. Mr. Ayala asked whether books are soon to be converted from paper based to electronic based. Dr. Carmichael acknowledges that this is where we are going and that we should see this in the district in the next year or so.

Dr. Carmichael states that guidance will only be available to work on missing or incorrect schedules this week.

Important Dates

8-19 Open House (8:00am-12:00pm)

8-22 1st day of school, Happy New Year Pep Rally

8-25 1st Football game

8-26 1st Volleyball game

8-26 Freshman Success Fridays: goal to meet with freshmen in the gym to discuss problems they may be having and to generate a positive school environment of good study and test taking skills and the importance of doing well during the Freshman year and on the FCAT.

9-13 Open House (5:30pm-8:00). Academy open house at 5:30pm. Student led panel beginning at 6:00pm. Classes from 6:30-8:00.

9-19 9th and 10th Parent Night to discuss FCAT success and importance.

Dr. Carmichael makes a motion to close and Grace Wyman seconds it. The motion is carried unanimously. The meeting is adjourned at 6:57pm.