

Pedro Menendez High School

SAC Minutes

September 13, 2011

Attendance: Jonathan Higgins, Adrienne Paone, Clay Carmichael, Patricia Dominguez, Grace Wyman, Gustavo Ayala, Tabitha Dotson, Patience Atteberry, Gaye Costeria

Call to Order:

A meeting of the PMHS School Advisory Council was held in the PAC on Tuesday, September 13, 2011. The meeting was held in conjunction with the PMHS Fall Open House. Chairperson Jonathan Higgins called the meeting to order at 5:30pm. Jonathan Higgins will record minutes for this meeting.

Minutes:

The meeting is opened by Dr. Carmichael during the Fall Open House at 5:30pm. Dr. Carmichael discussed with parents new goals and directions for the school. An Academy presentation was facilitated by Mrs. Christine Danner (Academy director) from 5:30-6:00pm. At 6:00pm Dr. Carmichael introduced Jonathan Higgins and Adrienne Paone to discuss the SAC Survey results. They were given approximately five minutes to discuss the importance of SAC membership, and share the results of the surveys.

The results of the surveys show that parental involvement is still low at PMHS, yet parent communication with the school is good (email and website). Students are generally proactive and involved in their community. Getting students involved in extracurricular activities is an area of focus we will be working on over the coming year. Dr. Carmichael has discussed his plans for Freshman success Fridays, and for making high school more than just an educational process for students. Overall students at PMHS behave appropriately and respect one another. PMHS is clean and well maintained as our maintenance department has been working very hard to paint and make repairs. All departments (including maintenance—painting) are working on enhancing school spirit—this is a direction Dr. Carmichael would like to promote throughout the year. Students reported some problems with theft and insecurity of belongings in the Gym lockers—Dr. Carmichael suggests to leave belongings at home, and if not able, to leave them on your possession. Teachers also have a very positive view of PMHS, stating that their voices are heard and that they are respected by administration and students.

After sharing the survey results, Jonathan Higgins and Adrienne Paone sat down to allow for a presentation of students (student question-answer panel). A selection of students were asked questions by Mrs. Cynthia Williams about the most important things in high school (mainly with a focus on Freshman year). This program was very well received by the students and public.

The meeting closed informally with Dr. Carmichael releasing parents and students to visit classrooms for the remainder of the evening.