Minutes of SGC meeting – December 5, 2016

Meeting was called to order at 3:28. November’s minutes were approved.

In attendance: Peter Martinez, Patricia de Freitas, Bahieh Jabboury, Sylvia Roszkowski, Evelin Del Cid, Susan Heilweil, Evelyn Alicea, Cristina Montanez, Kristen Clark, Dr. Planas

Mrs. Alicea stated we would need a new chairperson since Michelle Fox is no longer in able to hold the position. Mrs. Jabboury volunteered to take the position, and Mrs. Alicea will be the committee’s co-chair. The nomination was seconded and all members were in favor. Thank you Mrs. Jabboury.

Mrs. Heilweil suggested we also have a co-secretary, who can alternate the duty with her during the course of the year. Mrs. Montanez volunteered. The nomination was seconded and all members were in favor. Thank you Mrs. Montanez.

Dr. Planas thanked Mr. Manny Williams for offering his time, expertise, and crew who have spent a great deal of time installing new televisions in the cafeteria, as well as a new wireless system. The TV speaker system will be updated soon.

Ms. Clark very generously went out of her way to procure office furniture for our school. She contacted a real estate firm in Southport who agreed to donate the furniture to MCM. The firm donated several stacking chairs, three break room tables, and upholstered adjustable office chairs for the computer lab. She noted other items may also become available and she will make arrangements to procure those as well. She asked for assistance in picking up the furniture and delivering it to MCM. A big thank you to Mr. and Mrs. De Freitas for offering to assist.

The SHU students have completed their semester. New students will be joining us in January. Both Mrs. Alicea and Mrs. Montanez reported they were thrilled with the students’ enthusiasm, ability to relate to the students, and knowledge. The SHU students worked with small groups in the areas of reading, writing, and general literacy. They are looking forward to having more SHU students during the remainder of the year.

Dr. Planas noted the gym floor has been stripped and redone and it looks great.

Our TLC teacher, Dawn Spagnuolo, recently won an electronic tablet from Moby Max. It is loaded in order for her to have direct access to Moby Max software. These tablets can be purchased for $69. Ms. Clark suggested we may want to consider purchasing some for each class. She also mentioned a software program owned by Peter Reynolds. He donated five sets of the software to MCM (called Animationish) previously. She thanked PAC for generously donating $250 towards the cost of installation of more sets. She believes this is a valuable program because it is cross-curricular and for all grade levels.

Upcoming events were announced:

December 5th-16th: Holiday Bazaar

December 14th: Holiday Concert, Grades 6-8 at 6 pm in the gym

December 15th: Spelling Bee, 9:30 and 1:00 at Thurgood Marshall, PAC Meeting at 5:30 in cafeteria

December 16th: Pictures with Santa

December 19th: Holiday Concert, Grades K-4 at 9:30 am in the gym

December 19th – 23rd: School Spirit Week

December 26th – January 2nd: Holiday Recess

Mid-Marking Period Reports will be sent home on December 14th.

Dr. Planas mentioned Mrs. Rua will be putting up a bulletin board display outside the office which will highlight MCM’s student data. It will include information concerning Reading Comprehention, which is a school-wide goal, I-Ready and the School Data Teams info.

He also reviewed our communication goals school wide with our parents. He wants parents to consider all the ways we communicate with them, i.e., Phone apps., text messages, emails, student planners, school website, classroom newsletters. Question 25 on the parent survey refers to communication and so it is imperative all parents recognize the many ways we communicate with many of them on a daily or weekly basis. In addition, we are continually looking for new ways for our parents to volunteer at MCM. We are always in need of additional support in our Kindergarten classes, as well as during lunch waves. Mrs. Alicea shared how helpful it is to have assistance in the K classes. She mentioned the fact many of the students we have this year are only 4 years old, and several have no pre-school experience. Many do not recognize any letters or numbers, cannot properly hold a pencil, cannot follow class rules (such as staying seated). It has become a real challenge getting the students to focus and stay on task. The SHU students were a tremendous help but the classrooms need much more intervention. The deficiencies seen now will most likely cause a “Big Bubble” later on if not attended to soon. Parents are being encouraged to come in and work with small groups in centers. The students, according to Mrs. Montanez, enjoy the small group activities and are more engaged when in a smaller environment. After a discussion between committee members it was suggested a set schedule be introduced, so parents can sign on for specific times, days and classrooms. Whether they will be working with students, or assisting the teachers with creating bulletin boards or copying materials. Mrs. De Freitas and Mrs. Roszkowski both noted parents want to help out more, but feel at times they are not needed because there is no set schedule. Dr. Planas noted the work Mrs. Vilanova has put into this endeavor by posting information about help needed on our website and Facebook page on a weekly basis. He is going to request she set up a schedule for parents to sign on for various classrooms. It was also suggested a list of the lunch waves and times be included in the schedule. He recognized the fact the system being used this year is new to everyone and that it will take time for parents and teachers to become more familiar with it. Dr. Planas stressed he wants parents to feel comfortable and welcome in our building at all times.

MCM is looking for someone who can connect a CD player in the gym for holiday concerts and events. We hope to have it installed soon. This installation will also benefit High Horizons.

Mrs. Heilweil requested that during conference time the only fundraiser (besides the book fair) be the raffles. It has been noted that other individuals in the past have added fundraisers to conference night. These other fundraisers have been known to lower the amount of money raised by the raffles. The raffle for the November conferences is dedicated to the Giving Tree Fund and is the only fundraiser during the year for this program. The April conference raffle is dedicated to Sunshine Kids, which provides camp experiences for children who are battling cancer. Dr. Planas said he would check into this situation and get back to Mrs. Heilweil.

Mrs. Jabboury inquired if we had gotten the piano yet. Dr. Planas said we would not be receiving a piano due to the high cost of maintaining one. He met with the music teachers who told him they utilize electronic keyboards which do not require maintainance, and he thanked Mrs. Jabboury for offering us the opportunity to receive the piano.

Mrs. Roszkowski shared she had not heard from anyone at MCM concerning the Bass Pro Shop offer to allow groups to come make money wrapping gifts for customers. She said perhaps we can look into it again next year. She also stated Bass is limiting their community partnerships to groups sponsoring outdoor activities and clubs. Dr. Planas thanked her for taking the time to work on this initiative.

Mrs. De Frreitas brought up the subject of the allocation of funds from PAC. Mrs. Roszkowski stated the funds go back to the students and school directly. Mrs. Alicea reminded everyone her class won the pizza party after the last PAC meeting. The class who has the most parents attend a meeting will earn a pizza or ice cream party. Dr. Planas said he has been covering the cost of these parties but it is something PAC needs to be aware of for future events.

Thank you to Mr. Martinez and Mrs. Del Cid for providing the delicious food and soft drinks for our meeting. Dr. Planas offered to provide the refreshments for the January meeting.

There was a motion to adjourn which was seconded and the meeting ended at 4:26 pm.

Susan Heilweil, Secretary