Minutes of SGC meeting – October 17, 2016

Meeting was called to order at 3:20. In attendance: Peter Martinez, Patricia de Freitas, Bahieh Jabboury, Sylvia Roszkowski, Evelyn Del Cid, Michelle Fox, Evelyn Alicea, Cristina Montanez, Susan Heilweil, Kristen Clark, Dr. Planas.

Dr. Planas discussed all the things we can celebrate at MCM. He reported we had the best attendance record in the district for the month of September. He also discussed the fact MCM has been “adopted” by BJ’s Wholesale Club. Thanks to a recommendation by Mrs. Conroy’s son, Andrew, BJ’s donated a $500 Donor’s Choose certificate to the school, which we have used to purchase “mini mice” for our primary students’ use with the chrome books. We were also able to purchase headsets. They also provided us with 100 Scholastic Books, as well as a one year membership to the Club.

Dr. Planas also thanked PAC for providing us with the funds to purchase new stools for the science lab as well as yoga mats for Ms. Maurao’s class. She requested the mats to use with her students as a form of relaxation and to build their confidence.

Interns from SHU began working with our K-2 students today. It was a very positive experience for all involved. They will be returning on October 24th.

Mrs. Fox mentioned the daily calls everyone is getting from the district concerning attendance. Dr. Planas explained the district must approve the attendance records. He spoke with an administrator in the district who recognizes our school does not have the attendance challenges of several other schools, but that it is required that each school’s families get these phone calls. MCM teachers use various tools for contacting parents concerning attendance (DOJO, Remind, etc.). He also said parents are requesting one tool be used to contact all parents. This is something, he noted, we are working on. He reiterated attendance notes must be received by the homeroom teachers within 9 days of the student returning to school, otherwise it will be considered an unexcused absence.

We have acquired a speaker/wireless system for the cafeteria. We need an “aux” chord to connect the microphone. We also need it to assist with running the boom box. Ms. Clark reminded Dr. Planas we have a CD/DVD player that could also be utilized. Due to the fact it was felt we needed a dedicated system for PAC meetings, it was explained the purchase of the second unit was necessary.

DATES of events coming up:

10/19 Hispanic Heritage celebration

10/20 Read Aloud

10/21 Harvest Festival – there is concern that as of today only 50 people are coming. Notices will be left near the Light House office and it will be mentioned in morning announcements as a reminder.

10/26 School Improvement

10/28 – Trunk or Treat – at this point not sure if it will be held due to lack of volunteers and supplies at this point.

10/31 Crazy Hat Day

10/28 See Something Say Something – Sandy Hook Promises representatives will come during period 4 to discuss this topic with the students. It is very timely, as Dr. Planas reminded us of the “clown” talks he and Officer Maldonado held last week.

One concern mentioned was the fact many people are not signing up for some of these events, and if people show up at the last minutes we may be out of compliance and we also may not be able to accommodate them with food/drinks. It was suggested by Mrs. Fox we do a phone blast.

RULER is up and running with monthly activities being done with our students. Dr. Planas thanked Mrs. Alicea and Mrs. Arlette Johnson for developing a RULER calendar.

Parent Goal – last year our goal was 67% ongoing communication between the school and our parents. This year our goal is 75%, The important thing, noted Ms. Clark, is that parents need to understand what communication means, i.e., e-mails, phone calls, phone blasts, DOJO, Reminder, conferences, flyers, etc. This is important so they can accurately respond to question #25 on the survey. Dr. Planas also explained the school wide goal is also the principal’s goal. He recognizes 75% may sound aggressive, but feels it can be met, and is quite possibly already being met, and we may accede this percentage by May. Mrs. Fox suggested we use the same information provided to parents last year in order to explain the many types of communication we utilize.

School-Wide Goal – Reading comprehension. This year we are utilizing iReady for math and reading. It covers comprehension, vocabulary, ready, fluency. It was mentioned it is very challenging for our kindergarten students since it is computer based and requires them being able to read. Our goal is to improve student performance by one year. We will be displaying performance data on a bulletin board in our main hallway. This way we can show how improvement is being tracked throughout the year. This new program replaces AIMSWEB, but does not come with a practice assessment program because the district did not purchase this extra component.

Chrome book use by kindergarten students was discussed. Ms. Clark said once the students are set up they do fairly well with manipulating them. She also has Tech Team members available period 5 to assist them. Mrs. Alicea feels once the students become more familiar with them they will do very well. Dr. Planas mentioned the students are doing better than the results show because the format is unfamiliar. We will be able to see how much improvement there is when they are retested on iReady again in January.

PAC – Reading Marathon is going very well. Everyone agreed it is a great way to encourage reading and class participation. One child in kindergarten has already raised over $200. Mrs. Roszkowski mentioned the middle school students really want to win parties. Participation has been excellent. Mrs. Montanez said sending home information in three languages (English, Spanish, and Portuguese) helped in communicating the program to all MCM parents. At this point we have collected over $2,000. Our goal is to exceed $15,000. This program funds a great deal of activities and provides the school with much needed materials throughout the year.

The PAC meeting held recently had 70 parents in attendance. Title 1, the Read Marathon and school attendance were some of the topics discussed. Mrs. De Freitas said it was a very good meeting. Parents were also asked to volunteer on Harvest Night to sell tickets at the door. The next meeting will be November 10th when the science fair will be discussed. There will also be an activity provided by Mrs. Rua.

PAC elections will be held in March. Parents are being encouraged to run. They will be asking the outgoing committee members to work with the incoming members for a few months in order to assure a seamless transition. It is anticipated many outgoing members will continue to be involved regardless. Dr. Planas mentioned that we will encourage the same format with regards to SGC membership, and that terms may possibly be extended.

Mrs. Rozkowski has been in touch with an employee of the Bass Pro Shop to discuss having them join MCM as a community partner. Some suggested ideas are helping us with construction/cost of a new playground, or starting an outdoors club. She will be putting together a proposal for the General Manager to review. Bass is offering community groups an opportunity to fundraise by coming to the store and giftwrapping presents for the holidays. The paper and materials will be donated by Bass Pro Shop and the money raised by our group will come directly to the school. We can reserve a time with them if we are interested in doing this.

Mrs. Goda mentioned she will be talking with a representative from the Keys Program in order to procure a new piano for our school.

Dr. Planas informed us the music teachers (Band and Strings) are asking for new music/methods books. Funding for these books will be needed.

Mr. Martinez discussed an upcoming fundraising event which will be held at Masuk High School on October 22nd. It is to benefit Jayson Castillo and his wife Darlene, who is battling stage 4 cancer. The Castillo family has many members who taught in the Bridgeport district.



An e-mail with a copy of this flyer was sent to SGC members. There will be a professional Zumba instructor, as well as prizes and gift cards given away.

Mrs. Alicea shared a conversation she had with Sue Vilanova concerning purchasing risers for our concerts. The Brazilian community has generously donated $600, however a good set of risers costs approximately $3,000. We will be asking PAC if they could help with the fundraising. Dr. Planas suggested this might be something High Horizons may be interested in splitting with us. It was noted we could borrow risers from the music department, but that means drop-offs and pick-ups would be required each time.

Ms. Clark requested adjustable chairs for the computer lab, so that the primary students would be more comfortable while working in the lab.

Meeting was adjourned and seconded at 4:34.

Submitted by Susan Heilweil, SGC Secretary