

HIGH SCHOOL SHARED DECISION MAKING TEAM

MINUTES OF DECEMBER 9, 2009 MEETING

Present: Lisa Belinsky – Parent
Elizabeth Johnson – Parent
Carol Egan – Parent
Jennifer Landman – MEA
Ken Massetti – MEA
Mark Van Schenkhof – MEA
Patrick O'Reilly – MASA
Nicole Kopetic – MESPA
Amit Vora – Student
Demitri Dedousis – Student
Dr. Dean Schlanger - Principal
Mark Sippin – Assistant Principal

Absent: Donna Linden – MESPA
Lisa Carlin – Parent
Kim Cirque – Discussion on Community Service

Minutes – Nicole Kopetic

Approval of the minutes of the November 10, 2009 meeting.

Agreed that the topics for discussion at this meeting are Attendance Policy review and Battle of the Classes.

Battle of the Classes:

Mark Sippin explained that after meeting with the current student council advisors and officers, the idea of Battle of the classes is no longer an interest for them. Mark expressed that the kids no longer have an interest in participating in the event and that they thought it was more of a chore. Amit explained to us that the students (upperclassmen) had a complete lack of interest and they did not feel that the attendance would be well served and they did not want to move forward. He felt that because of the lack of participation from the senior class during homecoming that this was not an idea they would revisit this year.

Concerned that there was no longer an interest and that the idea was no longer being embraced, Dean asked Amit and Demitri if the students had any other desires with regard to the idea. Amit suggested that the students showed an interest in an event taking place the end of May, beginning of June since the weather is better in the spring and perhaps there could be an outdoor event. But, it was brought to their attention that this is a tough time of year due to other school activities.

It was suggested by Ken Massetti that we express the idea to the 9th and 10th grade classes only and build on the tradition. Mark Sippin said he would explore the idea with the 9th and 10th grade class advisors and officers and get back to the team with their thoughts.

Attendance Policy Review

Mark Sippin informed us of the Shared Decision Subcommittee Meeting Minutes of December 2, 2009 regarding the Secondary Attendance Policy wherein copies of Attendance Policy #51001.1, Student Absences and Excuses policy #5160, Truancy and Tardiness policy # 5161, pages MHS-4 and MHS-5 of the HS Planner 09/10 and Manhasset Secondary School Attendance and Discipline Policies 2009-10 were distributed.

It was expressed that there is still a major concern for the teachers that the current policy is not being enforced. There were suggestions made with regard to privileges being limited as consequences for unexcused absences. This issue continues to be a universal problem and it was expressed that it cannot be rectified easily.

It was decided that the policy will continue to be reviewed by the Subcommittee and Dr. Schlanger at a meeting scheduled for December 14, 2009.

Today's Discussion:

1. Battle of the Classes – No longer an interest for the upperclassmen – will be discussed with student council and advisors for the 9th and 10th grade classes only. Mark Sippin will keep us advised as to their interest.
2. Attendance Policy Review – It was agreed that this issue would be further discussed with the Subcommittee and Dr. Schlanger at the December 14, 2009 Subcommittee meeting.
3. Kim Cirque is scheduled to discuss the community service topic during the January 13th meeting – 6th period.
4. Steve Leondis is scheduled to discuss the “Beyond the Hill” topic during the January 13th meeting – 5th period.
5. It was expressed by Elizabeth Johnson that the seminar given by Jane Grappone was a huge success!

Next meeting scheduled for - January 13, 2010 at 11:22 in room 310.