

MS-PAC Meeting Minutes - November 11, 2009

Attending:

Colburn Shindell
Lys Shonnard
Ruth Adams
Sarah Stephenson
Ann Keniston
Linda Curcio
Ilana Rugg
Ann Marie Craddock

Old Business:

1. Distinguishing grades with +/-:

Discussion: Majority of the members remain in agreement that this policy should remain in effect; best identifies areas of effort and achievement.

Action: None

2. Headmaster's List/Honor Roll Awards:

Discussion: Some felt the award ceremony should remain as it has been to date; recognizing those recipients at a Town Meeting. Members would accept their award/certificate in front of the other students and faculty. Other members felt it would be best to have the award letter/certificate sent home and celebrate in a more private manner. Mr. Shindell voiced uncertainty over what course of action to take.

Action: Certificates for Pillar Award, Headmaster's List and Honor Roll will be awarded individually in regular Town Meetings. Students come to the podium for the certificate, shake my hand or Mr. Heim's and return to their seat.

3. Is the discipline at SRS appropriate?:

Discussion: Little discussion took place on this issue

Action: Mr. Shindell to address in MS Head Letter

4. Summer Reading:

Discussion: Due to Dr. Nickels' recent submission of her letter of resignation, a meeting with Mr. Shindell and Dr. Nickels regarding this issue, has not been possible. Mr. Shindell however, was able to request some summer reading suggestions (History-based) from Erika Weber for the 7th & 8th grade.

Action: Ongoing; await suggestions from Ms. Weber and meet with Dr. Nickels when convenient.

5. Uniform/Logos

Discussion: Individual cases regarding extreme ill-fitting uniforms or allergies can contact Mr. Shindell.

Action: To be addressed in MS Head Letter

6. After-school pick up time:

Discussion: None

Action: A time when Mr. Heim and Mr. Shindell can meet to discuss considering extending the study hall end time to 5:30, to be arranged.

7. After-school activities - ie: theater & sports (both school and community associated)

Discussion: Involvement in both school and community activities is significant. Where is the balance? Does this create an infringement on family time or extreme over scheduling?

Action: No action to be taken presently. Speak with Mr. Shindell if you believe your child is an extreme case and needs to be addressed.

8. Homework Survey: Expected vs. Actual Homework

Discussion: Results of survey taken by Mr. Shindell, reviewed with Dr. Llorens, found the following:

5th & 6th grade: actual homework slightly below expected homework

7th grade & 8th grade: actual homework slightly higher than expected.

Action: Please see the data published in Mr. Shindell's November Letter to the families.

New Business:

1. Early Dismissal Pink Slip:

Discussion: These slips are necessary in cases of advance notification of early departure from school for reasons including sports. Why, if the students are participating in school-related team sports, which requires leaving school early in order to travel, do they need to complete these forms? Are these forms redundant since teachers know which students are on the team? Can the players get their assignments from Edline? Is this a waste of the student's time? Students can only get teacher's signature at certain times throughout the day.

Mr. Shindell said that he sees these forms as a good source of communication. He also said these forms force students to be accountable and helps them plan

accordingly. He encourages students to get signatures during study hall and lunch periods.

Action: A beige “half-sheet” has been added for all SRS-affiliated sporting events. These forms are shorter and have been simplified to facilitate ease while requiring a student to contact a teacher before departing for an athletic contest. The pink slip remains in use for all other non-athletic, pre-planned absences (ie: doctor appt., vacation etc.).

2. PA (Parent Association) Meetings:

Discussion: PA meetings are held first Wednesday of the month at 5:30 p.m. in the library. Upper School PAC meeting to follow. Members felt it important to have a connection between US & MS happenings; offers continuity. Should a representative from MS PAC attend both meetings and report back with issues discussed?

Action: Ilana Rugg and Linda Cursio to attend next PA & US PAC meeting and report back at next MS PAC meeting (Dec. 9th).

3. Lack of communication among 5th grade:

Discussion: It was reported that some 5th grade parents feel that information can be “sketchy” at times especially with events such as movie night and dances. The importance of Edline as a crucial line of communication was stressed.

Action: Communication in the 5th grade relies heavily on Edline and Friday Folders - sent home every Friday. Please contact your homeroom teacher if you are not receiving either.

4. Mini-Sessions:

Discussion: Mr. Shindell encourages parents to aid their child(ren) in fielding their selection of courses offered for Mini-Session. Questions arose as to what a student would be responsible for when taking a test in a course offered in the Mini-Session. Mr. Shindell to meet with participating teachers prior to the start of Mini-Session and will ask that they provide a guideline of what is important for the students to study for test taking.

Action: To be addressed in MS PAC letter.

5. Upcoming Events:

Discussion:

-First week of December - Winter concert. “Wednesday dress” code required

-Exam week: Be aware that MS dismissal is different than US dismissal. Algebra, Latin and Spanish Exams will be given.

Action: None taken

Next meeting: December 9, 2009 @ 6:00 p.m.