

MITCHELL HIGH SCHOOL SAC MINUTES

Date: Thursday, October 10, 2024

Opening: 5:06

Present: Joe Aida, Delia Busby (online), Michael Bibbs, Shelley Bibbs, Terrie Blackwell, Kasnyme Coke Robert Elder, Shatarie Johnson, Valerie Jordan, Rebecca Kenderdine, Sharon Simpson-Dogon, George Smith

Students Present: J.B., J.M., A.M., M.C., C.C., A.R., O.S.M., N.M.F., S.A.

Absent: Cassie Booth, Shay Dabney, Irene Kornelly, Edward Mouchette, Julie Ott, Alyssa Webb, Jackie Wick, Michael Williams

Agenda Presentation: by Mr. Smith

Approval of Minutes: September meeting minutes were approved by SAC

Business from Previous Meeting:

1. SAC meeting time discussion continued with the presentation of survey results. To date, 14 respondents submitted answers. Once 50 is hit, the information is generally deemed more reliable. Participation is anonymous to encourage honesty. The survey contains seven questions plus an open-ended response box.

- Most aren't familiar with Mitchell's SAC.
- Most are somewhat familiar with the role of a SAC.
- Most learn about SAC via e-mail newsletter, with website being second.
- Most people find the communication methods somewhat effective.
- Most haven't attended a SAC meeting.
- Most cite inconvenient meeting time as the reason for not attending.
- Participation would increase by more information about the meetings and flexible meeting time, primarily.
- Other information was shared in short-answers about Mitchell, not the SAC.

Mrs. Coke stated Saturday as a more workable option for working parents.

Mrs. Johnson volunteered to cater the Dec. SAC meeting as a trial balloon for the timing of the meeting. Then, test the Saturday option.

Mrs. Bibbs suggested organizing a fun activity for parents and students to pave the way for inviting engagement between SAC and them. Then follow up with a SAC meeting invitation.

We agreed to have the December meeting catered, with the meeting occurring first and food and fellowship following.

New Business: Nine student representatives were present and responded to questions What makes you feel good about Mitchell? They are identified by initials.

Mr. Bibbs opened the panel by indicating that the SAC exists to support students. He asked students what good is happening at the school.

O.S.M — Great students/people are at Mitchell. Positivity is present. That has improved year after year. Students are working together to improve. The public perception is bad, but students believe that if people came to the school, they would see the good occurring.

N.M.F. — We're a community-based school, and the community is becoming more involved. The school provides opportunities and resources. We're growing as a school and are improving the reputation. Students are encouraged by that and the impressive soccer program.

Mr. Smith expressed the importance of distributive leadership, eg. Noelia's encouraging other females to become involved in soccer and advocating for a girls' soccer coach.

Mrs. Johnson Invited students to establish a plan to serve as a footprint for everlasting change.

J.M. — Changes are evident with student:teacher relations. Strive to change the public perception via sharing soccer team, theater awards, and more.

A.M. — Dad didn't want her to attend Mitchell, but she wanted to come here.

Relationship with staff makes her want to stay here.

M.C. — Community is at the core of it all. Students want to become involved and then to become student leaders.

S.A. — There's a significant change in the way that people interact. That encourages students to want to attend. The community makes assumptions, but they need learn what really is happening at the school.

C.C — He compared the school that he attended in Denver that had a good reputation despite lockdowns. Mitchell had a worse reputation that made him not want to attend, but his parent encouraged him to give it a chance. Mitchell is not a community; it's a family.

A.R. — Stones are already in place to a lasting impact.

A.M. — Students were included in courtyard design. That is important. Students have a voice.

What are problems that need resolution?

O.S.M. — Sports teams put down other teams.

Mr. Bibbs — Perhaps, have the team captains meet to have that conversation about how to support each other.

O.S.M. — Different approaches have been taken. They work for a while but then fall apart.

Mrs. Johnson — Adults can serve as models for how to engage. Perhaps, a rally can be organized to build bridges. Fun and laughter can bring people together.

Mrs. Kenderdine — Because of the influx of Hispanics coming into the school, how do you make them welcome, even with language barriers?

O.S.M. — He asks questions about them and their activities. He invites them to join soccer. He serves as a communication conduit. All students are given a tour and are helped to feel welcome.

N.M.F. — Low-income students' physical and sports equipment are covered for them. A coach helps students feel comfortable in Spanish and does introduce English terms to pave the way. Scholarship opportunities help.

A.M. — She speaks as she can in Spanish to help newcomers to feel welcome. She does use Google translate. In JAFROTC, there's a Spanish element that provides a bridge.

Mrs. Johnson — How can we expand upon those opportunities to involve parents? What can the students do to get their parents more involved? How can we help in that regard?

N.M.F. — Have teachers/admin call parents and not just send e-mails

J.M. — Parents work a lot and are tired and won't want to come often. However, students can talk openly and excitedly about what's happening, and that helps with how parents to be connected.

M.C. — MMTV episodes go out to parents. The students are working on including translation.

C.C. — Kudos to mom. She initiates conversation daily about school. The parents need to feel comfortable to reach out to the school. That is made easier by making the students feel comfortable and excited enough to share their positives with their parents.

A.M. — Coming to MHS has helped her to open up to parents. She has support from admin to communicate and has helped her parents to notice her and communicate better with her.

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2. Mr. Smith highlights PT Conferences on 15th and PSAT/ACT prep on the 23rd. How was BoE meeting? USIP was approved. Staff are enacting elements in the USIP — test prep, academic interventions.

3. Mrs. Johnson — Consensus from students is adult:student information. What can we do to provide more example to the students? Mr. Bibbs & Mr. Mouchette are present and available. Showing up is important.

4. Marketing? Jessica Wise has taken action through Google campaigns. The hope is that more positive information will be visible when people search. Mrs. Jordan shared that the focus at the moment is with the aviation science program. People submit an inquiry form, and she ensures a response.

5. Mrs. Jordan alerted us to Youth Media Matters. The Youth Documentary Academy is honoring two Mitchell students. SAC members will be invited to the recognition. Details are to come.

Adjournment: 6:39 PM by Mr. Smith

Minutes Submitted by Sharon Simpson-Dogon