

MHS Senate Meeting Minutes: Tuesday, October 4, 2011

Senator	Present	Absent	Senator	Present	Absent	Senator	Present	Absent
Kate Arnold	X		Shane Falk		X	Steve Kurr	X	
Chris Ashley	X		Ann Geocaris	X		Luke Patullo	X	
Karyn Baxter	X		Denise Herrmann	X		Clint Steigenberger	X	
Christie Cheng	X		Erin Hommowun	X				
Yining Dai	X		Jennifer Hurlbut	X				
Daniel Dennis	X		Julee Isenhower	X				
Molly Dowling	X		Mike Jones	X				

Guest(s): Parent Engagement Coordinator Lisa LeMieux

INFORMATION / CONCERNS / UPDATES:

MINUTES: Correction: Senator Falk was absent on 9/27.

PARENTS

- Parents appreciated the parent appreciation night at the last football game.

FACULTY/STAFF

- Infinite Campus Issues (Loading, absences not being seen, etc.)
There was discussion at last night's department coordinator meeting. There are bugs in the software and Infinite Campus is aware of the problem. Not something we can fix. There is nothing we can do at this point. We are hoping for 'patches' early in December to fix some of the items. Follow up on absences can be difficult.
Teachers can focus on specific students, go to the roster and click on that student to check attendance.
Yellow absence (unresolved) stays yellow. It should become unexcused (red) after 48 hours.

STUDENTS:

- Student Council will meet the first half of 2nd hour.
- Homeroom: Students did not know about the recent homeroom.
It is on the daily announcements.
How to get that message out to students?
Student Council: check with students about the best way to get this information to them. Where to post?
There have been 3 homerooms so far this year.
What about the pass system? When there is a homeroom, the last session shorter.
There will be a separate department coordinators meeting in 2 weeks to discuss the block schedule.
Suggestions:
Teachers could tell students when the next 'D' day is a homeroom.
It could be posted where the letter for the day is posted.
Encourage teachers to use the announcements. (Teachers should also encourage students to listen to the announcements. Students sometimes 'tune out' the announcements.)
Can there be more time at the end to 'wrap up' class?
This item will be added to the agenda. Senate will ask Dea Kruger from the Media Production department to visit.

ADMINISTRATION

- Senior Academic Letters Breakfast is Friday, October 7th.
About 150 students will receive letters.
- Homecoming is next week, 10/10 – 10/15/11.
Thank you to Karla Schweickhardt, Erin Hommowun and Marcy Smith for all their work on Homecoming.

BUSINESS

OLD BUSINESS

Student Council Meeting Times:

Leave as is for this semester.

Next semester – investigate adding a 'D' day into the rotation.

Special Ed. students are scheduled to see their caseworkers on "D" days.

Students also may need help from teachers on "D" days.

This would only be one "D" day per quarter if it is rotated in.

NEW BUSINESS

Semester Exams:

The old schedule needs to be changed.

We only have 7 periods now.

The week before exams is scheduled as: D,A,B,C,D, then there is no school on Martin Luther King Day.

The next day is an "A" day.

There could be a week between the last class and the exam for that specific class.

Possible solutions:

Have 4 days of finals

Have a mandatory resource period first on each day

Re: DPI minutes – concern we give up another day of instruction

Exams are 90 minutes: Have 2 days A/C and B/D days.

Students could potentially have 4 exams in a day.

Two day exam schedule too difficult for students, especially special needs students.

Make 1/17/12 a 'skinny' day.

A 'skinny' would be a good way for students to review.

Tues. 1/17: classes

Wed. – Fri. 1/18-1/20: exams

How to work out lunches? Can't keep halls quiet for those taking exams.

Denise will work up a draft and e-mail it.

Note:

No meeting on Tuesday, Oct. 11th

Next meeting: October 18th

We will discuss the exam schedule on October 18th.