

**Robert Cushman Murphy JHS
Site Based Team Meeting Minutes
Thursday, November 15, 2007
3:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. in Room 302**

In Attendance:

[Adults] Irene Brown (P), Patrick J. DiClemente (A), Anna Flack (P), Trish Graziano (P), Pat Hyland (S), Melissa Mancusi (T), Lorna Welde (P), Vinny Vizzo (A)
[Students] Danielle Brando, Daniel Brown, Sonya Li, Pooja Mordani, Meghan Sullivan, Megan Welde, Kelsey Weymouth-Little, Ariel Yang

The meeting was called to order at 3:10 PM by Mr. DiClemente. Minutes of the May 24, 2007 meeting were read and accepted by all with no corrections. Introductions and welcome of new members were made.

Administrator's Report

- The District SBMT training was on October 15th at Murphy JHS. Overall, the team felt it was a positive and informative evening. Packets of data were distributed and shared, available upon request for absentees.
- Mr. DiClemente mentioned the team's need to decide on the allocation of the SBMT funds for the school year. Assemblies suitable for the student body should be considered.

New Business

- Topics to focus on for the 2007-2008 year are Environmental Awareness, Safety and Security, Student Language and Transportation (safety and efficiency through arrivals and departures).
- The team discussed environmental awareness in particular the addition of a school recycling program for bottles and paper. Currently the science department is voluntarily recycling paper and bottles. Some of the factors discussed include the logistics involved to implement a recycling program, cost, publicity and encouraging students' involvement in recycling.

Response/Follow-Up:

- The team agreed that a school recycling program should be implemented. It was also suggested that student government and school clubs could become more involved in this issue. Initially, recycling bins can be put out for bottle collection. Recycling of paper can be added later as logistical details are worked out and finalized since paper recycling will be a more costly effort compared to bottle recycling. Publicity will be required to publicize recycling efforts as well as to encourage the reduction of paper use.
- Georgia-Pacific supports paper recycling efforts by sending a truck to the school to collect paper and then deducts the cost for doing so from the paper proceeds. Kelsey and Ms. Hyland will look into this and research the cost of paper recycling.
- Mr. Vizzo will check with the custodial staff for any spare receptacles in storage which may be used for bottle recycling.
- Danielle will contact the Art Club and make arrangements for the creation of signs publicizing recycling efforts.
- The Go Green Initiative (GGI) program which has been recently introduced by the Town of Brookhaven Department of Waste Management may provide additional assistance in environmental awareness issues including recycling.

Student Concerns

The following concerns were brought to the attention of the Site Base Team:

1. Transportation Concerns:

- Students expressed concerns about inconsistent pick up times. Buses are either too late or too early. Other transportation issues mentioned were long bus rides and late bus drop offs which place students far from their homes and require long walks to students' homes after dark and along busy roads.

Response/Follow-Up:

- This particular topic is not really a discussion topic for this committee. Mr. DiClemente suggested that students write a letter outlining these issues to the Transportation Department which should also be forwarded to central administration in order for the issues to go forth through the proper channels.

- A parent also suggested that these issues require the students' parents to contact the Transportation Department.

2. Cafeteria Food:

- Students believe that there are not enough options available to vegetarians on the cafeteria menu and suggest that more fruits and pastas be added to the menu.

Response/Follow-Up:

- A student went to the Wellness Committee to discuss this issue and was told that the committee would be updating the food selection.
- The team also discussed the factors which influence the food variety and selection available. The other alternative available to students to circumvent this issue would be to bring lunch from home.

3. Time Constraints Related to Purchasing Lunch and Attending Extra Help Sessions During the Lunch Period:

- Students conveyed the difficulties which they encounter when trying to purchase lunch in a timely fashion in order to attend lunchtime extra help sessions.

Response/Follow-Up:

- The team agreed that it is difficult to purchase lunch and that the time needed to do so shortens the remaining time available to attend extra help.
- The team discussed several options for those scheduled for extra help sessions and purchasing lunch including using the snack line as a special line, cutting the lunch lines, adding an extra line or bringing a lunch from home. The option of bringing a lunch from home has been suggested by teachers providing extra help as an optimal way of eliminating the time required to wait on the lunch line and maximizing the amount of help time.
- Mr. DiClemente will investigate the staffing needed to provide an extra lunch line.
- The team agreed that a student survey should be conducted to determine whether or not the student body believes it would be fair to allow those who need to buy lunch and attend lunchtime extra help sessions to cut the lunch line. Students will formulate the survey questions as well as determine the particular subject area period and the corresponding teachers who will need to give up class time during which the actual survey will take place. The following students will be in charge of the survey for specific grades: 7th grade-Danielle; 8th grade-Sonya and 9th grade-Pooja.

4. Student Depression:

- Students stated their concern for their peers who are dealing with depression and their reluctance in seeing a guidance counselor.

Response/Follow-Up:

- The team discussed some of the other options available to students such as peer mediation and use of the Safe Schools Hotline. Use of the hotline insures anonymity so there are no social repercussions for those who report any concerns. The information on the hotline appears on the school's website and has been publicized through the distribution of refrigerator magnets. Additional discussion is needed to determine how additional awareness and publicity can be generated for this underutilized resource.

Parent Concerns

No concerns presented at this time.

Staff and Teacher Concerns

No concerns presented at this time.

Team members are encouraged to bring any ideas and suggestions related to recycling and the allocation of this year's SBMT funds to the next meeting.

Next Meeting: Thursday, December 20, 2007 at 3 PM in Room 302.

Time Keeper: TBA

Facilitator: TBA

Recorder: TBA