

MEETING MINUTES

Maynard H. Jackson High School
Date: **Monday, November 26, 2018**
Time: **6:00 pm**
Location: **MJHS Media Center**

- I. Call to order: **6:02 pm**
- II. Roll Call

Role	Name (or Vacant)	Present or Absent
Principal	Adam Danser	present
Parent/Guardian	Beth Wells	present
Parent/Guardian	Don Grant	present
Parent/Guardian	David Liburd	present
Instructional Staff	Yusef King	present
Instructional Staff	Denise King	absent
Instructional Staff	David Eberhart	present
Community Member	Virgil Murray	present
Community Member	Ashley Rouse	absent
Swing Seat	Shemeka Maddox	present
Student	Osazi Al Khaliq	absent

Quorum Established: **Yes**

- III. **Public Comment:** After reviewing IB exam results for the last five years and the AP exam results compared to state and national averages for the last five years, Ms. Anne Gelaude expressed deep concern and disappointment. Specifically because out of a growing number of students with qualifying AP scores, so many more students received 1's and 2's. She also was disappointed in the IBDP enrollment and the IB Diploma rate. She wants to know why the scores and enrollment is consistently low and what can be done about it. She expressed extreme dissatisfaction throughout the public comment portion of the meeting. She said that she did not understand that as the school's signature program, why large numbers of the student body are not in the IB Program and earning many IB Diplomas. She mentioned that as the community education person, it is a hard to advocate for Jackson as a school of choice for the community members that she reports to because of this.

IV. **Action Items**

- a. **Approval of Agenda:** Motion made by: **Beth Wells**; Seconded by: **David Liburd**
Members Approving: ALL
Members Opposing: NONE
Members Abstaining: NONE
Motion: Passes
- b. **Approval of Previous Minutes:**
Motion made by: **Beth Wells**; Seconded by: **Virgil Murray**
Members Approving: ALL

Members Opposing: NONE

Members Abstaining: NONE

Motion: **Passes**

V. Discussion Items

- a. **Recent discipline issue: fighting and social media:** The Principal, Mr. Danser, discusses a variety of issues regarding discipline and social media. He mentions that many high schools have “spam” pages. Jackson’s administration has done all that can be done with regard to reporting the pages to the proper authorities. Unfortunately, it is hard to regulate because as soon as you shut one down, another pops back up. Mr. Danser brought the specific data pertaining to fights, suspensions, etc. He added that many of our kids have socio-emotional, economic, and sometimes psychological needs that cannot all be addressed by the school. He mentioned that most altercations are the result of a student making a rash, emotional action while in the moment. It also stems from issues and events taking place in the specific Jackson cluster communities. He explains that in a large urban city, there are certain gangs and rivalries. Mr. Murray adds that it has always been like that. Mr. Danser says that there is only so much the school can do and this is an issue that the larger community should also help work to address and control. Mr. Danser says that we need students who are willing to come forward and cooperate with the administration to root out the bad actors. Fortunately, many of the students do come forward. And the new “Hero” system would reward the students coming forward as well as for many other commendable acts. Parents need to also be on top of monitoring their children’s online activities. Regarding discipline, the issues are primarily among freshmen. The ninth grade suspension rate is double that of the rest of the school. However, it is half the suspension rate of our primary feeder middle school. Regarding solutions, he mentioned that 130 to 140 kids participated in the Summer Bridge Program and that it really touched a lot of kids. He reiterated that he takes these issues seriously, but adds that the greater community also has to embrace this. He asks, “If a parent teaches their child to fight when they feel disrespected regardless of when and where it happens, what are we to do?” Mr. Murray mentioned putting a statement out to the community -- perhaps in the form of a letter. Mr. Grant asks if something is being told to the kids about this being a serious offence that could result in students being caught up in criminal allegations. Mr. Eberhart mentioned that he covers this in his High School Transitions classes using actual case studies, etc. All the freshmen who don’t take AP Human Geography or some other advanced scheduling take High School Transitions – about half. Mr. Danser mentions that jeans incentives help as well as his “Push for Peace” campaign. He mentioned Tuesday and Thursdays are most active regarding discipline. He says the “spam” page started as innocently funny material, but had taken a dark turn. There are also “shade” pages in which students subtly create tension between their peers. The “spam” pages show the resulting altercations based on the “shade”. They have all been reported. He says that he mentioned it at the last Principal’s coffee and that he will bring it up at this one as well. He also discussed the “See Something, Say Something” campaign and the “Say

Something” app in which students can anonymously report the illicit things that may go on at the school. The best police are the students themselves. The app will go live in a week. The information would go to Mr. Danser, Ms. Gautreaux, and Mr. Petty. The principal will also mention “See Something, Say Something” at the principal’s coffee. Some altercations are as minor as bumping into someone; others are a little deeper. Last year, it was mostly girls; this year, it is mostly boys. The boys’ issues are easily resolved. The girls’ issues linger a bit. In relation to gangs, Mr. Danser states, “Jackson doesn’t have a gang problem, but the city has a gang issue, and we cannot ignore that”.

VI. Information Items

- a. **Principal’s Report:** Mr. Danser presents a copy of the Maynard Jackson school crest and asks for feedback on ways to update it as the current one is a little “busy”. After a brief discussion regarding the design, the consensus was to let the students design and create the crest and a professional group can clean up their designs. Mr. King discusses the forthcoming IB Legacy Night on Thursday, December 20, 2018, from 2pm to 3pm in the auditorium. It is basically a pinning and awards ceremony for our current IB students but we are also inviting the MJHS IBDP graduates from the classes of 2015, 2016, 2017, and 2018. The purpose is to instill a sense of tradition, legacy, and pride. It would also give the subsequent years of IB students something to look forward to. We are inviting all the IB students that we have ever had, all our current CP/DP students and all their parents. We will also provide awards/recognition regarding AP and other accolades. The alumni will receive their IB diplomas and/or certificates if they have not already gotten them. But most importantly, it will provide a rare and valuable opportunity for our students and parents to meet and speak with the IB students that came before and find out if it really was helpful or not, what are they doing now, and how is life in college after high school, etc. Did the IB Program prepare them for that? Mr. King added that with IB, performance is often based on morale, so these events are to highlight the broader IB community from MJHS and motivate the students in order maximize the program’s growth. Mr. Danser also discusses the permanent IB plaque that will be installed near the entrance highlighting every student that has completed the IB program so far, thus cementing their names in the school’s history. He says that IB evaluates schools on a five-year basis and that our five-year evaluation is due this year. As such, in that five years, Jackson’s IB program has produced enough scholars to warrant a Legacy Night event such as this. He also made the point that it is a somewhat casual event and that it is not a “reunion”. More so like a panel, forum, or open discussion/Q&A session. Mr. King also mentions an annual AP wall near the main entrance highlighting all the students that received qualifying AP exam scores. Mr. King also discusses that fact that next year, Jackson will offer IB’s new two-year IB Math: Analysis SL course and is phasing out the lower level Math Studies. In essence, although we will continue offering AP calculus, students in the IBDP will have the opportunity to take an IB Math class that colleges view on par to AP Calculus AB. Mr. King added, there is an HL version of the course equivalent to AP Calculus BC. But we are not ready for that as a school at this point.

- b. **Family Engagement Committee:** Mrs. Maddox explains that she needs two or three faculty volunteers to help with the Family Engagement committee. She asked Ms. Dalton to serve, who was present. She also mentioned Ms. King, who was not present. The issue was that many of the teachers that are chosen for these activities already do a lot and Mr. Danser felt it would be better to choose a teacher who doesn't already have a lot on their plates. Eberhart mentions Ms. Arciaga. Danser hesitates because it is her first year. They choose to revisit it and come up with some options later. Mrs. Maddox also mentions that she would prefer a male to assist. One charismatic man and woman would be ideal. They can discuss more details at the next Go Team meeting, which is scheduled for February 4.
- c. **Dress Code Committee Update:** Ms. Rouse is absent; so this portion of the meeting has been postponed.
- d. **MJ Cluster Foundation:** Mrs. Wells informs the Go Team that the Jackson Cluster Foundation meeting was rescheduled for 2/16 (?).

VII. Announcements

- a. Masters of Social Work Program (?)
- b. Please Support the Toy Drive for Dunbar Elementary
- c. The November Thanksgiving Basket was a great success.
- d. Feel free to provide Christmas gifts for Obama Elementary.
- e. Graduation will be on the last Friday in May.
- f. Come support the Barnes and Noble Book Fair (December 15)
- g. Please ask your friends, family, and all those who are curious about IB at Jackson to attend our first annual IB Legacy Night on December 20, from 2pm to 3:30pm.

VIII. Adjournment

Motion made by: **Shemeka Maddox**; Seconded by: **David Eberhart**

Members Approving: All

Members Opposing: None

Members Abstaining: None

Motion **Passes**

ADJOURNED AT 7:27 pm

Minutes Taken By: Yusef King

Position: MJHS GO Team Secretary

Date Approved: [Insert Date When Approved]