

MINUTES OF MIDDLE SCHOOL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING

February 28, 2011

The Middle School Advisory Council Meeting was held February 28, 2011, at the Government Center, 888 Washington Boulevard. The meeting was called to order at 5:17 p.m. by Dr. Joshua Starr, Superintendent.

For the benefit of new members, Dr. Winnie Hamilton, Deputy Superintendent, briefly described the evolution of MSAC going back four years to its beginning as the Middle School Think Tank. Recommendations from the Think Tank were the basis for middle school transformation, and Dr. Starr's belief in the importance of ongoing input from stakeholders led to the creation of the Middle School Advisory Council.

Mona Hanna, Chief Academic Officer, gave an update of middle school curricula in math, science, and language arts. District benchmark assessments have been instituted. In all areas, teachers continue to receive professional development.

The Council reviewed and gave feedback on 6th and 7th grade data—specifically, mid-term course marks received by students in CP and honors classes; distribution of students by race/ethnicity in CP and honors classes; and regrouping assessment data for students in CP classes.

Dr. Hamilton shared Board Policy 6143 which was adopted to enable middle school students to take high school level courses and earn high school credit upon completion of the requirements. The district is also exploring offering 7th graders who are ready for advanced math the opportunity to take Algebra.

Also part of the group discussion was "Open Enrollment" for 8th graders—granting students the flexibility to enroll on their own, on a class by class basis, at the honors or CP level. The Council was asked for their input to help the district develop the process. In groups, the Council discussed and recorded pros and cons, challenges, obstacles, and ways to evaluate success of the initiative. This will be the major topic of discussion at the next MSAC meeting scheduled for Monday, April 4, 2011.

The meeting adjourned at 6:50 p.m.