

MONTROSE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
STUDENT/BOARD FORUM
MONTROSE AREA JUNIOR-SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL
MEETING DATE APRIL 4, 2009 11:00 A.M.

Mr. Chris Caterson
President, Board of Directors

Mr. Michael F. Ognosky
Superintendent of Schools

Board/Student Forum

April 4, 2009 Meeting was called to order at 11:00 A.M. by Chris Caterson.

Attendance was as follows:

Board Members present included Pam Staats, Kathy Mordovancey, Chris Caterson and Mary Homan.

Administration present included Jim Tallarico, Russ Canevari and Mike Ognosky

Others present included 33 members of the Junior/Senior High School Student Council and Student Council Advisor Mike Boccella.

III. Student Presentation Items:

Mr. Tallarico began by thanking the members of the Student Council who were present today as well as the hard work they have put into creating their presentations. He explained that there were many other activities today – Varsity Club Dance Marathon, etc. - that have taken members away from the actual presentation, but many members participated in the creation of the presentations.

Mr. Boccella thanked the Board for their attendance today as well as the students who have worked hard in creating the presentations. Mr. Boccella presented the order of discussion and thanked the board for the previous forums and the work that has been accomplished in the school district due to those forums.

A. Curriculum Presentation – Lead presenters were Madison Legg, Nathan Hollister, Kim Stetson, Katherine English and Gena Rapasardi. Major discussion items included:

- The students asked that the administration consider two potential elective courses in the High School English curriculum, Public Speaking and a Literature elective. Both of these courses would be offered in addition to the four years of English currently required and would be available for any student beyond their 9th grade year.
- They also requested that the administration speak to the major subject areas – especially English and Social Studies – and ask that book reports be required in all high school years. The group commented that they had just completed such an effort in Mr. Festa's Social Studies class and found it to be a very rewarding educational experience.
- The students commented that, based on former Student Forum presentations, the emphasis and amount of research and writing projects required across the curriculum has increased significantly and they have found that to be very helpful.

B. School Spirit Presentation– Lead presenters were Eliza Ely and Chelsea Lunger. Chelsea and Eliza both thanked Chelsea Hall and Bridget McNamara for their assistance as well. Chelsea, nor Bridget, could be in attendance today. Major discussion items included:

- The students expressed a concern in the lack of attendance at school athletic events and would like to suggest a number of potential ideas to the Board of Directors with the goal of increasing that attendance.

- They asked that in the future the administration consider increasing the number of pep rallies – at least one per each of the sports seasons – and include the recognition of Junior High teams during the course of those pep rallies.
- They asked that the Board consider allowing a “spirit bus” for all away varsity competitions for any of those events that begin after 6 p.m. in the evening, and that the bus be made available for parents, adult supporters and students. The cost of the bus would be covered by the passengers.
- Increase the hours of the “school store” and allow the Student Council the opportunity to sell school store merchandise at all home games.
- Develop the concept of a school store on line – either by creating an advertising pamphlet on the website for students and parents to see, or through the direct ordering of merchandise on line.
- Allow students to attend all home games for which admission is charged admission free.

C. Aesthetics and Grounds Presentation: Lead presenters were Chris Stevens, Dan Staats, _____ and _____.

- The students presented a power point that summarized the difficulties that the Student Council continually encounters in updating and maintaining the current manual school sign at the entrance to High School Road off of Route 706.
- Tony Bistocchi was given the primary responsibility of maintaining the sign this year and on many occasions has been unable to do so due to weather conditions, etc.
- The group is requesting that the school board revisit the potential purchase of an electric school sign that can be loaded via a wireless connection located in the high school.
- The students would be willing to assist in the fund raising required to purchase and install such a sign and would be responsible for the updating of all of the information.
- They would assist in the location of alternative revenue streams understanding the public pressure that would result from the utilization of taxpayer money to purchase and install the sign.

At the conclusion of the last presentation the Board members present indicated they would take all of the recommendations under consideration and would report back to the Student Liaison Committee.

Following brief closing remarks by the High School Principal (Jim Tallarico), Student Council Advisor (Mike Boccella), members of the Board of Directors present and the Superintendent, the meeting was adjourned at 11:57 A. M.

Submitted by,

Mike Ognosky

Mike Ognosky, Superintendent