

**Mercer Island High School
Parent Advisory Council (PAC)
Tuesday, December 3, 2008
Meeting Minutes**

I) Principal's Report (3:25 p.m.)

John highlighted the following activities in November:

- Report Card Distribution
- Fall lay (The Resistible Rise of Arturo Ui)
- Fall Sports Summary
- Northwest Band Selections

II) Principal's Cabinet Report (3:40 p.m.)

John highlighted the following topics that were discussed at the November 18 Cabinet meeting:

- International Festival in April
- Homework Document Resolution

III) School Issues (3:55 p.m.)

a. Homework Document

John informed the PAC that following the November 18 Cabinet meeting he finalized the document. John Distributed copies. The document will be included in the Staff and Student Handbooks, posted on the MIHS website and John will write a section for the January newsletter informing parents that the document has been implemented.

IV) District Issues (4:10 p.m.)

a. 20/20 Vision

John informed members that Dr, Plano, Superintendent will attend the December 16 Faculty meeting to present the vision.

V) Parent Issues (4:20 p.m.)

a. Homework over breaks

This issue is addressed in the Homework document.

b. MIHS "Umbrella" Booster Club

The concept of an umbrella organization for all booster clubs is being considered. The idea is to maintain individual booster club fundraising but provide the opportunity for school wide fundraising. The district has directed all booster club funds to be channeled through our ASB to ensure that state law and Title IX requirements are followed and the umbrella concept may help facilitate the directive. The challenge for the school is the capacity of the ASB office to handle the increase in workload.

c. WIAA v “Club” Sports

The Washington Interscholastic Activities Association is the governing body for high school athletics in the State. All MIHS teams compete in sports with the exception of boys and girl’s water polo and boy’s and girl’s lacrosse. The MIHS Athletic Department treats lacrosse and water polo as another sport. The only difference is that club sports receive no district or ASB funding.

d. Snail Pound, Islander Girls, Flag Dudes

A member of the PAC asked for clarification. The Flag Dudes are the highest profile of these three “spirit” groups because they are an official school club. They do not receive any ASB funding and their advisor is Dino Annest. They have been in existence since the early 90’s and have been a school club since 2004. The four flag dudes are always seniors and are chosen by their predecessor flag dudes each spring.

The Islander Girls and Snail Pound are not recognized by the school and have been in existence for many years. In fact, John discovered in September from the Class of 1958, that their class began the Islander Girls tradition. Both the Islander Girls and Snail Pound are student organized and self-selecting. The 10 or so senior Snail Pound members choose one junior member each. Their mascot is the snail and is not an “official” school mascot. In fact, we do not have a school mascot. The “tropical warrior” Islander mascot of the ‘70’s was deemed to be offensive and has not been used since. The 14 Islander Girls are all seniors and are chosen each year by their predecessors. They sit together at games and wear shirts/sweaters that spell out “ISLANDER GIRLS!”

Elizabeth Celms of the Mercer Island Reporter wrote an article in the November 26 edition of the Reporter about school spirit at MIHS and highlighted all three groups.

Handouts:

- a. Final Homework Document

Future Agenda Items:

- District Wellness Policy
- Developmental Asset Survey Results
- Umbrella Booster Club