

9/16 MPG MEETING MINUTES

Attendees – 25 (2 – 2016, 1 – 2017, 5 – 2018, 17 – 2019)

1. Dawn reviewed MPG mission as well as historical and proposed changes. Highlighted reducing meetings from monthly to bi-monthly. 2015-2016 meeting dates: 9/16, 11/12, 1/6, 3/9 & 5/11. Focus each meeting to include a presentation of a relevant topic to the MPG audience.
2. Headmaster Tim Welsh. Increase in freshman class – 119. Fund raising up based on increased focus on alum. Increase in number of students getting 3 or above on AP testing last fall. Highlighted a recent event at BC that Matignon attended focusing on developing strategic strategy going forward (errors behind Kodak example). Technology crucial and Matignon addressing how educationally to best position for future – next 5 to 10 years – in a way to better serve our children. Mr. Welsh will solicit parent involvement and feedback towards this venture going forward and asked parents to consider helping.
3. Principal Joe D. His overall philosophy based on sense of community and family which in turn makes students feel comfortable and at ease. Believes education process goes faster on that premise. Noted ALL his decisions have the best needs of the children in mind.
 - a. Referenced some examples of unique Matignon strengths like junior class having SAP prep built into schedule and that rising seniors can take Emmanuel College courses for credit.
 - b. Today's assembly – 2 Congressional Medal of Honor recipients. Praised student population behavior and participation in this incredibly moving assembly. Each recipient gave short speech which focused on values of faith and family. Well received and was following by good question and answer session.
 - c. New STEM initiative is being rolled out at Matignon. Sending some faculty to STEMposium in November. Robotics program to be started by one of new faculty.
 - d. Starting in October – first Tuesday of every other month...coffee with principal and head master – think will be time of normal drop off.
 - e. Requested parent help at 2 Open Houses, Magic of Matignon and Freshman BBQ. (Dawn provided sign-up sheets for those interested in helping out at the Thursday, 10/22 (6:15 pm) and/or Sunday, 11/1 (1:00 pm) Open Houses. Sign-ups for the 2/9 Magic of Matignon and 6/5 Freshman BBQ will be available later).
4. Mr. Welsh reviewed the new BYOD initiative and introduced Ms. Vargas, Technology Innovation Specialist. Ms. Vargas is primarily working with faculty to help bring technology into the classroom and classroom out to the world. She highlighted the objective of providing more resources to students. Has been teaching faculty how to expand their curriculums by bringing in more technology. First task was to define platform and has been rolling out Google Classroom to faculty. Noted improved productivity for teacher/student communications. Noted everyone has a “matignon.org” email now.

- a. Several parent questions/comments regarding difficulty in opening e-books, printing documents etc. Ms. Vargas recognized growing pains, but voiced high confidence that worth the effort (referencing her current George Washington class entirely on-line). Encouraged students to see her with issues. Noted students should be using google chrome browser. Mr. D also noted that Matignon's librarian, Mrs. Croxen happy to help with downloading of e-books.
 - b. Comment applauding new google platform but questioning value if no time spent rolling it out. Ms. Vargas responded they have been rolling out referencing student orientation where all students got new email and learning about how would get messages if homework not turned in timely etc. Noted freshman teachers giving practice assignments. Parent request on helping students develop skills to manage temptations (ie, geometry vs utube). Although Mr. Welsh noted firewall preventing distractions in school, parents still seeking additional support in this area for outside Matignon.
 - c. Parent suggestion to send home a parent short summary/tutorial. Ms. Vargas noted that her focus has been on faculty and appreciated the suggestion that parents too could use some assistance and will have something created.
 - d. Edline will still be used for now for the bi-weekly interim updates, report cards etc, but starting immediately homework will be via Google Classrooms. Students need to share their Google Classrooms input with parents that want to monitor homework. This application actually transfers homework from a "to-do" to a "done" bucket once submitted. Mr. Welsh noted that Google Classroom recently bought out Edline so at some – yet to be determined – date in the future Edline may be discontinued as it gets absorbed into Google Classroom. New parent login id's and passwords for Edline will be sent out by next Thursday (before any updates are posted).
 - e. Bottom line – Mr. D. stressed this is a NEW and BIG initiative and they knew there would be issues and NO student will be penalized because of confusion or difficulties short term.
5. Open questions – one parent asked who to address what type of questions to. Mr. Welsh said that he deals more with overhead school...facilities, board, finance etc. whereas Mr. D focuses on the day to day activities of the students. Mr. D went on to say that the best process is student speaks to teacher, if not resolved then parent to teacher, if not resolved then parent to department head and if still not satisfied it should be escalated to Mr. D. Stressed issues much easier to solve when small.

Meeting adjourned at 7:40

Minutes submitted by Dawn Gomez – 9/17/15