

**Mansfield School Committee and
Mansfield Student Advisory Committee Meeting
Minutes for May 13, 2019
Principal's Conference Room, Mansfield High School**

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A meeting of the Mansfield School Committee was opened and called to order at 1:30 p.m.

SC Members Present: Kiera O'Neil, Lynn Cavicchi, Linda Fernando, Lauren Scher, Jenn Walsh (arrived 1:35 p.m.)

SAC Members Present: Erin Daniel '19; Lily Barnes '20; Austin Risotti '20; Logan Biedermann '20; Peter Sullivan '19

Others present: Mary Watkins, MHS Principal

1. Introductions: Mary Watkins led off with welcome remarks and introductions and gave an overview of the agenda. The group reviewed and discussed state law and district policy on student involvement in decision making and the student advisory committee (SAC).

2. Updates/Topics for Discussion:

- a. Summary of SAC year: The students shared some of the issues they have been discussing this year, including new course offerings, class rank, and qualities that contribute to student leadership. Ms. Watkins also relied on the SAC for their participation in MHS events such as 8th Grade Opportunity Night, Open House orientation for incoming 9th graders, and the upcoming 8th-9th grade transition days.
- b. SAC moving forward: Logan suggested having more than one student representative attend the School Committee meetings since it would be difficult for one student to try to provide the full range of perspectives at MHS. Regarding getting student input into decisions, Austin suggested an online student survey or questionnaire would be especially effective in computer/technology classes, since students would have immediate and easy access to computers.
- c. SAC elections: Elections for 2019-20 are schedule for this Thursday, May 16. The group discussed whether students could self-nominate or whether a student would need to be nominated by a teacher, with the intention that teachers could encourage students who might not typically nominate themselves. There was consensus from the current SAC members that it would be helpful to have some of them at the meeting for students who are considering running/being nominated to provide some perspectives around time commitment and other expectations for serving on the student advisory committee.

3. Thoughts/Ideas

The group discussed how the role of the SAC changes from year to year depending on student interest. The student representative role has ranged from the representative wanting to receive meeting materials and to sit at the school committee table, to the representative simply giving brief updates on MHS events and activities. In previous years, students on the SAC worked on developing policy changes such as final exam exemptions for seniors and cell phone use. Lauren noted it is up to the students on the student advisory committee to determine what they would like to their role to be. Kiera asked where on the agenda would be best to place the SAC representative report, since school committee members would like to encourage the student representative to attend the full meeting but are also mindful of homework, student activities/sports, and other commitments. Lily felt that she learned a lot from the meetings she has been able to attend and she would encourage the student representative to

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stay for the full meeting if/when possible. Lynn asked Lily if she was receiving copies of the school committee meeting materials prior to the meeting. Lily said she was not, and that she was checking the agenda on line to see what would be discussed.

In terms of student governance, Lynn asked if and how the SAC reported out what it is working on to the student body, or to the student council, or if the students serving on the school council or the wellness committee ever attended the SAC meetings. Erin noted that she is also the student representative for the Wellness Committee, in addition to serving on the SAC. Lynn also asked how the SAC interacted with the student representatives to the Southeast Regional Student Advisory Council (SERSAC), which is part of the state level student advisory council. Mary said there has not been much of a connection between the two groups to date and suggested she could add a section to her newsletters about the SAC, like she has started to do about the MHS School Council updates. She also noted Student Council would be a forum where the SAC could report out on its work to student council members and class officers.

Mary thanked the current SAC members for serving this year. The School Committee hopes to be able to meet with the new SAC members some time in June, after the SAC elections are held, and then scheduling meeting dates for 2019-20.

Meeting adjourned at 2:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lynn Cavicchi
Vice Chair
School Committee