

Middle School CAT Team Meeting Minutes for September 2, 2009

Absent: Sandra Gutenkunst

The first order of business for the new school year was the introduction of the different members followed by acceptance of the common meeting agreements. The parent members of the CAT team approved a plan that would coordinate the Middle School Iftar on September 16th. The Middle School CAT Team reviewed the status and accomplishments of the topics from the 2008-09 academic year:

- The Profile of World Languages in the Middle School
- Educational Continuity (CAC Campus Master Plan)
- Future Direction of PRIME trips
- Teaching and Learning – *Examples: Student Grading and Reporting, MAP Test Data*
- ‘No Cuts’ Sports Program
- Implementation of the Middle School Core Values: “Walking the Talk” or what does it look like to students, parents, and faculty?
- Learning Support/Differentiated Instruction and support for the diverse range of students’ needs, family situations, cognitive abilities (low and high),

The Middle School Principal introduced the “Big Four” which were a focus for the new Superintendent of CAC, Dr. Mockrish:

- **Educational Continuity: Completion of the Phase One Project**
- **Learning Support and Multiple Intelligences**
- **Value Added Instruction**
- **International Relations and Embracing Cultural Diversity**

It was agreed that all topics were relevant at the Middle School level and many positive developments were already underway. It was agreed that future agenda items would be in line with the “Big Four” and would include any follow up on topic from the previous school year.

Other discussions at the meeting concluded with the following understandings:

We would try holding a CAT Team meetings in the evening and away from school. Viveka Kumari offered to host the first trial at her home in October.

Checking articles from the Counselors in the *News and Views* to make sure the information was adapted for a diverse parent population.

Wendy Vissar agreed to represent the Middle School CAT team on the CAC Health and Safety Committee

The next meeting is scheduled for October 21, 2009 at 6:00 – Road 11 Building 7

Middle School CAT Team Meeting Minutes for October 21, 2009

Absent: Sandra Gutenkunst and Andrew Ferguson
Hosted at the home of Viveka Kumari

The Middle School CAT Team Meeting began with the approval of the minutes from September 2, 2009. Matters arising from the minutes were:

- Outstanding turnout for the Middle School Iftar.
- Continue raising the identity of the CAT team members within the Middle School community.
- Wordsmith the parent notices to help connect parents at each grade level.
- How could parents serve on the International Relations and Cultural Sensitivity Committee.
- Continue to edit the Counselor Corner information to connect the diverse parent audience.
- Find time in the next meeting to provide a Middle School “No Cuts” sports update.

An extensive Virtual School reflection took place with some of the key points raised and discussed:

- Recognition by the school of the level of parental support
- Student isolation during the closure – lack of an accurate parent directory
- Rumor control for the future
- Parental stress level and student stress levels during the closure
- Challenge of technological understanding and simple technical processes
- Challenge of service providers
- Lack of a common practice for a grade level/subject area
- Effectiveness of parent forums and daily community messages
- Future coordination of off-site student support groups
- Accountability for students who missed or did not complete work
- Survey of students involved to get their input for future planning

The Grade 6 CAT Members shared a list of comments from a coffee morning they held and asked the Middle School administration to share with those who involved with that Grade level.

Educational Continuity was discussed and the Principal acknowledged the current level of noise and dust from the work site. It was complicated even more by the current air pollution levels across Cairo. The Middle School CAT team was reminded of the arena style parent conferences sessions and MAPS testing data presentations which would be available on October 22, 2009 in the High School Gallery. The Principal introduced the current realities of the new World Language programming and the future impact it will have on elective options.

A short discussion on formulating a Sustainability Vision across CAC and a change in the PTO By-Laws regarding funding requests was also discussed.

The next meeting is scheduled for November 18, 2009 at 3:30 in the Middle School
Counseling Conference Room

CAT Team members will invite another parent as a guest to learn more about CAT Team process

As we review whether and how we are achieving our 2008-2009 professional goals, we have some highlights to share. First are excerpts from our World Language External Audit. Supplementing commendations of CAC’s range of courses, resources, and the commitment of individual faculty members, some recommendations include: 1) Provide designated courses for Grade 6 students who have already begun a language. 2) In the Middle School, require a language of all students every year. 3) Review the efficacy of multi-level courses. 4) Ensure school wide curricular coherence in terms of delivery and assessment with an emphasis on thematic units. As you can imagine, staffing, budgetary, and scheduling issues dictate that not all recommendations can be accommodated immediately. Regardless, you will definitely see some modifications during the next school year, particularly in the Middle School.

Monica Greeley - CAC Cairo Glyphics - February 2009

Middle School CAT Team Meeting Agenda - November 18, 2009

- A) Apologies - Introductions - Approval of Minutes - Matters Arising
- B) H1N1 / Update / Response to Town Hall Meetings
- C) Virtual School Updates and Planning Process
- D) Educational Continuity – Phase One Dust and Noise
- E) Homework Pressures
- F) PRIME Trip Feedback
- G) Arena Style Conferences Feedback
- H) Name Calling
- I) Any Other Business

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The next meeting is scheduled for December 16, 2009 at 6:00 Road 214 - House 5 - Apartment 4