

CAC Middle School CAT Team Minutes – 23 May 2007.

Present: M Popinchalk, K Placht, J Keevy, C Lachenmayer, K Mirk, S Ross, C Dunahay, K Besch, H Maguire, V Pritchard, S Raimondi, E Maurin, H Riding, M Williamson (M Anderson excused).

- M Popinchalk opened the meeting and all members introduced themselves.
- Minutes of 28 March were reviewed and accepted.
- MS Athletics: No Cut Sport Update by Michael.
 - Athletics department has put forward a report for next year. “No Cut” sports will be offered for all MS players. Only Grade 8 students are allowed to try out for JV sports.
 - Track/Field, Swim and Cross Country are available to all MS players on competitive basis, because specific seasons are set up for these grades.
 - Cheryl objected to all MS sports being in one season and Michael explained that they are still busy with schedule changes due to EMAC planning decisions and community sports programs.
 - Cathy asked if coaches had any input in this decision. Michael explained they did but it was a consultative process with a final recommendation by the Athletic Director, supported by the school administration.
 - Michael also explained the various benefits of this program to MS kids, especially to girls where the social stigma of being “left out” of a team is quite important.
- Arabic Audit: Quite lengthy discussions about the foreign language courses at MS school/what does the school expect from language program/possibility of multiple choices for native and non-native speakers. One example, how many years of a world language in MS is important to meet HS/parent expectations.
- CAC Survey Info: Michael reported that only 28% of parents responded to the CAC survey. It was also decided that the “At Risk” survey would be done next year in the fall and not in the second semester. This will provide data earlier to the school for making appropriate action plans. A major concern among students at CAC centered on body image. 55% of the parent surveys collected agreed that CAT was effective in the MS. A gentle warning from the teachers was that CAT was seen as very negative a few years’ ago by staff, because the forum was used to pull individual teachers and the school down. CAT members must be careful not to be used by parents to this effect.
- School Committees Update: Health and Safety had no meeting since last minutes. Strategic Planning: Annual School reviews took place prior to a visit from the accreditation team in 2007. There were concerns that the school has gone too much “electronically” for communication. To be discussed. There will be a stronger emphasis for technology integration next year with the faculty. It may require additional training for parents to understand the process.
- CAT Team Inputs for this year and last year: Always good discussions/new parents needs to be informed of drinks/drugs availability in Cairo/Maadi. Maybe “Back to school” Night or other forums need to be used as an information night/ explaining the function of CAT.
- Future Focus: Parental Outreach / Strategic Planning - AFG - Use of Survey Information Support REACH Team in terms of ”At risk” issues for students. These would be reviewed at the first meeting in September 2007.

