

Marshall Advisory Council

February 3, 2025

- Meeting called to order at 4:16pm
- Quick introductions complete for all those present.
- No SACI update since there has been no meeting since our last MAC meeting.
- Principal Dr. Klimaitis update:
 - Lots of midyear testing happening at this time. HMH reading testing is being completed for the 2nd-5th graders.
 - HMH scores as provided by the reading specialist for the middle of the year.
 - On or above grade level for the whole school. Beginning of Year (BOY) 50.7%. Middle of the year (MOY) 69.8%
 - 2nd grade BOY 38.2% MOY 63.9%
 - 3rd grade BOY 44.4% MOY 72.1%
 - 4th grade BOY 60.5% MOY 72.8%
 - 5th grade BOY 62.1% 70.9%
 - Question about these scores if there is a trend of lower scores after returning from summer break? There is a little trend with that, but more specifically for 2nd grade the beginning of the year is their first time seeing the test which often results in lower scores compared to middle of year.
 - Discussion about students with disabilities and/or IEPs. Students with disabilities do NOT get a read aloud accommodation with this exam. The special education faculty reported seeing a drastically different result with their reading comprehension exam in class vs HMH. Students often are reading at a higher level than the HMH test reflects for students with disabilities.
 - These HMH scores are 7% higher than last year. Showing the improvement in the reading program at Marshall ES.
 - Marshall ES has received two Grants.
 - Sparks Grant funds a Place for No Hate. This is being used with the

student council. More information to come next month.

- Virginia Blue Bird Society Grant. Marshall ES is getting 3 blue bird boxes to place/plant down in the field for the birds/kids.
- The Advisory Council looked at the High Functioning Principal Advisory Council Indicators (rubric). The council completed a mid year review of how the council is performing.
 - Bylaws are currently up on our website.
 - We are working on publishing meeting dates and agenda on the website. This information will include minutes and topics for future meetings.
 - We have translation services available upon request/need.
 - Total available points is 20. Our goal is at least 16 which is considered a highly functioning council per the district standards. Our current grade is 13.
- Discussed the schools curriculum for Black History Month. All grades are following the standards of learning via the State of Virginia and many influential Virginians and African Americans are discussed year long.
 - The Second Annual Thurgood Marshall Day will be celebrated Tuesday February 4th.
- Open Chair/Open discussion time
 - Discussion about how the council receives feedback from parents. When concerns arise, if not directly at teacher directly, they are sent via email or via phone to the chair and brought up at the committee. We did provide a reminder to families last month in a weekly newsletter to provide feedback and/or questions for the council.
 - There was a question about if we have a schedule of MAC meetings? This was presented at the start of the year in our first meeting. But does need to be put online for all to see. This will include the topics scheduled for each meeting.
 - There are some concerns about the changes in 3rd grade with the hiring of a long term substitute. Clarification provided by Dr. Klimaitis that the teacher is not licensed but does have a Masters Degree in Educational Leadership. This is a long term substitute position while the school continues to seek a licensed faculty.

In regards to the core curriculum the licensed 3rd grade faculty are building the lesson plans for the teacher to provide to the students. There is a lot of support for this substitute teacher to ensure there is no more changes in teachers for these students. This is not an ideal situation and it's rare for a teacher to leave midyear. Additionally the reading specialist is going into the room and providing support and modeling lessons to help the substitute teacher.

- There is a general feeling amongst the parents of the 3rd grade that the faculty need more support. They require a lot of copies to be made with very few parent volunteers.
 - Dr. Klimaitis mentioned that there are 13 requests of teachers to transfer to Marshall ES for the next school year.
- Meeting ended at 5:12pm.
 - Next meeting Monday March 3, 2025 at 4:15pm