

MARSHALL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING

MAY 5, 2025

- Meeting started AT 4:19PM
- Committee chair opened the meeting with a discussion about how to encourage more participation from Marshall ES parents in the committee next year.
 - How to get representatives per grade level? Should we request to have a representative per room similar to how the PTO has a room representative?
 - The committee is looking for ideas on how to get more parents involved.
- SACI Update from Mrs. Rossi
 - Dr. McDade presented the strategic plan and future goals
 - Discussed math and reading and curriculum
 - Discussed discipline and making sure its equitable amongst all schools - a focus for the next year.
 - Safety was discussed. Positive feedback is that each school has a security representative.
 - There has been an improvement in graduation rates and absenteeism in the division.
 - SACI council discussed year end report
 - They liked the strategic plan and have good plan goals.
 - Positive feedback like that all schools now have gifted and talented programs.
 - HVAC updates to schools is a good thing for the division.
 - Impact of technology on instruction - how will we deal with AI in school work? How to balance instruction with cell phones/devices? Safe technology and making sure kids don't have access they shouldn't have. There is interest in expanding the gifted and talented program and how to improve access to disadvantaged kids. Testing retakes should be available/equal at all schools.
- Dr. Klimaitis presented the Advisory Council rubric. How are we doing?
 - These are division driven goals and part of commitment 3 of the continuous

improvement plan.

- Marshall Advisory Council is currently at 20/20 points for the end of the year.
 - We started the year with 13/20.
- Thank you to the parent liaison for helping ensure meeting notes are available online and can be translated as needed.
- Marshall ES Human Resources Update
 - There are internal transfers who's names will be provided at a later date since students aren't aware.
 - A 3rd grade teacher has been hired from Pennsylvania
 - There are two finalists for the school security officer. Both will be coming to visit in the coming weeks.
 - There is an open position in autism classroom. Mrs. Kallis is moving on to another opportunity.
 - There is possibly a position for a 0.5 ESOL position.
- There is an author coming to visit May 23rd for half day.
 - She will be speaking with kids in grades 3-5.
 - grades K-2 had another author
 - She will be discussing African story telling. Her website can be found at ada-ari.com
 - The school will offer an opportunity for parents to purchase a signed book from this author via the newsletter this week.
- Grant money has been received for two different projects.
 - Three teachers completed professional development on some robotics. With Marshall ES being a purple star school we received a \$10,000 grant from the DOD and will purchase some robots.
 - The robots are called finch robots. Specific information can be found at [birdbrain technologies website](http://birdbraintechnologies.com).
 - The 4th grade classrooms used this to make an ocean floor. Mrs. Duggan taught a lesson on how to program the robots. They then built the ocean floor and had to label it after, showing mountain and varying terrain in the ocean floor. This allows to learn how to code and creates an exciting

learning environment.

- The second grant has to deal with social emotional learning. Mrs. Cole and school councilors facilitated the grant and made kits for every classroom. The kit could be used in a calm down corner to help kids who may be experiencing anxiety or stress.
 - What is in the kit? books, calming toys, and flyers to help show and express feelings/emotions.
 - The Marshall ES Eagle student Ambassadors put the kits together.
- The Eco Club placed 2nd place at the Seas Event.
- Dr. Jensen provided an update on the new Math curriculum. Elementary math education items will be brought to the school board in June. Public comment was open for families to provide input earlier this year.
 - VDOE math curriculum shows approved sources no exact specific curriculum chosen yet.
 - VA math standards don't align with other states standards. Other states use common core as their standards, which is where many text books/resources come from.
 - VA outperforms most states academically in testing.
- Open Questions
 - No questions asked.
- Meeting Ended at 4:47pm
- Next meeting start of the 2025-2026 school year.