

## Marshall Advisory Council (MAC) Meeting Notes September 9, 2024

- Meeting started at 4:18pm
- After a brief introduction all members discussed topics they would like to discuss and/or goals for the upcoming school year. Items mentioned listed below.
  - How we can get breakfast and lunch provided to all students?
  - Project based learning
  - Many faculty reporting wanting to support the community at Marshall
  - Help how to make Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) and MAC work well together and for the school
  - Best education for students & partnering with parents
  - Reach out to parents/remove barriers
  - Support for military kids who move around the county and how each state differs with their standards of learning. How to best support these families & students.
  - Increase communication with Superintendent Advisory Council on Instruction (SACI) and Marshall
  - New family to Marshall ES present to learn about the staff the school.
- MAC chair presented a slide show about MAC
  - Meetings to be the first Monday of the month before PTO
  - Discussed the meeting format and what to expect from the meeting.
  - Discussed where to find information on the webpage. Goal for this year is greater visibility with more meeting notes on webpage for families to access.
  - Discussed the duties of the members of MAC and some vacant positions.
    - Vacant position: 2nd/3rd grade parent representative.
    - Vacant position: SACI alternative representative
    - Other vacant parent alternative member roles available
  - Prince William County requires all committees to have active by-laws. This committee does have this
- Dr. Cindy Klimaitis (Marshall ES Principal) provided an update
  - Discussed the commitments for Continuous Improvement plan for the year.
    - This information will also be presented to all parents during back to school

night.

- All schools in PWCS are required to have commitments and an action plan around those. Each school has the same commitments but will have a varying action plan on how to achieve those goals.
  - The first goal discussed was: Learning & Achievement for All. This is based on Standards of Learning (SOL) test scores. The Marshall ES faculty take the data from the test scores and identify areas in which to improve. They meet weekly and identify how they can improve the areas they have selected. There are several tools used to help deliver instructions to the students. The goal is 87% of students passing the reading SOL exam in 2025. Students with disabilities have a goal of 75% pass rate for the reading SOL. The goal for Math SOL is 88% pass rate. Important to note that only third-fifth grade takes these exams.
  - An important notes is the data that Marshall ES uses is raw data. There will be differences between the data on the Virginia Board of Education (VDOE) webpage and Marshall ES. The school gets credit for student improvement thus you might see a difference between the two entities.
  - What are the VDOE requirements: Reading 75% pass rate and 70% math pass rate.
  - The second goal discussed: Positive Climate & Culture. The fourthth and fifth grade students reported not feeling like consequences given are fair. Teachers will reinforce lessons and students will gain an understanding of what is being held responsible equally looks like.
  - The third goal discussed: Engage Families as Authentic Partners in Education. This is accomplished with MAC. Working with teachers and families to help have a shared understanding of how they can influence decisions at school collaboratively.
- MAC Chair discussed the Highly Effective Advisory Council rubric. Each MAC gets points for items they are doing on the rubric. Some items on the rubric include:
  - Holding meetings six times/year
  - Having a SACI representative and providing that representative time to present

information at the MAC meeting.

- Having active bylaws
- having members present and active
- available meeting notes
- MAC chair meets with principal before the meeting
- Translations services available as needed
- A Marshall ES faculty member offered to help with translation services for the website
- The accreditation is based on third-fifth grade SOL scores.
- The grades K-second work on passing's their specific grade level assessments.
- Each teacher identifies and had goals for their class each school year.
- Question and answer time for the meeting attendees:
  - A parent at the meeting asked about kids who excel beyond their peers in some areas. How are they challenged to above? There was a discussion about the gifted program at Marshall ES and how there is time set aside in each room for independent learning.
  - What changes have occurred with the language arts standards?
    - The State of VA passed the Virginia Literacy Act. It's a new law. It outlines what approved tools are to be used in instruction. This limits teachers choice but standardizes across the state. An example is the state outlining what book is used for an instruction. In addition these standards outlined have become more specific and some items have moved around to different grade levels. What used to be 'standards' are now requirements on what is to be taught. These new requirements have been implemented and will be tested on this year. There is no grace period year.
    - There is a new screening tool. The Virginia Language & Literacy Screening System (VALLSS) has replaced the previous tool Phonological Awareness Literacy Screening (PALS). These are used in the lower grades who aren't given SOL testing. These screenings are done one on one with the students teacher and can take around 30-60 minutes per student.
    - The overall end goal of all changes is to get better data.
    - All schools in PWCS are required to have a literacy night. This will allow

the parents to learn more about the changes.

- How can the parents help the faculty?
  - Read with your kids at home!
- There was a recent video shown during some emergency drills at Marshall ES. Can the parents be shown these videos too so we can discuss with our kids if there is a question?
  - There is a PWCS public school emergency video on youtube. It's title is PWCS Crisis Management Terminology and Response Actions Overview
    - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mLuFNQa0Fv0>
  - This video discusses all emergency drills at the school.
- Meetings ended at 5:18pm.