

Marvin School Governance Council Meeting Minutes
(September 11, 2018 Marvin Elementary Library)

Council Members:

Present: Sue-Ellen O’Shea, Aly Johnson, Nancy Lamb, Kathrin Hughes, Mark Lilliedahl, Mimi Chang, Dana Siano, Darnelly D’Erario, Diana Paladino-Christopher and Nate Sheldon

Absent: Tara Palmer, Jon Wilkins and Julia Dufort

Proceedings:

-Meeting commenced at 6:00 pm

Handouts

-Nate provided handouts previously supplied at District-led meetings for newer members, which explain the purpose and characteristics of the School Governance Council

Introduction

-Meeting opened with a round-table introduction by all attendees to meet and identify new members

Membership

-As the school year begins, we will look to fill 2 vacant parent seats via newsletter, open house, teacher recommendation from prior years’ experience and current student parental involvement

-Diana recently volunteered to join this year’s council, so there is hope additional volunteers will take hold as the year gets underway. Diana spoke very highly of Marvin after searching local private and magnet schools for this year’s enrollment

-There remains 1 teacher vacancy; the start of the school year provides better likelihood the seat gets filled

-It was noted how Marvin’s SGC has evolved heading into its third year from a focus on more individually initiated projects to broader reaching school focused projects

Meeting Minutes

-There was a brief discussion/introduction about Julia’s volunteering to take minutes during future meetings. It is generally thought of as a great opportunity for Julia and will provide added perspective to our SGC, especially on programs that feed into NHS from Marvin

Umbrella Council Progress

-Nate noted Jon’s continued efforts working with Dan Sullivan in seeking out East Side school contacts that would be interested in meeting and creating an umbrella council

-Darnelly reached out to former SGC contacts at Silvermine; many of the members finished their second term last year, so perhaps some contacts will surface as the current SGC takes hold

-With schools back in session, there is more optimism contacts will surface as the year progresses

After School Program

-110 students have enrolled in Marvin’s After-the-Bell, but there is a 100 student limit

-The enrichment program is slated to start at the beginning of October and run approximately 8 weeks. The program is supplemental to After-the-Bell and is designed by faculty focusing on a variety of lessons for the students’ choosing

-Nancy made mention that the program is noticeably better structured and organized in its second year when compared to last year

Student Achievement/Development

- Sue-Ellen will provide an update once she has received the official data from the 2017-18 school year (potentially at the October meeting). The data will cover K-2 testing and 3-5 testing measured over 3 intervals during the prior school year to show student aptitude and growth
- Faculty members provided the group with their thoughts after receiving a granted trauma training seminar. 6 schools received the training and 3 schools were provided a 'bounce back' or onsite professional for help/observation; Marvin received both
- The program focused on what causes different learning and was designed to help faculty be able to identify and investigate pattern behavior in students, how to appropriately initiate interaction to circumvent possible trauma, understanding students' social needs as education is not all about academics and should also focus on social aspects of the child's life. All of these result in a modified approach to teaching/learning
- The conversation evolved into getting more parent involvement at Marvin to provide additional social support and motivation by recognizing their child's efforts. Homework was briefly discussed; how much is enough, what grade level(s) is appropriate and what parent involvement is achievable/necessary
- We discussed holding a pep rally of sorts or a welcoming from parents and/or 5th graders as kids walk into school to help inspire them to do well, feel safe and be excited to be a part of Marvin
- Nancy noted the school's STEM project last year was a huge success and achieved a lot of what was discussed earlier so it was suggested that we showcase the student's projects in ways similar to the Art Show
- Sue-Ellen mentioned holding a Math Night with the new Math Specials teacher Jeff Magnano to encourage parental involvement and showcase the students achievement. Overall, the addition of the Math Specials this year has been a great supplement to grade level teachings and has been engaging and fun for the students

Committed Projects

- SGC involvement is no longer necessary
- Painting will be done over the course of the school year by the designated school resource. Order of school wing
- A dog fence will be installed; exact timing to be determined

Planned Meeting Dates

- using the first Tuesday of each month as a starting guide, we firmed up all future meeting dates
- October 2nd
- November 13th (no school on the 6th for Election Day)
- December 4th (first day of conferences)
- January 8th
- February 5th
- March 5th
- April 2nd
- May 7th
- June 4th

- Meeting adjourned at 7:13 pm
- Minutes submitted by Nate Sheldon