

Marvin School Governance Council Meeting Minutes
(November 13, 2018 Marvin Elementary Library)

Council Members:

Present: Sue-Ellen O'Shea, Tara Palmer, Nancy Lamb, Kathrin Hughes, Christine Murray, Dana Siano, Darnelly D'Erario, Diana Paladino-Christopher and Nate Sheldon

Absent: Aly Palmer, Mark Lilliedahl, Jon Wilkins, Mimi Chang, Judith Rivera and Julia Dufort

Proceedings:

-Meeting commenced at 6:05 pm

Membership

-Christine Murray, 4th grade teacher, has offered to join the council this year, rounding out the teacher members

-Jon Wilkins announced his resignation due to increased work requirements so there is now a community vacancy. Jon has been a great contributor over the last several years so will be missed.

-There remains up to two parent member vacancies. We will work to find interested parents at upcoming events.

Student Improvement Plan

-Sue-Ellen led a review of the updated 2018-2019 improvement plan

-The document lays out the school's Vision Statement and Theory of Action, which was revamped by the school's leadership team (teacher committee that solicits other teacher feedback)

-The Theory of Action statement introduced targeted issues such as student trauma and poor attendance on the back of trauma training received at the beginning of the school year

-A discussion ensued about a recent trend in school enrollment and how there has been a notable increase in non-english speaking students in upper grades. At the same time there continues to be a trend of students leaving Marvin after 3rd grade.

-The achievement data suggests, the longer a student is at Marvin, the better they perform. We discussed whether new openings of K-8 schools (Ponus/Columbus/Silvermine) would alter enrollment in Marvin and Nathan Hale.

SIP Discussion of achievement data

-SBAC Assessment, a multi-step and reading assessment for grades 3-5 showing percentages of students who meet or are or above expectations

-Marvin was consistently below the District

-Marvin students performed better on the Reading portion than Math portion

-SPED and ELL were the notable laggards in scoring data. Separately, Marvin students have done well on the LAS Links Test in which ELL students are tested on reading, listening, and writing and must do well on all to categorically graduate out of ELL.

-NWEA assessment, a separate computer-based multi-step and problem-solving assessment for grades 3-5 showing RIT scores of students who meet or are above expectations (Fall, Winter, Spring)

-Marvin was consistently above or closer to the District

-Marvin students performed better on the Math portion than the Reading portion

-The testing showed consistent and better than District growth from BOY to EOY

-It was noted that SBAC and NWEA are different assessments so difficult to simply blend the scoring

-mCLASS Dibels, a series of sub-tests to make a composite score for grades K-3 showing percentages of students who meet or are above expectations (Fall, Winter, Spring)

-Students have to decode words (real from nonsensical) and conceptualize readings and retell what happens

-The Fall assessment has shown some consistency in declining rates across grades as well as a Spring to Fall summer drop-off specifically as students move from K-1st grade. This suggests a critical reading transition, as students are likely not practicing the core reading skills that are taught in K and continued into 1st grade

-A difficulty with this test is that it changes as the year progresses becoming a moving target and also making it difficult to compare growth. Growth has been consistently positive for all grades as the school year progresses and shows some catch-up to the District from BOY to EOY.

-Some teachers have taken the exams and the suggestion parents see the exam to get a better understanding of the test taking difficulty. Getting the kids to simply understand the question formatting may result in reduced scoring. A suggestion to help students get a preview of the format for upcoming years was made and in the interim work on practice testing so the kids will have instruction and guidance and will know how they are being tested.

-The Performance and Analysis section goes into further detail

-This year, there will be a major focus on chronically absent students, averaging just above 5% over the past two years based on a 181-day school year. If a student is on an extended leave from school, they must enroll in another school otherwise will be marked as absent. Principal will send home letters every other month as absences increase in 2-day increments, Social Worker will call homes and create a log, and finally Principal and Social Worker will meet with parents.

-School Priority Goals

-Demonstrate an improvement in SBAC scores in ELA

-Demonstrate an improvement in SBAC scores in Math

-Increase parent involvement on the School Climate Survey

-Completion rate over the past two years has averaged ~33% so we discussed ways to try to increase the participation rate. The PTA is working on a Marvin night at Stepping Stones where parents will be provided with and encouraged to fill out the survey (this Spring)

Miscellaneous items

-Nancy asked the SGC about the idea of moving the new breakfast program out of the classroom and into the cafeteria. Participation has varied across grades, but is not significant in the way the District had hoped it would be. It has proven to create distraction for other students and decreases the time that teachers have with the students as the school day could begin late due to clean-up etc.

-There was no disagreement and the faculty will put together some data points and rationale to move the breakfast location and the SGC can present the case to do so.

-Nate and Sue-Ellen brought up ways in which the SGC can partner up with the PTA as both share some common goals. Both have spoken with PTA head, Marissa Mangone, about upcoming events that can assist in each other's agenda.

-Increasing School Climate Survey participation at PTA events (Marvin night at Stepping Stones)

-Increasing parent/community involvement such has a dual hosted Cultural Pot Luck to welcome incoming students and parents next Fall

-Marissa has offered to attend an upcoming SGC meeting to talk about what the PTA is working on and upcoming events.

-Meeting adjourned at 7:45 pm

-Minutes submitted by Nate Sheldon