Marlborough High School
School Council
Meeting Minutes – October 24, 2019

In attendance – Dan Riley, Marcia Adams, Sue Pearl, Rita Smith, Ann Kinslow, Gail Yosca, Edson Farias

Absent - Marlene Manell, Heather Kohn, Genevieve Kinslow, David Friess

I. Welcome and Sign-in: each person introduced themselves, how long they’ve been involved in the council, any topics they would like to discuss this year.

II. School Budget: very blessed to be well funded. Have curriculum resources needed. Are fiscally responsible. Marlborough per pupil expenditure is over 16k. Reviewed year-to-date expense report with Dan giving explanation of how to read report. 2 new programs brought on this school year: EMT Certification Program (transferred 20k from other instructional budgets, with thought) and Mazie Mentoring Program (mazie.org), have mentors from the community mentor students at risk (transferred 15k from other instructional budgets). Mazie is part of Big Brothers, Big Sisters of Central MA. Framingham Public Schools have had great success with this program. Shifts made within budget to have funding equity for all honor societies.

III. MCAS: For the first time in 6 years, we are in good standing and making progress, with overall classification of not requiring assistance or intervention. In terms of achievement, from data standpoint, last year’s 10th grade class was the most underperforming group. Yet, points were earned in each achievement and growth group. This group was the first to take computerized MCAS. Finished in 23rd percentile, up from 0-20% group. We are climbing.

IV. Reviewing School Improvement Plan: New format based upon feedback last year. Two theories of action:
   a) Have regularly scheduled intervention blocks during school day to help reduce achievement gap for priority student subgroups.
   b) Increase content area instruction for special education students with the goal of increasing special education students’ academic achievement.

For this year, School Council will work on approving school improvement plan. Reviewed MPS Strategy for Improvement with focus on reviewing specified priorities and determining what priorities we will work on this year. Will focus on:

   • 2.2 Support at risk students through a comprehensive set of intervention systems
2.4 Develop Project-Based Learning opportunities that are rigorous and relevant for all students

3.1 Strengthen relationships in our community (something we have been working on rather unsuccessfully) for years.

Dan shared book he is reading, “Beyond the Bake Sale” whereby rather than having parents/families come to the school, the school goes to where the parents/guardians are in the community. Dan is experimenting with social probation program (tardiness and vaping). After 10 tardys, you loose all social privileges until you do 1 hour of community service. If community service is not done in a timely fashion, then cell phones will not be allowed in school until original hour and additional hour of community service are completed. Assistant Principals have set up community service opportunities (in school, DPW, Branches). Vaping is way down. $25 fine for vaping (city wide ordinance) $100 for marijuana. In looking at priority 1.3 (Identify and implement a menu of non traditional academic opportunities for at risk students to successfully graduate high school), this task is really focusing on students who are older aged and under-credited who need alternative ways to achieve HS diploma.

Meeting Minutes Respectfully Submitted by Sue Pearl