

Site Council Meeting Minutes

Date: September 19th, 2013

Attendees:

- Ken Gilbert, MMS Principal
- Amanda Hollenberg, MMS Vice Principal
- Suzanne Smith, Site Council Chair & MMS Teacher
- Kerrie O'Brien, Site Council Secretary & MMS Teacher
- David Jazmin, MMS Education Assisstant
- Gina Dittmer, MMS Parent
- Amber Prucha, MMS Parent

PTC & Site Council

Our first Site Council goal this year is to get more people. Ken Gilbert will send out an email to Memorial staff to get more teachers involved as three of our teachers from last year are no longer with the group. We also need more parents. No parents responded to the invitation at Open House to contact Ken, so he will get information out to parents and have a PTC meeting after school next week. We will see how many people attend that meeting and when they are available and go from there – PTC and Site Council may remain merged or separate. We will put this information on Facebook as well as sending out an email newsletter and a paper flyer home with students. This meeting will likely take place on Tuesday, September 24th.

There were a number of parents who expressed interest in helping with the annual Spaghetti Feed at registration; hopefully some of those parents will be interested in joining the PTC. The Spaghetti Feed is an annual event that raises funds for the PTC and the school band, which provides entertainment for the event. The PTC currently has some money left over from last year.

There are two main goals for the PTC. One is to raise funds for special projects of classroom needs. Some PTC money goes to the annual student shopping trip in December, where students from families in need have an opportunity to purchase gifts for their family members and themselves. Another is teacher requests, such as last year's request to purchase a set of books for the Oregon Battle of the Books club. PTC money also funds gifts for Teacher Appreciation Week in May.

The second goal for the PTC is to provide a voice for parents. At meetings, parents are able to hear what is going on at the school, ask questions, and share problems that they see. It allows for a better understanding for both sides.

It is difficult to find parent members for our PTC as many parents are too busy and many sports or other activities overlap with our meeting times. It's also natural for students to become less dependent on parents in Middle School, and as a result parents are often less involved. We hope to be able to get more parent members involved this year.

Site Council is a sounding board and guiding group for issues of school achievement, staff development, and instruction. While many decisions are becoming less site-based as we receive mandates from federal and state government as well as the school district, it still provides us with the opportunity to make some decisions with input from parents, teachers, administrators, and classified staff.

School Improvement Plan

Memorial recently received our school report card, which is part of the state requirements for reporting school achievement to parents. The report card contains demographic information (for example, it tells us that 51% of our students receive free or reduced lunch). It also tracks attendance; our goal is 90% attendance, and last year we were at 87%. We're not quite to our goal yet but we are improving and hope to reach 90% this year.

The report card gives us an overall rating from the state out of five. We are currently at a level four, which is excellent for our school as we have been at a level three for the past several years. Level four is about average for schools of our size and demographics in the state of Oregon. The level system is based on Reading, Math, and Science OAKS scores. One of our biggest concern areas are our ELD students, who grew substantially below the state average on their Math and Reading tests. Science did better than average, so we will look into why our ELD students are doing better in Science than the other areas. One thing we have changed for this year to improve ELD scores in Reading is implement a push-in model, where ELD students have Language Arts classes with the rest of the student population rather than in isolation.

Our academic achievement and subgroup growth were both at level three on the state report card, but overall academic growth was at a level four. This means we are doing well since we are more concerned with growth than achievement since we have no control over where the kids are when they get to us. (For example, a student who enters the 6th grade with a 4th grade reading level might grow substantially by 1.5 grade levels but still not meet their achievement goal.) Because overall growth is weighted higher than the other two categories, we received a four as our overall score.

Last year's school improvement plan academic goal was centered around Reading and Math OAKS scores. We do not currently have a data breakdown by grade level that will allow us to see if we have reached this goal, but we do know that we want our goal this year to be similar. We will change the way the goal is phrased to match the department SLGG Goals. SLGG stands for Student Learning and Growth Goals, which was mandated by the state of Oregon this year. Every teacher and administrator must have two SLGG goals, which are part of their evaluation process. An example math goal is that 80% of students will increase their OAKS scores by four points from the end of last year to the end of this year, taking the highest score from each year. This year we will look at individual student scores rather than an overall average as particularly high or low growth students can make an average misleading. The administrator's SLGG goals will mirror our School Improvement Plan goals to maintain consistency.

Our behavior goal for the SIP centered around referrals last year. We did not meet our goal for minors, which was 1100, but we did get close with only 1292. We exceeded our majors goal of 400 with only 249 major referrals last year. Our goal this year will be centered around minor referrals. We will add a Check In/ Check Out system for students who are struggling this year, as well as providing more staff training on who/when/how to refer students to our CARE team, which looks at giving extra support to students.

Our final SIP goal was to increase community involvement. Last year we added a Memorial Facebook page and improved our website and parent emails. We also improved at bringing our students into the community with our music program and poetry club. In the past, we had a Hispanic Outreach Night where all of our Latino parents and students were invited to the school for an informal meeting and dessert. We would like to do another outreach night this year. We also have an annual Family Geography Night, and we would like to start having nights for other subject areas such as Science and PE. We also plan to have another Multicultural Night, which is an event we had in a past year that was a success.