



**Montford Middle School  
School Advisory Council Monthly Meeting  
Thursday, August 29, 2019**

**Call to Order**

Meeting was called to order at 6:09 p.m.

The following individuals were in attendance: Fran Close, Lewis Blessing, Brooke Pautsch, Christy Hanna, Mandy Schnittker and Deborah Thomas.

**Approval of Agenda**

Fran Close made a motion to approve the agenda; Lewis Blessing seconded the motion

**Approval of Agenda**

Lewis Blessing made a motion to approve the circulated minutes from the April 29, 2019 SAC meeting. Christy Hanna seconded the motion.

**Principal's Updates*****School Data:***

- Admission was expected to be approximately the same (1,060 students expected), but to date it is less than expected (1,011 students currently). There are 322 sixth graders, 356 seventh graders and 333 eighth graders. Mr. Blessing suspects numbers could increase after Labor Day, when the schools typically see an influx of students, whose families have moved from areas where school begins later. Staffing is tight in some subjects, but things are looking okay.
  
- This is the first year MMS has had an ESE support class to help children with Autism – known as the Autism Transition Class.
  - There are currently four students in the program.
  - A teacher was hired in June, but she resigned in July. A new teacher was hired at that point and she is proving to be a perfect fit. To teacher this class, you must be certified or be getting certified in all four subject areas, plus ESE and Autism. The current teacher is still getting her certifications, but it's working great.
  - MMS will be getting a second classroom behavior specialist this year.



- The school has been working on safety and security in preparation for the new year:
  - “Safe Corners” have been identified in all classrooms. These are marked with signage and there are critical incident manuals posted near these areas.
  - In addition to a fire drill/month, there will now be one lockdown drill/month
  - Doors are to remain locked during the school day (“locked doors save lives”)
  - Teachers are being encouraged to utilize the “Rave Panic Button” app for use in emergencies. It is accessed through your phone and if used within the campus confines, lets emergency workers know exactly where it’s pressed on campus.
- School grades were released - MMS is an “A School” once again!
  - increases in everything except acceleration
  - up seven points in bottom 25 percent
  - up two points in Civics (but school was already in the 90<sup>th</sup> percentile)
  - top 20 % in all middle schools in Florida
- Intensive Math will not be offered this year; didn’t see an impact last year; reading is much more a focus this year; all lower levels are receiving reading intervention. The reading coach has two planning periods this year to allow opportunities for pullouts
- MMS is doing an anti-bullying social media campaign, called “Be Kind.” Great response so far. There are three one-minute videos and then a 4-5 longer-format video.

***Industry Certification Programs:***

- Now have a new industry certification program, as Ms. Fain is teaching Agriculture. Since she is now certified, when students take part in her program, school will get funding from the state, which will allow her to improve the program/obtain supplies.
- School administrators will be meeting with feeder schools to share information about the Digital Tools program, which is what high-performing seventh graders students are invited to take if they don’t opt for Algebra after getting a 3 or better on the FSA. MMS does not push students/families to take Algebra though, which could be contributing to the decrease in acceleration. Digital Tools is a way to show that growth/acceleration.
- Will be offering cybersecurity this year in Social Studies classes – can be rolled into curriculum and completed within 2-3 days.

***School Improvement Plan:***

- Distributed. Being reviewed at school level now; will be shared at Open House. SAC members should share feedback with Dr. Thomas before September meeting.

**DAC Update**

Minutes from the May 9 meeting were not available. They will be shared on September 17.

**PTSO Update**

- We have a full board, including a business partner coordinator (first time in a while)
- Patrons Program is underway; \$2,000 has already been collected.

**Old Business**

None

**New Business**

- Select 2019-20 SAC Members (Dr. Thomas - call for nominations at Open House)
- Select DAC Member for MMS (deferred to 9/17 meeting when full SAC is in attendance)
- Next meeting date: September 17, 2019 @ 6:00 p.m.

**Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 6:46 p.m.