

MEMORIAL SCHOOL COUNCIL

MEETING MINUTES FOR: November 16, 2023

MEETING	MEMORIAL SCHOOL COUNCIL
DATE	11/16/23
LOCATION	Conference Room
ATTENDEES	John Willis, Lindsey Banks, Nate Berkowitz, Sarah Stone, Amy Connors, Kathryn Taylor, Samantha Silag, Rene Puopolo Smith
ABSENT	Deb Patuto
GUESTS	
RECORDED BY	Rene Puopolo Smith

School Council Meeting

3:05pm-4:05pm. – MMES Conference Room

1. Public Comment
2. Burning issues/questions/ideas:
 - Discussion of the purpose of school council and roles of council members
 - Safety drills/protocols:
 - John Willis typically sends home an email post-drill to notify parents
 - ALICE protocol is used and staff is trained in this procedure
 - Staff members are equipped with information and the teachers make decisions to protect the safety of students
 - New RAPTOR app will allow John to send an alert to all staff
 - Cameras show all exterior doors in office
 - Panic button (district is determining when to use)

- Compliments to Maria Schmidt for carefully following procedures and screening ALL visitors before entering the building

1. Materials:

- i. MMESC Website (New!) <https://www.mersd.org/Page/724>
- ii. Shared Drive: (For school council members)

2. Welcome, Introductions, and Officer Elections

i. Co-chair

- 1. Nominees: Lindsay Banks

ii. Secretary

- 1. Nominees: Deb Patuto

3. Budget Update

- Increase in budget cuts this past school year
- Budget
 - Materials
 - increased to absorb Wonders curriculum costs
 - Capital
 - no requests at MMES
 - Staffing
 - Request for 2024/2025: full time academic coach (also requested at Essex)
 - Reduction in reading interventionist hours
 - Reduction in school psychologist
 - Reduction in special education teacher

4. School Improvement Plan

1. Progress Review

- High Needs Students classified as special education, ELL and low income population has changed at MMES:
 - 8.2% → 22% students with disabilities
 - 4.3% → 8.2% low income students
(increase from 2018 to 2023)
- Wonders reading and writing curriculum was adopted over Covid and minimal professional development was provided
- DESE Accountability Report reflects 94th percentile performance in terms of progress at MMES
- Decrease in ELA student performance (Meeting and Exceeding Expectations) from 2022 to 2023: 72% → 61%
- i-Ready data reflects general trend of progress:

	Reading	Math
Fall 2022	49%	32%
Spring 2023	86%	78%
Fall 2023	57%	34%

- MCAS VOCAL (Views of Climate and Learning) Data given to all 4th and 5th graders reflects overall positive school climate

2. Goals and Objectives

- Improve ELA scores and prevent a slide in the years ahead

3. Process and timelines

- Start intervention services earlier in the school year
- More time with Wonders curriculum (especially as it pertains to writing)

5. Meeting adjournment