

New Superintendent Leads Exciting Site-Based Management Team

-Dan Rosenburg

One of Dr. Maass's early goals is to ensure that the Marblehead Public School System is abiding by all Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education guidelines. In order to comply, Dr. Maass has required that all public schools are to have a school council. The council is mandated to be co-chaired by the school building principal, and must be made up of parents, students, teachers, and at least one individual who lives in the town where the school is, but does not have a child in the school system. A member of the town's school committed also attends each meeting. The point of this council, in Marblehead called the Site-Based Management Team, (SBMT) is to provide valuable input on matters pertaining to the school. Each Marblehead school's team will be working with both the school committee and committees run through the school to make the learning environment a better place.

The first meeting of the Marblehead High School's Site-Based Management Team took place on January 10th, right after the first Parents' Council meeting of the year. In the meeting, members set goals for how they wished the SBMT to function, and spoke a bit about what issues they hoped to tackle in the remaining months of the 2011 – 2012 school year.

Among the goals, which they would like to complete before the end of the school year, the number one task for them is to review the MHS budget, making sure that the level funded monies are spent in the right areas. Once again, there will be no increase in the budget, so the presentation to the School Committee and Superintendent's office, must be gone over with a fine-toothed comb.

Another mission of the site-based management team is to revise the student handbook, in harmony with the school's handbook committee. Some student members of the SBMT also sit on the school's handbook committee, they gave a presentation on their efforts to date. Members of both groups will be making a cohesive effort to rewrite the handbook. The current one is outdated and has unnecessary legal formalities throughout it, making it difficult to read. Each department in the school does not carry it out consistently as well, due to its contradictory and obtuse language. The team hopes to rectify this by producing a clearer, more concise version of the handbook by next year.

One more important duty of the Site-Based Management Team is to provide the school with an improvement plan, which it can carry out over the upcoming years. This plan will assess the needs of the school, and will provide educational goals for all students in the high school. It will also enhance parental involvement in the school, and make sure that every student in the school has an opportunity to learn in the best environment possible.

This team is doing some important work for the school. It's a very valuable asset, due to the fact that students, parents, faculty, and community members are working in cohesion to make the school a better place. Hopefully, they will be able to achieve positive results by the end of the school year.

All of the SBMT meetings are open to the public. In the high school they take place after the monthly meeting of the PCO. If you are interested, the next meeting will take place in the MHS Library on Monday, February 13. The PCO meetings run from 7 – 7:30, SBMT runs from 7:30 to 9:00, and once again, all are welcome.

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