Marshall Community Council

November 8, 2007

Attendance: Jerry and Duffer Vick, Machel Chapin, Jennifer Bunge, Keitlyn Watson, Ron Wieland, Tricia Moore, Tina Stern, Melissa Chase, Paige Sorensen, and John Hitchman

Meeting graciously and efficiently led by Jerry Vick.

I. Newsletter/Communication: Paige Sorensen and Linda Geraci will be the parent connection for the newsletter. We decided that we have two priorities of communication. The first is a bulletin that is published on the website that parents can refer to for daily events, sports, announcements, and calendar items. Priority #2 will be a newsletter that will focus on spotlighting students, teachers, and programs. Paige and John will work together to put a “flyer” in the 1st quarter grade envelopes that will be mailed out the week of November 19. The flyer will provide information about the bulletin and upcoming events. Ron Wieland will work to get Marshall’s web page ready for a bulletin and making it user friendly and useful.

II. Spirit Wear: Marianne Wieland has graciously agreed to research and put together a “spirit wear” catalogue/order form for parents (and staff?) through Clutch Sports.

III. Battle of the Books: A tabled item from last month was MCC supporting the Battle of the Books program for our 7th and 8th graders. There was some concern about parents being able to see the titles prior to the competition to evaluate the material for appropriateness. As of these minutes, John emailed the webpage with the list of titles. We just ask that this list remains a secret from the students until the Battle begins. The MCC unanimously approved giving $500 dollars to the program as motioned by Ron Wieland and seconded by Paige Sorensen.

IV. Media in the Schools: Keitlyn Watson was interested in school policy on how we are keeping kids safe from inappropriate websites, videos, and lyrics on computers, phones and ipods. The school currently has a “No electronics at school” rule. Marshall fully realizes however, that many students carry cell phones and ipods. John explained that if ipods or phones are out during the school day, they are confiscated. Cell phones are returned at the end of the day as they are seen as potentially essential. Ipods are held safely until parents pick them up. Students are allowed to listen to their music on the buses two and from schools and sporting events. We want to discourage the “sharing” of ear buds and music and teachers and coaches are encouraged to intervene as they see problems. The rule is written in the student handbook. John shared that he and Sharyn Merrigan visited every class to present an “acceptable use of technology in the school talk.” A copy of the powerpoint slides was distributed.
V. Site Council: Keitlyn researched and brought examples of site council bylaws from Capital, Boston Harbor and Washington Middle schools. John supplied the group with Marshall’s bylaws. Keitlyn explained briefly the role of a site based council and clarified the difference between that and a PTO or MCC. We agreed to review the material and discuss it at our next meeting which is December 13, 2007 at 6:30 in the library.

VI. Other: Melissa Chase brought up the book fair and the need for parent volunteers. She presented the times and duties needed and agreed to email parents with the details.

Other II: John brought up the Capital Playhouse theater experience that Marshall will be involved in this January. This is a lot of work and we agreed the need to get started is now. Briefly, John explained the financial piece. The cost is $9,000 and we have received a $2,000 grant. Tuition costs will remain at $150 per student. The play is “Guys and Dolls” with rehearsal starting on January 7th and performances on February 1st and 2nd. Information will come out with the flyer to parents in the grades mailing. We will also advertise with the school drama class. John will email parents to set up the first meeting.

Other III: Agenda items for next month should be sent to John. At this point agenda items include a continuation of the conversation about site council and the structure and election of MCC officers.

Minutes respectfully submitted by John