

School Council Minutes
September 30, 2019

In Attendance:

Mark Wilson, principal
Mike Newby, teacher
Sally Davol, teacher
Sarah Cortese, teacher
Michael Schaffer, teacher
Wyatt Sullivan, teacher
Doreen Escher, parent
Maegan Storey, parent
Joy Jordan, parent
Emily Milan, parent
Diane Nash, parent

Unavailable:

The meeting opened with introductions, followed by a review of School Council responsibilities and timelines associated with budget development, school improvement planning, and other initiatives that fall under the purview of School Councils.

The meeting continued with school council members reviewing the district strategic plan and identifying which of the four initiatives resonated with each member. As an outcome of this activity, each member became a “champion” for an initiative and is responsible for making sure his/her championed initiative receives time and support. The school council also received a briefing on steps taken to date to advance the initiative.

The meeting continued with school council discussing how can we make before-school and after-school activities open to households facing transportation challenges. The school council recognized that many of the school’s academic supports and enrichment opportunities occur in the morning and, consequently, these opportunities may be denied to students who live too far away to access them via home transportation. Research into which students are attending morning sessions may reveal discrepancies for certain at-risk groups which, if significant, would need to be addressed through the budget with school-sponsored transportation.

The meeting continued with a review of preliminary MCAS data. The school council members commended the school’s continued growth – as measured by student growth percentile or SGP – as well as for gains in student achievement as measured by scaled score on MCAS (especially in ELA). The school’s professional development around Brain Frames, a pre-writing strategy, appears to be assisting students with their writing. A focus area for improvement remains for our lowest performing cohort, which continues to struggle to produce a coherent essay for on-demand prompts.

After this presentation, the school council members received a briefing on “Challenge Coins”, which could be used to quietly recognize and acknowledge certain character traits. School council members completed a brief survey so their voices could join with MRMS staff. Results of the survey are attached, and the school will be recognizing the eight character traits that received a majority of votes through four challenge coins.

1. Positive / Persevering - on
one coin

2. Honest / Hardworking - on
one coin

3. Resilient / Respectful - on
one coin

4. Kind / Compassionate - on
one coin

If any school council member would like to design a coin, here is a link to the design website. [All About Challenge Coins](#)

Simply choose a coin number and then send Mark Wilson your drawings, sketches, web pics, images, thoughts, etc. We can send everything to the company and they can do the layout. You are not bounded by our Shark theme unless you want to be – anything goes. Just make it something middle schoolers will want to collect.

The meeting concluded with a choice of homework assignments – “brainstorming potential school improvement initiatives” and/or “providing input on the budget”, with school council members sharing their ideas at our next meeting scheduled for Monday, October 28 from 3:30 to 4:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark Wilson, MRMS principal