

School Council Minutes
October 28, 2019

In attendance:

Mark Wilson, principal
Michael Newby, teacher
Sally Davol, teacher
Mike Schaffer, teacher
Wyatt Sullivan, teacher
Emily Milan, parent
Maegan Storey, parent
Joy Jordan, parent
Diane Nash, parent
Kimberly Robbins, parent

Unavailable:

Sarah Cortese, teacher
Doreen Escher, parent

The meeting opened with school council members reviewing and unanimously approving, with one abstention, the minutes from its meeting on September 30, 2019.

The meeting continued with school council members sharing ideas for school improvement that have a budgetary impact. The following ideas were shared and received full support from school council members:

- Budget for a “Reverse Express Bus”, which would collect students from public, group-stop settings in the morning and transport them to MRMS so they arrive in time for participation in morning clubs, extra help sessions, and/or extended day programming. This additional transportation is specifically intended to eliminate AM transportation issues for struggling learners and/or financially disadvantaged households, and would be part of the district’s strategic plan to reduce existing barriers to programming.
- Budget for computer technology for both STEM labs to replace outdated equipment.
- Explore adding a third counselor at MRMS – either through additional funding for staffing or through a reallocation of existing staffing – so MRMS could adopt the model where the counselor “loops” with the students as they travel upward through the MS.
- Explore adding one or more sports to the winter season (volleyball, ice hockey, gymnastics are possibilities) to offset the dramatic drop from the fall season (180 athletes) to the winter season (50 athletes).

The meeting continued with school council members reviewing the results from the “character traits” survey, and being invited to design a challenge coin. School council members recommended opening the “design a character coin” challenge to the students, which will be explored through seminar offerings and/or a general invite.

The meeting concluded with a brief review of Spring 2019 MCAS achievement and growth results by quartile, with the briefing originally scheduled for October 28th tabled until the next school council meeting on November 25th at 3:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark Wilson, MRMS principal