

School Council Minutes  
September 24, 2018

Present:

Mark Wilson, principal  
Michael Schaffer, teacher  
Michael Newby, teacher  
Tara Gallagher, teacher  
Wyatt Sullivan, teacher  
Diane Nash, parent  
Joy Jordan, parent  
Kim Robbins, parent  
Doreen Escher, parent  
Emily Milan, parent  
Nicole Moniz, parent

Unavailable:

Cheri Armstrong, teacher  
Sarah Cortese, teacher

The meeting opened with introductions, followed by members receiving a briefing on school council responsibilities relative to:

- Developing the school budget;
- Monitoring the school improvement plan (SIP), revising the SIP where needed, and creating new SIP initiatives;
- Adopting educational goals for the school; and
- Serving in an advisory capacity relative to district-level decisions

The meeting continued with Mark Wilson providing school council members with an overview of two sets of data:

1. **A chronological review of student absences, tardies, dismissals, and suspensions – by grade level and in the aggregate – for 2015-16, 2016-17, and 2017-18.** This data was requested by the superintendent to examine the impact of the change in school start time on attendance and discipline. Presentation attached. School council members noted the sharp increase in suspensions, absences, and dismissals and expressed concerns.
  - a. School admin will address the decline in attendance by publicizing the data and emphasizing the importance of consistent school attendance.
  - b. School admin acknowledges the increase in suspensions generated household concerns for school climate, culture, and safety, and these concerns were captured in the EOY parent survey. Despite the increase, the school still has few disciplinary events when compared to other cape schools.
2. **A briefing on the school’s MCAS results, focusing on Student Growth Percentiles (SGPs) for our “at-risk”, “on-the-fence”, “ready-for-challenge”, and “special education” students.** School council members commended the above average to exceptional growth for our “ready-for-challenge” students; noted the average to above average growth for our “on-the-fence” and “special education” students; and observed the less than

average growth for our “at-risk” students (this last piece of data is a trend across the district).

- a. The exceptional growth for our “ready-for-challenge” students is a strong talking point for the school, as those students are growing FAR more in a year than what is typical at other middle schools.
- b. The solid growth for our “special education” and “on-the-fence” students is quite reasonable, especially when compared with other local schools. For example, Lighthouse Charter and Nauset Middle are Level II schools; MRMS is a Level 1 school.
- c. We need to do more to help our “at-risk” students reach at least typical growth, especially as this group now counts double in school accountability ratings. School admin is working on additional academic and social-emotional supports for this group.

The meeting concluded with school council members being asked to brainstorm potential school improvement projects / initiatives that would have a budgetary impact, as the next meeting on October 22nd will seek school council input as the 2019-20 budget is built.

Our next meeting will open with a tour of the building facility to view recent improvements and to identify opportunities / needs that should be addressed through either the building budget or the capital improvement budget.

The school council set its next meeting for Monday, October 22<sup>nd</sup> at 3:30 PM in the MRMS conference room.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark Wilson, MRMS principal