

School Council Minutes
January 28, 2019

In attendance:

Mark Wilson, principal
Michael Schaffer, teacher
Michael Newby, teacher
Wyatt Sullivan, teacher
Sarah Cortese, teacher
Diane Nash, parent
Joy Jordan, parent
Kim Robbins, parent
Doreen Escher, parent
Nicole Moniz, parent

Unavailable:

Cheri Armstrong, teacher
Emily Milan, parent

The meeting opened with school council members reviewing, discussing, and unanimously approving – with one abstention – the minutes from its December 3, 2018 school council meeting.

The meeting continued with school council members receiving, reviewing, and discussing a one-page summary of the district’s new Strategic Plan that was adopted by school committee on December 13, 2018. After a brief discussion about the four strategic objectives, school council members prioritized the objectives by placing “green dots” next to those they felt were more urgent and “blue dots” next to those they perceived to be in reasonable stead already or those that could wait a bit without undue risk.

Following this activity, the school council members felt...

- **Strategic Objective 2: Strengthen Social and Emotional Wellbeing** through a deliberate focus on the development of healthy, supportive relationships and a fully integrated social-emotional learning curriculum AND
- **Strategic Objective 3: Close the Achievement Gap** by developing and implementing targeted instruction and supports to improve outcomes for the largest and most persistent achievement gaps

...were the most appropriate places to focus our initial efforts at MRMS. In a parallel exercise conducted at the February 6th faculty meeting, MRMS teaching staff independently reached the same conclusions / set the same priorities. See attached graphic at end of these notes.

The meeting continued with school council members reviewing a DRAFT of several “themed pathways” that could personalize student learning experiences and provide opportunities for them to express more preference / choice / voice.

Although the school council reached general agreement that the DRAFT “themed pathways” show interesting potential for shaping the school’s identity and creating engaging experiences for students – particularly the more fleshed-out Academy of Engineering and Environmental Science – additional information about how the various curriculums would be delivered without detracting from other obligations and outcomes is needed.

In a parallel venture, the school is also exploring the possibility of creating “themed pathways” that reflect the Career and Technical Education (CTE – Chapter 74) standards. In the near future, school science teachers will be performing a “crosswalk” between the CTE standards for Marine Science and Aquaculture and our MS science standards to see if we can use our existing curricula + seminar offerings to create a “themed pathway” that lays the foundation for a CTE offering, possibly using the existing “Oyster Flats” course / environmental restoration project as a springboard. Extensive grant funding to extend the school year and/or Chapter 74 funding to support the program are both possible.

The meeting continued with school council members receiving a general briefing on the 2019-20 budget. With MRMS school enrollment expected to climb close to 490 students in 2019-20, the district has promised to protect existing teaching staff. In addition, the current 0.5 TEAM chair position has been expanded to 1.0 FTE and the current 0.6 School Counselor position has been expanded to 1.0 FTE. Both additions help shore up the very minimal student support department at MRMS. At present, the elimination of Spanish at both elementary schools will result in a job-share situation at MRMS as a half-time teacher will “bump” to the MS.

After inviting public comment and receiving none, the meeting adjourned at 4:45 PM with school council setting its next meeting for February 25, 2019.

	O	Δ	□	BL
Strategic Objective 1: Expand Community Engagement and Partnerships by focusing on families' equity of access, increasing community involvement, and further embedding service learning within the curriculum.	6	3	15	14
Strategic Objective 2: Strengthen Social and Emotional Well-Being through a deliberate focus on the development of healthy, supportive relationships and a fully integrated social-emotional learning curriculum.	24	12	1	1
Strategic Objective 3: Close the Achievement Gap by developing and implementing targeted instruction and supports to improve outcomes for the largest and most persistent achievement gaps.	4	15	8	11
Strategic Objective 4: Improve Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment for All Learners by ensuring our collective practices are focused on students, preparing them for college, career, and life as members of both a local and global community.	4	8	14	12

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38 ballots cast out of 49 staff

O	Go "all in"
Δ	Needs our attention, too
□	Good for now, can defer to future
BL	Blank - Indifferent at the moment