

School Council Minutes  
March 25, 2019

In attendance:

Mark Wilson, principal  
Cheri Armstrong, teacher  
Sarah Cortese, teacher  
Joy Jordan, parent  
Doreen Escher, parent  
Nicole Moniz, parent

Unavailable to attend:

Michael Newby, teacher  
Wyatt Sullivan, teacher  
Diane Nash, parent  
Kim Robbins, parent  
Emily Milan, parent

The school council meeting opened at 3:30 PM with council members reviewing, discussing, and unanimously approving, with 1 abstention, the minutes from its meeting on February 25, 2019.

The meeting continued with school council members receiving a briefing on the all-school field trip to Providence to attend Phantom of the Opera on March 21<sup>st</sup>. The final count of attendees was 498, which included 443 students (out of an enrollment of 459) plus 55 chaperones, including representatives from three out of the four local non-profits that sponsored the trip: Chatham Cultural Council, Harwich Cultural Council, and Friends of the Performing Arts. Feedback from students was overwhelmingly positive – many expressed awe at the theatre’s architecture and were duly impressed by the talents of the performers and the dynamics of the set. Providence Performing Arts Center will be sponsoring three reduced rate student tickets in 2019-20 (Aladdin, Fiddler of the Roof, and Come from Away) – MRMS will certainly keep the theatre within the potential destinations.

The meeting continued with a review of the school’s mid-year MAP results, with an eye on assessing whether students are on track to meet their end-of-year growth targets. School Council members requested the 2017-18 mid-year data for comparison. Here are the school’s Median Conditional Growth Percentile for each grade and subject – scores above 50 reflect student growth that is exceeding the norm:

	2017-18	2018-19
Grade 5 Reading	56	76
Grade 5 Math	56	60
Grade 6 Reading	67	55
Grade 6 Math	71	80
Grade 7 Reading	48	64
Grade 7 Math	62	63

The overall results are solidly positive, revealing above-average growth in all grades and subjects.

The meeting continued with school council members discussing a pair of “strategic priorities” from the MRSD strategic plan that both school council and the MRMS faculty felt were more pressing than other priorities described in the plan. *In order of priority*, the two are:

- 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.
- 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.

In support of Strategic Objective 2, school council was apprised that MRMS is continuing the practice of surveying students to gather their input on the following question: "In our school, are there staff members who show you warmth, understanding, respect, and interest, so that you are comfortable sharing your personal problems or concerns with them?" (A copy of the survey is attached) as a means to measure our success in building healthy, supportive relationships within the building. Coaches from outside the building were intentionally excluded, as these individuals may not be available for students to express concerns to them outside of coaching season. At the May 1<sup>st</sup> faculty meeting, MRMS staff will receive a list of the students "connect" with them.

In support of Strategic Objective 3, school council was reminded of the school-wide Brain Frame initiative, which will equip students with six flexible "mind maps" to help them capture and organize textual evidence in preparation for writing essays.

The meeting concluded with School Council members expressing interest in pursuing the possibility of school uniforms for the upcoming school year, and agreed to bring examples of school uniforms / descriptions of school uniform policies to their next meeting, which was set for April 29<sup>th</sup> at 3:30 PM.

The school council meeting adjourned at 4:35.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark Wilson