

School Council Minutes  
May 20, 2019

In attendance:

Mark Wilson, principal  
Michael Newby, teacher  
Cheri Armstrong, teacher  
Sarah Cortese, teacher  
Diane Nash, parent  
Joy Jordan, parent  
Doreen Escher, parent

Unavailable:

Michael Schaffer, teacher  
Wyatt Sullivan, teacher  
Kim Robbins, parent  
Emily Milan, parent  
Nicole Moniz, parent

The meeting opened with school council members reviewing, discussing, and unanimously approving, with two abstentions, the minutes from its meeting on April 29, 2019.

The meeting continued with school council members participating in a “school identity” activity, with each member confidentially recording several words or short phrases they feel accurately describes MRMS, sharing their responses, and grouping similar responses together.

**Grouping 1:** innovative; custom pathways for learning; out-of-the-box thinking; innovative curriculum; committed to new learning initiatives

**Grouping 2:** community-service oriented; environmentally responsible; environmentally aware; socially conscience

**Grouping 3:** caring faculty; connectedness; caring for every student; thoughtful; consistent

**Grouping 4:** extended learning opportunities; sharks never sleep; leaders in teaching

**Grouping 5:** academically challenging; love of reading; writing for clear communication

The school will consider using one or more of these groupings as organizing themes for any descriptive brochures and/or informational briefings we prepare about our school.

The meeting continued with discussion on a new business item – the Washington D.C. trip – which was advanced to the fore of the agenda by a school council member’s request for clarity around plans for continuing this travel opportunity during the 2019-20 school year. Principal Wilson reminded school council members that the Washington D.C. trip has always been run by staff volunteers who are uncompensated for time spent chaperoning students outside school hours or organizing the logistics for the travel opportunity. Consequently, there can be no expectation that the trip is a recurring annual event.

Two MRMS staff members are currently exploring the possibility of sponsoring a travel opportunity, but there are no promises or suggestions that any trip will run. If anything changes

on this topic, the first step will be to secure school committee approval for an out-of-state field trip so interested parties can review school council agendas to keep current on this – and all other – matters pertaining to school operations.

The meeting continued with school council members receiving a briefing from Principal Wilson on the school's efforts to build a sequence of courses that align with the outcomes for a Marine Science and Aquaculture program under Chapter 71 Career and Technical Education (CTE). This spring's seminar offerings include "Marine Reptiles", "Oyster Flats", and "Cape Cod Natural History: Birds and Marine Mammals". Each of these courses address a subset of the curriculum goals for the CTE program, and move the school closer to organizing the courses into a sequence that can be captured and published for students and reviewed by DESE.

The meeting continued with Principal Wilson informing school council members that he would be making a presentation to the regional school committee on May 30<sup>th</sup> on MRMS' assessment data and School Improvement Plan, and opening the discussion for input from school council on topics / data to include. Attached, please find a copy of the presentation – all school council members are invited to attend the May 30<sup>th</sup> meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 4:35 PM with Principal Wilson thanking all members for their dedicated service, their thoughtful input, and their kind actions throughout the year, as the May 20<sup>th</sup> meeting marks the end of the School Council meeting calendar for 2018-19.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark Wilson, MRMS principal