

School Council Minutes
September 25, 2017

Present:

Mark Wilson, principal
Michael Schaffer, teacher
Michael Newby, teacher
Jesse Malloy, teacher
Sarah Cortese, teacher
Joy Jordan, parent
Kim Robbins, parent
Doreen Escher, parent

Unavailable:

Emily Milan, parent

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 the school council members with a briefing on the SIP and presenting progress-to-date relative to various items in the plan. The presentation led to a discussion on three aspects of the SIP that could potentially impact the council's budgetary recommendations and/or educational goals:

- inequitable staffing, particularly in regard to MRMS having one counselor for the school;
- disparate results, particularly in regard to gender performance; and
- expanded partnerships, particularly in regard to opportunities for community service learning

The meeting shifted to Mark Wilson providing a briefing on the schools "One-to-World" Chromebook initiative, which has placed a Chromebook in the hands of every student. Mr. Wilson commended the MRMS staff for attending a full-day of training on effective use of technology to engage and educate students during their summer vacation for no pay, and the school will make "loaner" Chromebooks available to households where a student does not have ready access to a laptop, tablet, or computer at home for completing schoolwork / homework. For households without internet, the school library is open every day from 7:30 to 8:30 and from 3:15 to 4:15.

The meeting continued with school council discussing the change in start times and exploring issues / concerns relative to the shift. For the parents on the school council, the change has been perceived as generally beneficial. For the teachers on the school council, the change has been perceived as mixed. The principal expressed a concern relative to "equitable access" being impacted by the shift, and so the school will keep a close eye on attendance at after-school clubs and help sessions, and morning clubs and tutoring sessions, to make sure that the shift has not negatively impacted student participation rates and/or reduced the participation rates of at-risk students.

The meeting concluded with school council members agreeing to open their next meeting with a tour of the building facility to view recent improvements, and to identify opportunities for improvement that will need to be addressed through either the building budget or the capital improvement budget.

The school council set its next meeting for Monday, October 23rd at 3:30 PM in the MRMS conference room.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark Wilson, MRMS principal