

School Council Minutes  
October 23, 2017

Present:

Mark Wilson, principal  
Michael Schaffer, teacher  
Michael Newby, teacher  
Sarah Cortese, teacher  
Joy Jordan, parent  
Kim Robbins, parent  
Emily Milan, parent

Unavailable:

Doreen Escher, parent  
Jesse Malloy, teacher

The meeting opened with school council members reviewing and unanimously approving the minutes from our school council meeting on September 25, 2017.

The meeting continued with school council members touring the facility to view recently completed projects and updates to the infrastructure. The group appreciated the installation of carpet tiles in the upstairs 5<sup>th</sup> grade wing, but observed that classroom rugs in the fifth grade wing have deteriorated to the point of obsolescence. The council requested that Principal Wilson include a budget request to replace classroom carpets with floor tiles or similar flooring in ten rooms. The council was also appreciative of several technological upgrades, including new hardware (switches and servers) in the head-end room, reconditioned auditorium lighting, and newly acquired 3-D printers. In addition to requesting new flooring in the fifth grade wing, the council is considering a request to install windows in the big gym.

The meeting continued with a briefing on the school's Service Learning initiative. At present, the school has an approved proposal to partner with the Chatham Shellfish Department and use **Taylor's Pond and Mill Creek** as local water bodies to be field-laboratories for our students to study the impact that recreational and commercial use are having on this coastal environment, to assist the Chatham Shellfish Department by serving as stewards for the remote-set and net-set species currently being cultivated at the site, and to measure the extent to which the filtering shellfish are improving water quality in the protected area.

Additional service learning projects currently being developed include restoring the conservation trails that surround Frost Fish Creek, preserving the oral history of the Marconi Center, building a remote-controlled astronomical observatory, and exploring and understanding the colorful past of Penikese Island, the westernmost of the Elizabethan Islands.

***The meeting continued with school council members receiving a task to complete prior to their next meeting, which is to identify any large ticket items that should be reflected in the school's FY18 budget.***

The meeting closed with Principal Wilson informing school council members that the number of MRMS students with a 504 plan – “any student who has a physical or mental impairment which substantially limits one or more of such student's major life activities, has a record of such an impairment, or is regarded as having such an impairment” – has increased exponentially in the last several months as a result of an expectation that students with Individualized Health Care Plans be declared disabled and placed on a 504 plan. In response to the strain on staffing that has been created through this change, MRMS has drafted a set of criteria so 504 plans are limited to those students who are unarguably disabled. These documents will be shared with the school council at its November meeting for a formal review.

The meeting adjourned with the school council setting its next meeting date for November 13<sup>th</sup> at 3:30 PM.

Respectfully, Mark Wilson, MRMS principal