

School Council Minutes

December 18, 2017

In attendance:

Mark Wilson, Principal
Michael Schaffer, ELL teacher
Michael Newby, STEM Teacher
Jesse Malloy, Geography teacher
Sarah Cortese, ELA teacher
Joy Jordan, Parent
Doreen Escher, Parent

Unable to attend:

Kim Robbins, Parent
Emily Milan, Parent

The meeting opened with school council members reviewing and unanimously approving the minutes from its meeting on November 13, 2017.

The meeting continued with a discussion on current initiatives to recognize and celebrate academic achievement and growth, and to support positive character development, at MRMS. The council appreciated hearing that 309 of 455 MRMS students were recently honored at the school's quarterly "Stars and Bars" event, where students who make either the high honor roll or the honor roll, or those who earned high "student growth percentiles" (SGP) on their most recent MCAS tests, were recognized with a "Star" that commemorates their accomplishment and an ice cream "Bar".

The council was also updated on the school's "SHARK Citizen" initiative. Starting in early January, students will receive their "SHARK" charts and start earning signatures for positive behaviors. Those who earn twenty signatures will still receive a "SHARK shout-out", but requirements for earning "SHARK citizen" status will include an expectation of "service to the school", faculty nomination and commendation, and participation in leadership training.

The faculty senate is completing its review of the "SHARK citizen" guidelines and will bring these to the faculty meeting on January 3rd for collective review, discussion, and (hopefully) adoption. Once adopted, the guidelines will be shared with school council and students/families. The guidelines are also being aligned with requirements for national junior honor society and/or student council so they are mutually supportive.

The meeting continued with school council members reviewing positive outcomes for the school's Student Growth Percentiles (SGP) across both ELA and Mathematics, which experienced a strong upturn. A score higher than 50 indicates our students are growing – academically speaking – more than what is typical across MA schools. Graphs attached.

The meeting continued with school council members receiving a briefing on the school's efforts to provide targeted intervention and support in the area of literacy across all content areas. Key to this effort is identifying students who are "on the bubble" of reaching a higher performance level and providing these students with additional supports and coaching so they can earn the 2-4 points needed to raise their achievement level from "partially meeting expectations" on MCAS to "meeting expectations" on MCAS. As the average "partially meeting" student earned about 5-7 points out of 23 points possible on open response questions, helping these students make clear claims that they can support with appropriate and valid evidence is a strong lever, and the school's

unified arts teachers have been provided with a list of “partially meeting” names and key learning goals to focus on so we can help these students reach success.

The meeting concluded with an update on the budget. School council members were pleased to hear that their formal vote to request that a 1.0 Counsellor and a 0.6 Reading teacher be added to existing staffing has been received by central office and included in budgetary items to discuss. Although this does not guarantee that these positions will be included in the final budget adopted and recommended to the towns by the school committee (which has the final authority), the needs have been acknowledged. As the budget process moves forward, school council members should pay close attention to the discussions and decisions and they are welcome to address the school committee directly with any concerns that reflect the collective request of the council.

The meeting adjourned at 4:15 PM with school council members setting their next meeting date for Monday, January 22, 2017.