

Monomoy Regional Middle School
School Council Minutes
January 22, 2018

In attendance:

Mark Wilson, Principal
Mike Schaffer, Teacher
Jesse Malloy, Teacher
Sarah Cortese, Teacher
Emily Milan, Parent
Joy Jordan, Parent
Doreen Escher, Parent

Unavailable:

Mike Newby, Teacher
Kimberly Robbins, Parent

The meeting opened with school council members reviewing and unanimously approving the minutes from its meeting on December 18, 2017.

The meeting continued with school council members receiving an update on revisions to the school-wide SHARK initiative to strengthen student citizenship and leadership. The revisions were in response to two concerns noted in feedback on the annual EOY parent-teacher surveys as well as in discussions by the faculty senate:

- Students with questionable deportment were earning enough signatures to receive a SHARK jacket, and...
- Students with solid academic and leadership credentials were not always receiving recognition through signatures and SHARK citizenship jackets

The school's proposed solution is to limit SHARK sheets to their proper role as a PBIS strategy, and to create a new pathway for students to earn SHARK Ambassador status as a character and leadership initiative.

Consistent with those changes, SHARK sheets have been expanded to include ten additional "signature bubbles" so students can get "caught" doing positive behaviors that fall outside of the traditional "Self-Directed, Hard Working, Attentive, Respectful, and Kind" descriptors. In addition, earning 30 signatures no longer results in SHARK citizenship.

Replacing SHARK citizenship is a "SHARK Ambassador" proposal. In that proposal, a sheet that describes what it means to be Ethical, Motivated, Courageous, and Caring (EMC²) will define the qualities we are looking for in our SHARK Ambassadors, and students will have to write an essay about how they have helped others. They will also have to attend leadership training activities and conduct school service. The proposal is in DRAFT form before the faculty senate, but I have attached the DRAFT of the SHARK Ambassador sheet for your review and we will open our next meeting with this topic.

The meeting continued with school council members receiving a summary of the school's "Kindness Week" activities, which inspired spontaneous acts of kindness throughout the school and helped maintain our very positive school climate and culture. The "Kindness Week" activities will culminate in a pair of grade-level presentations by Rachel's Challenge on Friday, February 16th. **School Council members are invited to these presentations – the grade 5 "Rachel's Story" will run from 8:55 to 9:55 and the grades 6&7 "Rachel's Challenge" will run from 10:15 to 11:15. School council members are also welcome to assist with the "Friends of Rachel (FOR)" training from 1:35 to 3:05,**

which will provide a follow-up for 100 MRMS students in grade 5-7 on how to sustain the inspiration / spirit beyond the morning assemblies.

The meeting continued with school council members hearing about the “Evening of Inspiration” held on Friday, January 21, where 38 of 81 struggling students in grades 6&7 remained at school from 3:30 until 8:00 PM to participate in an outdoor activity, receive one-on-one or small-group tutoring to complete missing assignments, and enjoy a home cooked pasta dinner served on white tablecloths donated by CBI.

Thanks to the following staff members for their enthusiastic participation in the Evening of Inspiration: Leslie Botsford, Elizabeth Bourget, Will Viti, Jesse Malloy, Jennifer Estes, Jen Walter, Sara Cain, Sally Davol, Michael Newby, Kathryn Andrews, Cara Gallagher, Pamela Reuss, Diana Toscano, Deborah DeQuattro, Jake Sumner, Jodi Kelly, Matthew Barnes, Mark Wilson, and Cheri Armstrong.

The meeting concluded with school council member and ELA department chair Sarah Cortese describing the awesome, new grade 7 interdisciplinary unit currently being developed around the text “Beyond the Bright Sea” by Lauren Wolk. The unit includes guest lectures from NASA scientists and local Mass Audubon representatives, connections to STEM through navigational charts and tables, and a potential field-trip to the Elizabethan Islands.

The meeting adjourned with school council members setting the date for their next meeting, which will be on Monday, February 26th.

Respectfully,

Mark Wilson, MRMS principal