

School Council Minutes
February 26, 2018
MRMS Conference Room

In attendance:

Mark Wilson, Principal
Jesse Malloy, Teacher
Mike Newby, Teacher
Sarah Cortese, Teacher
Emily Milan, Parent
Kimberly Robbins, Parent
Doreen Escher, Parent

Unavailable:

Mike Schaffer, Teacher
Joy Jordan, Parent

The meeting opened with school council members reviewing and unanimously approving the minutes from its meeting on January 22, 2018.

The review and discussion of criteria describing how students become SHARK Ambassadors was TABLED as the DRAFT currently resides with the school's faculty senate, which has been unable to reach consensus on how to balance the student needs with staff concerns.

The meeting continued with school council members receiving a summary of the "Rachel's Challenge" and "Rachel's Story" presentations on February 16th. School council members Joy Jordan, Emily Milan, and Doreen Escher were able to attend those presentations, including the "Friends of Rachel" training activities that occurred in the afternoon. All council members commended the school for arranging the presentations and commented positively on how well the students behaved throughout the day – honoring our guest speaker, being respectful to school admin and staff, and supporting each other during the emotional presentations and afterwards.

Everyone agreed that the softer, yet equally powerful, "Rachel's Story" would have been the best fit for ALL students in the middle school, as videos and photographs of the tragedy were balanced by anecdotes that provided several moments of laughter. Even with those lighter moments, there weren't any dry eyes at the end of the presentation when students promised to accept "Rachel's Challenge" by telling the people they love how much they love them.

School admin wisely scheduled a debriefing session after each presentation, which occurred in homeroom. This was a vitally important part of the overall structure – the seventh grade classes that missed the debriefing due to a scheduling conflict with another guest speaker made it difficult for students to reset and refocus. Staff also shared that the presentations stirred memories of loss for many students, and school admin voiced that inviting the elementary school counselors to be on hand (as familiar faces to talk to) would have been beneficial as the school's small admin team was VERY busy with kids needing a little extra TLC all day.

School council concurred that, if the school repeats the presentations, Rachel's Story would have been the best choice for the entire middle school. Mark will share that recommendation with other schools looking to host trainings. The council also acknowledged that the school's overall culture is very positive and supportive.

The meeting continued with a review and discussion of the school's mid-year MAP "4-square" reports. These reports describe grade-level progress toward expected goals for growth and achievement to date. Here is an abbreviated summary of that data.

	Percentage of students who met / exceeded projected growth		Median Growth Percentile	
Grade 5	2016-17	2017-18	2016-17	2017-18
Math	46.8	56.0	42	56
ELA	50.7	59.9	49	56
Grade 6	2016-17	2017-18	2016-17	2017-18
Math	61.5	70.2	60	71
ELA	65.7	65.3	63	67
Grade 7	2016-17	2017-18	2016-17	2017-18
Math	63.2	70.2	70	71
ELA	71.8	65.3	68	67

School council members noted the consistent performance and/or the positive trends occurring in most every subject and grade level. Mark will share these welcome results with the school committee in the near future.

The meeting ended with school council members setting their next meeting date for Monday, March 26th.