School Council Minutes
March 26, 2018

Present:
Mark Wilson, principal
Michael Schaffer, teacher
Michael Newby, teacher
Jesse Malloy, teacher
Joy Jordan, parent
Doreen Escher, parent

Unable to attend:
Sarah Cortese, teacher
Emily Milan, parent
Kim Robbins, parent

The meeting opened with school council members reviewing, discussing, and unanimously approving the minutes from its meeting on February 26, 2018.

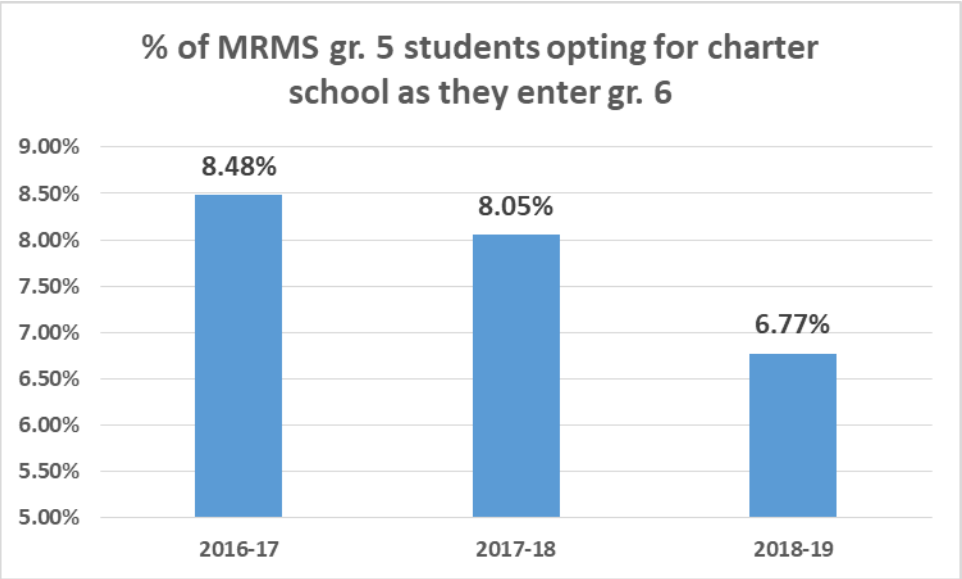
The meeting continued with the principal providing school council members with a briefing on a "positive relationships" survey administered to students on March 26th. This survey data was coupled with a similar activity completed by staff on March 7th.

The survey, attached as a separate document, gathered students' perceptions on the extent to which each feels like they have a "positive relationship" with a trusted adult in our building - someone who shows them warmth, understanding, respect, and interest so that they are comfortable sharing their personal problems or concerns with the adult.

By asking the question of both students and staff, building admin was able to analyze the data and validate a heartwarming result – 94.9% of all MRMS students report they have a "positive relationship" with one or more adults in our building. At the state level, 73% of middle school students report having this kind of relationship, so our school's score is exceptionally high on this key aspect of school culture.

The meeting continued with a review and discussion of the FY19 budget and staffing reassignments / reallocations. There were several updates. Melissa Maguire, the district's director of student services, has reorganized both the middle school and the high school staffing. As a result of changes in the middle school, Lea Emberg will no longer serve as 0.5 TEAM chair and 0.5 School Psychologist. Instead, she will become a 1.0 School Psychologist and the school will conduct a search for a 0.5 TEAM chair to back-fill. In addition, MRMS welcomes long-time HS school adjustment counselor Susan Whitcomb to the MS as a 0.5 school adjustment counselor for next year. The addition, although less than the 1.0 formal request made by the MRMS school council to the MRSD school committee, will help address the counselling shortfall that currently exists where there is one counsellor for 459 students.

With regard to the impact of school choice / charter school enrollments on class size and/or programmatic offerings, MRMS appears to be holding onto an increasing percentage of students each year. Here is a graph of "% of MRMS students opting for charter school" as they transition from grade 5 to grade 6. Nice downward trend.



The meeting continued with school council members receiving a building and facilities update, focusing on the steps being taken to repair damage to the roof from winter nor'easters. Members toured the classrooms that suffered minor water damage, applauded our custodians' efforts to routinely treat impacted areas with school-safe mold and mildew retardant, and supported the approximately $130,000 proposal to fully replace the aging roof.

The meeting continued with school council members receiving an invite to attend the school's first Empty Bowls – Full Hearts fundraiser to support the Monomoy Market, followed by a tour of the market and chance to learn about the project being sponsored by the MRMS Human Rights Academy.

The meeting adjourned with school council members setting their next meeting for Monday, April 30th.