

School Council Minutes  
April 10, 2017

Present:

Unable to attend:

Mark Wilson, Principal  
Cheri Armstrong, Teacher  
Kathy Andrews, Teacher  
Janet Our, Parent  
Joy Jordan, Parent  
Cheryl Mador, Parent

None

The meeting opened with School Council members reviewing and unanimously approving, with one revision to accurately reflect the correct date for the meeting, of the minutes from its meeting on February 27, 2017.

The meeting continued with School Council members receiving an update on plans to run the second annual “Shark Field Day”, which is scheduled for Monday, June 19<sup>th</sup> with a rain date of Tuesday, June 20<sup>th</sup>. MRMS is seeking parent assistance for donations of popsicles and fruit juice drinks.

The meeting continued with School Council members hearing plans for the seventh grade “end-of-middle-school” field trip to Blue Man Group on Wednesday, May 31<sup>st</sup>. The trip is consistent with our school improvement goal to provide unusual field trips, special events, and unique happenings for our middle school students, and this trip is dedicated to recognizing and celebrating our seventh graders as they reach an educational milestone and prepare to move out of middle school and on to high school. The MRMS Parents Group has partnered with the Friends of the Performing Arts (FOPA) to co-sponsor the class trip, which will provide our students with two experiences. The first is a civic engagement experience that will give our students a tour of the MA State House with Representative Sarah Peake from the Fourth Barnstable District (which consists of Chatham, Eastham, Harwich, Orleans, Provincetown, Truro, Wellfleet, and Precinct 3 in Brewster). The second will be a theatrical experience that will give our students a matinee performance of the Blue Man Group at the Charles Street Playhouse.

The meeting continued with School Council members discussing the school’s civic learning and engagement initiatives. The discussion included an overview of a new grade five unit that will pair Esperanza Rising with the United Nations’ seminal document on the Universal Declaration for Human Rights; a summary of a seminar course that addresses the U.S. Constitution and civic engagement through i-Civics which teaches students how government works through web-based games where students step into any role – a judge, a member of Congress, a community activist fighting for local change, even the President of the United States – and role-play the job; and an update on the school’s strong participation in the state’s civic literacy conference at the EMK Institute on May 8<sup>th</sup>.

The meeting continued with School Council members reviewing the pre-enrollment numbers for charter schools, which indicate an approximate 33% drop in the projected number of students exiting MRMS at the end for grade 5 for Cape Cod Lighthouse Charter School (18 students in 2015-16 to 12 students in 2016-17).

The meeting continued with School Council members receiving a brief summary of the expected impact that the fifth grade enrollment increase will have on scheduling / class sizes next fall. The school is anticipating a jump in enrollment from 149 in 2016-17 to 190 in 2017-18. To prepare for the increase, the school will add an additional section at grade 5 and create a three-person team (Chris Donovan, Sally Rutledge, and Danielle Laferriere. Chris will teach three sections of Math and one section of Social Studies; Sally will teach three sections of Science and one section of Social Studies; and Danielle will teach three sections of ELA and one section of Social Studies). The enrollment increase will also require the school to restructure UA classes, especially Foreign Language and PE, to avoid large class sizes.

The meeting ended with School Council setting their next meeting date for Monday, May 22<sup>nd</sup> from 3:30 to 4:30 PM.