

School Council Minutes
December 19, 2016

Present:

Mark Wilson, Principal
Cheri Armstrong, Teacher
Joy Jordan, Parent
Cheryl Mador, Parent

Unable to attend:

Janet Our, Parent
Kathy Andrews, Teacher

The meeting opened with School Council reviewing and unanimously approving the minutes from their discussions on November 28, 2016.

The meeting continued with Mark Wilson providing school council members with a briefing on the school's efforts to strengthen civic learning and engagement. Mark summarized current national and statewide initiatives, and then described how the school is using this work to guide its planning relative to creating more active and informed citizens. At present, the following curricular and/or programmatic offerings directly address civic skills and dispositions:

- Theatre of Social Issues - uses theatre as a means to inspire student self-reflection and to explore current events and issues (45-day course in grade 7)
- Seminar Block – several enrichment seminars explore issues pertaining to environmental stewardship and/or active citizenship, including: Art Attack, HJT Social Justice Theatre, Environmental Issues and Challenges, and Technology and Agriculture: Hydroponics.
- Human Rights Academy
- Student Council

Moving forward, the staff will develop interdisciplinary units that build a school-wide identity around responsible stewardship of the environmental AND/OR active citizenship relative to authentic challenges facing Cape Cod / coastal communities / region. The school will focus on three instructional strategies (service learning; current events and controversial issues; and democratic simulations) to guide student learning experiences within each unit.

The meeting continued with school council members receiving a briefing relative to student recognitions and celebrations. Last week, 302 out of 432 students participated in the school's "Stars and Bars" celebration, where individual students received a gold star (high honor roll), a silver star (honor roll), a purple star (high growth on PARCC), or a blue star (honor roll + high growth) and an ice cream treat. Mark will make sure the honor roll names are published in the local newspaper.

The meeting continued with school council members receiving an update on proposed changes to seventh grade foreign language offerings for 2nd semester. The proposed changes result from a seventh grade student who approached the administration with the request to continue his pursuit of Latin this spring, rather than switching to Spanish. The request was shared with the Foreign Language teachers and the HS staff, who unanimously agreed to support the student's request by permitting a small group of students in each language to pursue an "independent study", advancing their learning through a combination of on-line resources and teacher-guided – but self-directed – activities. Working closely with the foreign language teachers, Mark Wilson is

completing the entrance requirements for the opportunity, which will cap this opportunity at no more than five students in each language. Mark will share this opportunity with seventh grade households in early January.

The meeting continued with Mark Wilson providing school council members with an update on the One-to-World Chromebook initiative. On December 19th, Mark met with Jim Birchfield (Interim Director of Technology), and Kathy Coyne and Dan Cogswell (tech assistants from MRMS and MRHS respectively) to discuss the initiative and establish expectations. Funding will come from the regular operating budget, with \$34,000 dedicated each year to the purchase of a 13.5" Chromebook for each student. The team agreed with the premise that minimizing movement of the device would be beneficial to maintaining a sufficient number of working computers, and so the goal will be to acquire a total of 525 devices for next fall, with 495 in circulation during the school day and the remainder being loaned to households that do not have a dedicated computer. The district is also investigating the purchase of "kajeet wireless hotspots" so students without wireless at home can access the internet with their loaned Chromebooks. Mark Wilson will develop a school-home survey to determine the number of households that will need this pair of supports.

The meeting closed at 4:30 PM with school council members setting their next meeting for Monday, January 30th.