

# **Manor Park School Council and Home and School Association Meeting Minutes**

January 15, 2014

MPPS Library

## **Attendance**

Sharon Leslie  
Nikolaus Jakubinek  
Sue Noble  
Ray O'Flaherty  
Erin Yoshida  
Tomomi Matsuoka  
Marie Blythe-Hallman  
Kathryn Pizana  
Christina Kaeser  
Nancy Grinberg  
Wendy Colthart  
Leigh Anne Richardson  
Tami O'Dette  
Melissa Gomes  
Tammy Moffatt  
Donna Muldoon  
Bruce Devenny  
Mary Ruth Endicott

## **Manor Park School Council**

Meeting called to order by Leigh Anne Richardson at 7:02 pm.

## **Welcome**

Round table introductions.

## **Minutes**

The minutes from the previous meeting were approved. Moved by Tami O'Dette and seconded by Nikolaus Jakubinek. The motion was carried.

## **Principal's/Vice-principal's Report**

Please see the Principal's and Vice-Principal's reports.

## **Questions for the Principal and Vice-Principal**

Question: Is the growth mindset or similar approach being used in the classroom by teachers?

Sue: We have been discussing this approach as a staff and moving to integrate it more in the classrooms.

Question: How does the school hear about bullying?

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Laura: We hear from the parent, the child, other children, but we need a better safe process that is clear for the children.

Question: How are WITS recognitions handled?

Laura: The teachers fill-out coupons when they witness students using their WITS.

Request from parent: There are a lot of initiatives being used. It would be helpful if there was something that pulls it all together for parents to see how it is all connected to the larger strategy. The school agreed there are many initiatives in play right now and took an action item to better communicate strategies with parents.

## **Open Forum**

Question – Is there an update on the playground equipment?

Sue – Don't have an update at this time. The equipment is closed for the winter. The issues in the Kindergarten Yard have been resolved.

Concern – Thornwood parking is an issue. There needs to be a crosswalk or stop sign.

Plan (should we say 'ACTION' instead of Plan...?) – Christina will ask the Community Council or the Community Association about this issue. Do they have a plan to deal with traffic/parking in this area? How could we work with other community groups on this? Is it possible to designate a school zone around the school with reduced speeds, etc.

Wendy is working on the Council bulletin board. She would like pictures of the council members.

Concern – Drop-off at the back of the school. Do the students know to go around the school after the second bell? Is there a monitor after the second bell? On indoor recess days parents don't know where to take their kids. – They should be taken to Door G. It would be helpful to have a general message communicated to parents regarding drop-off and the weather. The school noted this as an action item.

## **Council Bylaws**

Erin and Leigh Anne discussed the bylaws. Erin had combed through the document and identified what required changes. All council members received

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a copy of the new version of the document. They updated the position names and responsibilities. They discovered the staff representatives have a vote as members of the school council.

They felt that having executive officers was a little formal so they were omitted.

Election procedures – we don't currently have instructions to give to the elections committee at the end of the year. Erin will develop a guide for the elections committee.

Separation of Council and the Home and School Association – this decision was made in 2001 because when councils became mandated by the province and parents feared that the schools/boards would try to control the money. The council is to advise the school and the fundraising is separate through the Home and School Association.

The Home and School Association has four offices, the Chair, Co-Chair (Vice-Chair), Secretary and Treasurer, but all of council votes for funding requests. They would like to add that all council members have a vote on Home and School Association matters.

**ACTION:** Leigh Anne asked that all council members read through the Bylaws and ask any questions that they might have. She would like to vote on the new bylaws at the next meeting.

## **OCASC**

Nancy was not able to attend the meeting.

## **Nutrition Break Intramurals**

Erin reported on the program. It is a large budget item but it is not often discussed. Therefore, she would like to get some feedback from parents. The MPCC arranges for sports programs for students from grades 3 to 6 during the nutritional breaks. They are free for all students. The council pays for the salary to run the program. They play soccer about 80 percent of the time but also play handball, football, basketball and baseball. They are limited by the interest of kids and the ability to supervise 40 to 50 kids at one item. Usually, the group is made up of about 80% boys depending on the sport and the grade. Parents would like to see more girls involved in these programs. This program was originally created before balanced day when parents and staff found that

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the break was long and that unstructured play lead to more conflicts in the yard. But with balanced day the breaks are shorter.

Feedback from council – this is wonderful program which includes lots of kids who might not get to participate in sports without this program. Would like to see girls more involved? Would having a female role model help?

Was there an action item on this one? I thought Erin may have been following up with Darren on a few things?

## **Speaker Series**

Sub-committee members – Melissa Gomes, Virginia Hall, Kathryn Pizana and Leigh Anne Richardson.

Budget – \$1000

1. Media Smarts – Internet Safety – planned for late February
2. Shelley McKay – in March  
She works with Do It for Daron. She is active in self-confidence promotion and self-confidence through exercise.
3. Child and Youth Mental Health Initiative – mental health issues in school setting. She is available in April.

Back-up option

- We are purchasing DVDs on different topics. Would arrange for viewings and group discussion. They come with discussion questions.

The committee needs to confirm dates and the library's availability.

## **People for Education**

Tabled – they are launching an initiative to evaluate the schools beyond literacy and numeracy test results. Handouts were provided.

## **Newsletter**

A newsletter was not sent out this week. But will be sent out the week of January 27<sup>th</sup>.

## **Discussion Topics for next meeting**

No topics were raised.

Adjourned 8:33 pm

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Open Home and School Association 8:34 pm.

## **Financial Update**

The monthly bank statement was circulated and the financial statement was distributed.

Erin has started a practice of refunding small amounts with Petty Cash (from some of pizza cash). All Petty Cash receipts are double-signed and the person refunded signs for the cash.

Playground Improvement – Erin believes we have stencils for painting on the yard. She will look for them.

## **Funding Requests**

Marie Blythe–Hallman – requested \$20 for a tote to house stuffed animals for yoga in the classrooms. Moved by Erin Yoshida and seconded by Tami Moffatt. The motion was carried.

## **Status Fundraisers**

### **Pizza**

Pizza is going well. The next session stars on February 13<sup>th</sup>.

### **QSP Fundraiser**

Tammy Moffatt will contact Chris to see how this fundraiser is going.

### **Dance-a-thon**

February 7<sup>th</sup> is the date.

The display looks great. Information will go home to all parents.

### **Mayfair**

Tabled.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:54 pm.

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Secretary \_\_\_\_\_

Chair \_\_\_\_\_