

Manor Park School Council and Home and School Association Meeting Minutes

March 5, 2014

MPPS Library

Attendance

Sue Noble
Sharon Leslie
Erin Yoshida
Marie Blythe-Hallman
Leigh Anne Richardson
Mary Ruth Endicott
Maha Albari
Sue Massaad
Laura Frappier
Ralph Mortenurro

Manor Park School Council

Meeting called to order by Leigh Anne Richardson at 7:06 pm.

There was not quorum at the meeting so there were no votes. Any votes will be held during the week by email.

Welcome

Round table introductions.

Minutes

The January minutes will be voted on by email.

Leigh Anne proposed that a standing agenda item be added called "Administrative Items". One item that will always be included here is "Status of Action Items from previous meeting" She would like to be clear on who agrees to follow-up on an item. These follow-up items will be clearly outlined in the minutes as action items. An item will be added to the agenda to have an update on current action items.

Report from Christina - traffic subcommittee

Tabled for next meeting

Executive Committee Members - Changes

Wendy has indicated to the Executive that while she will continue in her role as Vice-Chair for this year, she does not intend to pursue the chair role next year. Tammy Moffatt has been hired as the new librarian at Manor Park. Due to this conflict of interest Tammy will step down from her position. It was proposed that instead of filling the position at this point in the year, Sharon Leslie and Tami O'Dette will each have a vote instead of sharing their current vote. The

Manor Park School Council and Home and School Association Meeting Minutes

March 5, 2014

MPPS Library

vacancy will be mentioned in the newsletter and if there is someone interested in taking on the position we will discuss how to proceed at the next meeting.

Fundraising Coordinators for Next Year

- Pizza - Kathryn is stepping down from this position - Mary Ruth would be interested in sharing the role with someone else
- Dance-a-thon - Sue Noble will continue as the coordinator next year.
- May Fair - no one currently committed
- Book Fair - Sue Noble will coordinate next year.
- Magazine Sale - note sure if we will continue with this fundraiser
- Plant Sale - no one currently committed
- Nutrition Break - Christina is stepping down from this position

Principal's/Vice-principal's Report

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

Maha Albari has followed up closely with the bus drivers regarding conflict on the buses. She has done a wonderful job building a good relationship with the drivers and they are seeing a difference in the behaviour on the buses. One ongoing concern is the cars attempting to enter or exit the parking lot when the buses are loading (some of the buses are parked along the parking lot. The population growth at Manor Park is having a major impact on more than just class sizes and numbers. Parking and drop-off are proving complicated and it is felt that best practices are not clear. The council feels strongly that a message needs to be sent home to parents regarding parking and drop-off practices.

Action - The school will send a message home regarding parking, buses and drop-off practices at Manor Park.

Action - Council will include parking in the mandate of the traffic sub-committee.

Note - Ralph Montenuro is interested in sitting on the traffic sub-committee.

Questions for the Principal and Vice-Principal

Will the high numbers predicted for next year at Manor Park mean that we will get a full-time vice-principal?

Manor Park School Council and Home and School Association Meeting Minutes

March 5, 2014

MPPS Library

There is no guarantee that the increasing numbers will lead to a full-time vice-principal but it will be looked at by the School Board while looks at a number of factors when making this decision.

We have been short kindergarten teachers for the last two years. Is there any way to get the teachers we need in advance?

Sue Massaad has been speaking with the planning team at the School Board and they have raised the numbers for JK based on the experience of the last two years. It is easier to create a class than to remove a class. Removing a class is harder on the staff and students so Sue would not want to open classes she are not sure we will need until she are certain they are needed.

Open Forum

Communication

Concerns have been raised about communication with parents. This concern was made more evident when the council asked the school to pass on a message regarding the speaker series. The message did not reach many parents.

Sue Massaad confirmed that when she has access to Synervoice in April, she will have the capacity to email parents directly without asking the teachers to forward messages to the parents.

Additional concern was raised about lack of communication from teachers regarding what is happening in individual classes. The council requested that Sue Massaad continue to encourage teachers to ensure that parents are aware of what is happening in the classroom. It was noted that there are some teachers who are doing really well at ensuring that the parents of their students are aware of what is happening in-class.

OFIP Tutoring Program

Will the tutoring program be targeting the students with results of 2+ on the Grade 3 EQOA test?

Sue Massaad – a form was sent home to parents to survey which parents are interested in having tutoring for their child. We will then see how many people are interested and how many tutors are available. Hope to be able to provide tutors to everyone who is interested but if there is more interest than tutors, we will have to select students.

Manor Park School Council and Home and School Association Meeting Minutes

March 5, 2014

MPPS Library

Feedback from parents – the survey is great and it is wonderful that the school is able to help many kids with tutoring.

Council Bylaws

Table due to lack of quorum.

OCASC

There was no update.

Speaker Series

Feedback for Media Smarts presentation

The presentation was well received. Their website is good. The message was excellent and not too scary for parents. The message was to teach critical thinking and good judgement. There were approximately 15 people at the presentation. Thanks to Kathryn for getting the presentation organized quickly.

Pro-grant for 2014–2015

The applications for next year are due on Friday, May 16, 2014. It is time for us to think of things we would like to do. We need someone to take the lead on this project and to complete the form. The grant comes from the Ministry of Education.

Suggestion – Laura Frappier suggested that perhaps the focus for the grant could be kindergarten parents as currently kindergarten students currently represent 1/3 of the school population.

Discussion Topics for next meeting

Pro-grant

Traffic/Parking

Adjourned 8:40 pm

Open Home and School Association 8:41 pm.

Financial Update

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

Manor Park School Council and Home and School Association Meeting Minutes

March 5, 2014

MPPS Library

Currently, we have \$61,000 in cash and \$1000 in issued but uncashed cheques.

Dance-a-thon resulted in increased revenues this year.

We have money to spend to stay on track with budget but expect field trip and workshop requests to come in this spring.

Funding Requests

1. Badminton – **\$30.00** for 12 carabineer clips to secure the nets and also to purchase certificates for the participants. Requester: Erin
2. Dance Workshops – **\$2000** for Luv2Groove to come into the school for 5 consecutive days to reach every classroom, culminating in an assembly on day 5 for all to enjoy the performances. The dance will follow the curriculum. Other schools have had this group in and have been satisfied with the result.
Requester: Maha
3. Art in the School (Art Gallery visits) – **\$100** to cover recognition for volunteers coming into our school to deliver this program in French. All English classes have already participated, but the Gallery does not have French speaking volunteers. Maha has somehow found two volunteers who will do the program in French and they have not only agreed to come and provide the program to ALL of our French classes, but they have also graciously agreed to provide the program to our Kindergarten classes as well. Maha would like to provide these two volunteers with some kind of recognition gift such as flowers or similar.
Requester: Maha
4. Yoga Mats – **\$550** – This is to purchase approximately 30 yoga mats to use for Marie's yoga classes (she volunteers to conduct yoga classes to almost all classes). These mats would also be used by Karen Sercherchi for her Yoga club that also serves students. Marie would also use these mats during the Nutrition Break Yoga classes. The mats improve the experience for students and also help to create a natural sense of boundaries for all participants. Requesters: Marie and Karen
5. Books for the Library – **\$300** – These funds will be used to purchase much-needed fairytale books in French. Tammy invited us to look at the state of the current French fairy tale collection we have at Manor Park as she set aside

Manor Park School Council and Home and School Association Meeting Minutes

March 5, 2014

MPPS Library

several books in the back of the Library if we needed to be convinced.

Requester: Tammy Moffatt

6. Curling workshops – \$525 to bring Rocks and Rings into the school to provide workshops on Curling for students. Thus far, 17 classes have indicated an interest, but there is room to accommodate 21 classes. (If all 24 classes are interested, we will find a way to accommodate everyone.) Requester: Sue Massaad

We do have enough funds in our account to grant all of these requests. Erin's recommendation is that we'll use surplus monies from the classroom workshops to pay for \$1680 of the Dance Workshops and the remainder \$580 will come out of Program Support. All other requests will be funded from Program Support as well.

All funding requests were approved by the council executive via email vote.

Sue Massaad also indicated an interest in purchasing snow shoes for the school. She will do some more research regarding costs and timing. The request may be held over for next year's budget as the season is almost over.

Status Fundraisers

Pizza

Pizza is going well.

QSP Fundraiser

No update

Dance-a-thon

The dance-a-thon was a success. The class pizza parties are coming up soon.

Lesson learned from last year – it is important to spread out the fundraising activities.

Thanks to Sue Noble and her team of volunteers.

Mayfair

No update

**Manor Park School Council and Home and School Association
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March 5, 2014

MPPS Library

Meeting was adjourned at 9:00 pm.

Secretary _____

Chair _____