

Manor Park School Council and Home and School Association Meeting

Minutes

November 12, 2014

MPPS

Attendance

Susan Steele, Donna Muldoon, Marie-France Jeurond, Sue Massaad, Mark Newton, Leigh-Anne Richardson, Tami O'Dette, Sue Noble, Wendy Colthart, Sharon Leslie, Erin Yoshida, Aasha Logan, Kathryn Pizana, Christina Kaeser, Lindsay-Erin Beatty, Suehila Elkateb

Manor Park School Council

Meeting called to order by Erin Yoshida at 7:02 pm.

Welcome

Round-table introductions

Minutes

Mary Ruth Endicott moved to approve the October 15, 2014 minutes. Leigh-Anne seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Principal's report

Please see the attached report.

Mark Newton raised the issue of diversity at the school. We are a diverse school but is it evident? He will be leading a project to work to reflect our diversity more in the school. One example he gave was replacing posters with photos of kids currently enrolled doing activities or a school mural with diversity as the theme. They will also be looking at changes that could be made within the classrooms.

Questions:

Concern improving mathematics scores. In the passed the board focussed on problem solving now board moving away from problems to straightforward math principals.

Response from Mark Newton - Teaching math is a pendulum. We had moved really far to problem solving and forgot about underlying skills. So now there is a balanced approach being promoted by the board. Math is a development skill in school that is always growing on previous knowledge. Students need the basics to move on. Each piece is important so we want the whole school to use the same approach and language to facilitate continued development.

Care and safety in schools - last year we had the WITS program but we have not heard much about it this year.

Response from Mark Newton - Safe schools committee is starting to meet and has to submit report by the end of the month. The feeling is that WITS is good and appropriate for JK to grade 3. However, according to the School Resource Officer, LEADS does not work as well for grades 4 and up. The tentative plan is to focus on WITS for JK to grade 3 and to look for something more appropriate for the junior grades. One issue within this that will be focussed on is programming regarding digital citizenship.

Open Forum

October 22nd shooting - Sue Massaad reported that the school staff debriefed the day after. The school board has provided a tip sheet about how to talk about it with the kids. The advice is to follow the kids lead and use simple terms. One grade three class discussed the events at length and

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the teachers clarified some things. The board wide debrief was held today. The information about the lockdown was posted on the school board website but people went to school website so the procedure was not very clear. As a broader community it might be helpful to inform parents to look to the school board website during this sort of event.

Sue Massaad informed the school council that they need to update the principal profile (annual update of what school would want if looking for a new principal). The profile is kept on file at the School Board.

Sue Massaad was approached by a new photo company that is interested in taking over the school photos. The company is called Edge Imaging. It is a Canadian company. Parent feedback at the meeting was in favour of a change in company.

The Chronical would like to receive more submissions from the school.

Administrative Items

Follow-up re garden fees

It was mentioned that Matt McKechnie is interested in starting a vegetable garden.

Kathryn Pizana is willing to work on greening around the school as long as maintaining the butterfly garden is no longer required. It was suggested that Master gardeners of Ottawa or the Horticultural Society might be willing to help with these projects.

Further discussion tabled to next meeting.

Sharon Leslie reported back on some information about hiring face painters. The cost would be \$50/hour or \$3/face.

New trustee was contacted and will add things to the newsletter and will come to a school council meeting.

Email account – Clarification of what we do with the emails we receive. Emails from People for Education will be sent to the main list email list. School board updates will be sent to council and if deemed of interest to all parents it will be sent to the full mailing list.

School Council Goals

- Foster relationship with staff – important but not as crucial because we have a good relationship with Sue Massaad.
- Increase volunteerism – volunteer night – sub-committee to plan meeting in January?
- Would like to see one goal related to the learning plan – how would the school like us to be involved in the learning plan? Could Sue approach other principals about how their councils are involved in these issues? Could council talk to other councils about how they are handling it?
- Suggested goal to re-examine fundraising including May Fair scope.
 - o Algonquin College students?
- Suggested goal sort out greening project.

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Proposed Council Goals

- Encourage parent involvement and volunteerism via a volunteer night. - Kathryn taking the lead
- Review fundraising priorities, particularly regarding May Fair - December meeting with parents on executive and fundraising coordinators.
- Legacy plan for greening initiatives.

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New Business

Nutrition break programming is very popular and therefore a lot of work. Proposal from Kathryn Pizana to have MPCC take over the administration of this program, especially with a view to allowing for online registration. MPCC would be willing to take over the project.

Motion – that school council pursue discussions with MPCC regarding transferring administration of nutrition break programming to MPCC. Moved by Erin Yoshida and seconded by Christina Kaeser.

Motion passed.

Standardized timelines

Agenda – to be sent 1 week in advance of the meeting

Newsletter – to be published 1 week before school council meetings

Adjourned at 8:53 pm

Home and school opened at 8:54 pm

Budgets

Erin Yoshida reported that she is working on invoice flow with school for field trips.

Funding Requests

Rocks and Rings – \$175 per day 3 day all classes will be included. The money for this activity will be taken from allocated funds for program support.

School could submit proposal for remaining \$3400 in surplus.

Fundraising Update

- Pizza about to start second session. Going smoothly.
- QSP – sales are down about \$500 from last year. Only online ordering open till the end of June.
- Scholastic Book Fair – starts on Tuesday. Ready to go!

Adjournment at 9:10 pm