

Mary Honeywell Elementary School Parent Council Meeting

November 8th, 2018

PARTICIPANTS

Sarah Steeves	Elvan Kuzucuoglu	Barb Brunzell
Julia MacEwen	Chandonette Johnson-	Liz Popovich-Graham
Denise St. Jules	Arovolo	Martin Nieves
Barb Simeone	Meghann Gallop	Wendy Firth
Dave O'Neill	Audrey Buache	Harprit Boiteaux
Sarah Misseri	Angelina Nikkel	Carole Laporte
Robert Crampton		

MINUTES

1. Welcome and Attendance
2. Approval of Agenda
 - Robert Added in an update from Barb, and an update from Stacey on Mental Health
3. Review and Approval of Minutes from October 11, 2018 – **MINUTES APPROVED**
4. Finance Update/Report delivered per PDF – Wendy
 - Wendy reviewed the Financial Statement that went out with minutes
 - Balance sheet shows \$22,775 cash in bank account
 - Unrestricted income (not yet allocated) is \$4,469
 - Restricted income of \$27,000 is allocated for various items throughout the year
5. Fundraising Letter and School Council Online – Robert/Sarah M
 - There was discussion on the fundraising letter, and agreement on moving forward with the initiative
 - There was discussion regarding a brief survey for those contributing to the fundraising campaign to have their say on how the funding gets spent. **Decision not to link survey to Fundraising letter and explore other options.**
 - Carol and Sarah M to assist with writing the survey/post, Martin will work on the actual survey
 - Council **APPROVED** moving forward with the fundraising campaign and survey.
6. OCASC Representative/Beach Dance Co-Chair discussion – Barb Brunzell
 - Barb indicated she will have to step down from council.
 - As a result, another OCASC representative is being sought to rotate meetings with Martin.
 - **Carol volunteered to be co-representative with Martin.**
 - Additionally, a co-chair for the Beach Dance is also required.
 - **Harprit Boiteaux volunteered to be co-chair with Angelina.**
7. Other (place holder for forgotten or newly added items)

A. Mental Health (Follow-Up to October Meeting)

- There was discussion regarding a two hour workshop that Dr. Maggie Mamen runs on mental wellness. Council members can read more about it in the web link shared. If MHES Council ran this event, we could promote it to other schools and the broader community.
- Denise to follow-up with Pete regarding the list of resources he was going to gather from teachers.
- Further ideas suggested included: yoga, workshops on coping with stress for families, learning disabilities association of Ottawa.
- Sarah M was going to explore availability for some of these suggestions on Thursdays (as that is when the council has space booked).
- Motion was put forward to go ahead with the Dr. Mamen workshop (with a cost of up to \$1000).

MOTION APPROVED

B. Reminder: If you can't make it to a meeting, please send an email to the Mary Honeywell Council Email (for Quorum).

C. There was also a brief discussion about internet safety workshop delivered by Paul Davis. Cost was \$1200, though not many people attended. **This was recently raised as an issue again, for future discussion in the New Year.**

8. Principal's Update - Denise, on behalf of Pete

- Some developments with extra-curricular activities: Borden ball has started up, choir is up and running
- School learning and well-being plan for this year is focused on math.
 - o Scores in EQAO were not as great as administration would have hoped.
 - o School-wide activity recently completed: math hamsters throughout the school, which encouraged students to solve math equations. At the end there was a draw and a few students won Indigo gift cards.
 - o Mathletes took place the week previous, Denise thanked council for their support with this event.
 - o Week in Review email includes math questions each week, to help families with carrying on math at home.
 - o As part of the wellbeing plan, admin is working on creating a welcoming and safe environment for events and activities. This has resulted in the creation of clubs and teams that appeal to wide array of students, such as: kindness club, ukulele club, health club, art club is coming (Jessica Fleury teacher), student Leaders, cartoon drawing club.
- Some Algonquin College Child and Youth worker students are completing placements at the school – they will be working on games clubs and other activities, and always supervised by staff.
- School clothing now available for order through school cash online. Demo products are available in the office for sizing.
- Admin and staff visibility and accessibility – Admin is much more available this year, more visible on the yard, visiting classrooms more frequently.
- Regarding wellness, anxiety, challenging behaviours and disciplines, admin is taking the following approaches:
 - o Behaviour Management Systems - EAs, Pete, Denise and some teachers have been trained in BMS: when behaviours escalate how to respond/intervene. BMS is a training opportunity that any staff can register for.
 - o Restorative Practices – Brings persons harmed and person who harmed them together, develop agreements what will be done to make things right. Putting the onus and responsibility on the child to make things right.

- Collaborative problem solving – Identifying lagging skills that we need to be teaching students vs. problematic behavior. Working in collaboration.
- WITS approach
- Anxiety – referrals to school social worker for children requiring more intervention
- Body break room (the aquarium), involves rounds of physical then quiet activity, choice activity – for anxiety or behavioural concerns
- The school currently has 8 EAs in the Autism program and 2 mainstream EAs which support some of the kids needing support – behavioural or otherwise – including preventative check ins
- Zones of regulation approach
- Parent Teacher Interviews are coming up later this month, as is the Scholastic Book Fair.
- There was some discussion around the process for signing up for clubs/activities. Some felt there should be more communication with parents; but admin mentioned they are trying to put the emphasis on the students to take initiative to sign up. **Some information on clubs and activities will continue to be included in the Week in Review email.**

9. Math Presentation and Questions – Barb Simeone

- Throughout most of the board, the focus is on math – regardless of EQAO scores
- Focus is on automaticity and efficiency – time to complete a problem, strategies, repetitiveness
- Parents can support automaticity by practicing with students throughout the day, flash cards, random questions, etc...
- There are different strategies and ways to learn, but the curriculum is leading the kids to strategies that are most effective
- It is important to get kids to discuss the strategies they use – debriefing
- There is value in learning multiplication tables
- Supporting kids to become math fluent – math is fun.
- Cross curricular - even teachers not teaching math – there is discussion on how math applies to everything.
- Math Up online program – teachers and students will be able to access this shortly.
- At staff meetings Pete and Denise promoting math in all classrooms

Next Steps:

- Looking into offering a math parent night. Invite parents to come in and see what math is all about these days. For all parents of all grades.
- Weekly math activities in the week in review emails. Alternating junior and primary. Engaging students in math in all subjects.
- The board does not provide extra funding based on low EQAO scores; however, there is some additional support, by way of the Ontario Focused Intervention Program – the Ministry provides funding to schools for tutoring program Monday/Wednesdays and Tuesday/Thursdays, from December to late April (1.5 hrs, 2 days a week). Students that would most benefit from this program are recommended by teachers.
- Junior teachers are meeting to make sure they are all on same continuum, exposure to various approaches and strategies.
- Standardized approach to homework across grades. Having consistent homework/preparation.

10. Fundraising – Sarah M

- MHES Fundraising account is up and running at Boston Pizza. 5% of subtotal before taxes is donated back to the school (not on alcohol). **Sarah will follow-up on the idea of a ‘celebrity server’ type of event where teachers or admin could participate as servers.**
- There is also the possibility of running a fundraising event at Indigo, where, 15% cash or 20% in Gift Cards come back to the school.

- Council **APPROVED** Sarah M to look into Indigo ASAP, and Boston Pizza in the New Year.

10. Updates / Reports from Event Coordinators:

Monster Mash Bash:

- With everything, income from this event was \$967
- There were 198 paying families
- Next time there will be no pumpkin auction (there was not much participation in the bidding on pumpkins)
- It was proposed that Rubbermaid bins be purchased to store the new décor that was purchased for MMB. **MOTION APPROVED.**

11. Upcoming Events

- Best of Season is taking place on Thursday December 13th from 430-730pm. There was a proposal to cancel the Council Meeting that evening. This was **APPROVED** by council.
- Coordinator was considering hiring a photographer for Best of Season; however the resulting discussion resulted in a motion that was **APPROVED** that there will be no hired photographer/photo booth at Best of Season. Email regarding volunteers is going out soon
- Holiday shop – Grade 6s – school run event- December 12-13-14. Money raised from holiday shop will go toward Grade 6 field trip. More info to come.
- First movie night of the year is taking place Nov 30th. Movie is: Incredibles 2.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:40PM