

MHES School Council Minutes - April

1. Welcome and Attendance

Karyn Jacobsen-Hughes
Julia MacEwen
Steven Mariasine
Kirsten Jacobsen-Hughes
Delin Hayton
Angelina Nikkel
Janice Ballinger
Barb Brunzell
Wendy Firth
Robert Crampton
David O'Neill
Pete Veurtjes
Denise St.Jules
Kristen Guptill
Martin Nieves
Kerry Green
Chandonnette
Juia Bilenkis

1. Review and approval of minutes

Approved

2. Treasurer's Report – Steven Mariasine

See attached

3. Science Night Update – Amie

Science night is on track for next Friday Apr 20. Radical Science will do a demo for the whole group, followed by 5 stations that kids can rotate through. Event will run 6-8 pm. Still looking for volunteers. Hoping to have 2 adults per station, plus a few others. The time commitment will be 2 hours. Cost is \$2 per child. There will be no canteen.

4. Fun Fair Update - Robert & Julia

So far, organizers have secured a touch a truck event, BBQ and ice cream, face painting, and several bouncy castles. Volunteers will be sought later on. Waiver forms will be distributed to parents to hand in when they arrive.

5. Cookbook Update – Carole & Elvan

Cookbook content is still being processed. Books will go to the printers later in the week. Targeting to have them available for Mother's Day.

6. OCASC Report – Martin

Meeting focussed on Arts programs that will be offered to schools, and the consultation for appropriation by School Council funds (the majority of the meeting). Most of the school councils in attendance were opposed to the move. MHES chairs attended and spoke at the meeting. The decision was to send the item back to staff to revise and present again. Discussion amongst council members surrounded the amount of work it would be for school admin to take on the oversight of council funds, and the potential impact on council-run initiatives.

7. Principal's Report – Pete & Denise

Staffing and time table. MHES losing an English class and 0.25 learning resource teacher. Overall, we will be down almost 3 full teachers going into next year. Staff that are potentially being surplused have been informed. Vacancies at other schools may open up some spots for the impact teachers. MHES was given a 0.5 EA until the end of the year who has been working in Kinder and Primary grades. EA allocation is due in 2 weeks. Denise and Pete should know if they are returning by the end of April.

EQAO testing will begin at the end of May for Grade 3s and 6s. Let kids know that they should not be concerned about this testing. This testing is meant just as a snapshot to give the school data, but it does not count on their report cards. Admin is hoping to solicit some scribes, who would help students who may need help writing out their answers. If parent volunteers are needed, Admin will reach out.

School survey for parents will be coming out. The school has the opportunity to include a couple of questions they want to hear about too. Council will be able to submit one of them. The survey is about school climate. Admin will submit a question about the school learning plan. Council's question could be open ended. The question from council will be due Wednesday.

MHES will be used as a polling station.

Wishlist items. Admin is in the process of purchasing items on the wishlist. Scientists in schools, for which council allocated \$100 per class, is being offered at a cost of \$9/child. Because wishlist items did not always include exact amounts, as purchases were being made, there was concern that there would not be enough to cover all wishlist items. For this reason, the costs of scientists in school was passed onto parents. Admin apologised for the miscommunication, and commits to keeping communications open with council.

The school is reimbursed for HST on many things (83% on all purchases where HST is charged). The school uses this money towards other school needs. In recent years this as been directed mainly to improvements in the portables (e.g., projectors). The following was agreed by council by majority vote: (1) if money provided by council needs to be redirected, this must be approved by council; (2) wishlist submissions by admin must include validated prices and HST; (3) admin will provide full accounting of purchases made using funds donated by council; and (4) any HST reimbursed to the

school on funds donated by council may be retained by the school and used at the schools discretion.

8. International Language Program Presentation

Presenter: Maria Ioannou-Makrakis

OCDSB has an international language program that is available to students on weekends and after school. The international language program is mandated by the Ministry of Ontario. Kids in K-8 are eligible. 2.5 hours per week. The program is also able to offer language classes after school – this would be broken down into two classes of 1hr 15min each. Currently 9 schools are delivering this program. Mandarin, Arabic, and Spanish are the predominant languages. Students receive a certificate at the end of the program. Students in the Saturday program also receive a report card. There is no cost for the program, but they collect \$20 per year to cover the cost of consumables. To run a program, a minimum of 15 kids are needed.

9. Other Items

- a. Outdoor Classroom Research Committee

Need a research committee – Pete would like to have some volunteers tour around to see what kinds of things could be considered. Barb, Kristen, Delin, Julia, and Janice volunteered.

- b. Vesey's – do run or not to run?

Deferred.

- c. Succession Planning – nominations committee?

Proposing to put together a nominations/elections committee to support the early voting for next year's council. Karyn will be leading this. Robert and Dave have also volunteered.

- d. Rise and Rake (yard clean up).

If anyone is interested in taking this over, Capital Clean up is April 15-May15. Please put your name forward to the Chairs. The teachers have already registered. This will be posted on the Facebook page.

- e. Pro Grant

Parents Reaching Out is a funding opportunity aimed at helping parents. Schools get \$500 each year, but can apply for more through the grant application. Proposals for programs that the grant could be applied to must be presented at the next Council meeting. Examples suggested included Maggie Mamen, Arts Express, TASAM, and resiliency. PRO Grant is due June 5th.

f. Spirit award

Will be circulated to parents soon.

10. Adjournment – next meeting May 10th

Meeting adjourned at 9:00.