

# MHES School Council Meeting Minutes

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**Date:** November 09, 2017, 6:30 – 8:00

**Location:** MHES School Library

## Persons in Attendance:

Julia MacEwen  
Steven Mariasine  
Kristen Guptill  
Martin Nieves  
Delin Hayton  
Denise St. Jules  
Sarah Steeves  
Barb Healy  
Angelina Nikkel  
Barb Brunzell  
Kim Seymour  
Janice Ballinger  
Elvan Kuzucuoglu  
Wendy Firth  
Robert Crampton  
Donna LeClaire  
Kerry Green  
Kirsten Jacobsen  
Pete Veurtjes  
Karyn Hughes

## 1. Opening Remarks

Minutes: Update Diane to Denise in minutes; approved as amended.

## 2. Treasurer's Report

See attachment.

## 3. OCASC Report

Reminder about Parent Conference and School Council Training Day on Sat Nov 18<sup>th</sup>, 8:30-1:30, at Sir Robert Borden. Limited Child Care available. Free event. More information available at OCDSB website.

## 4. The Saidat Show – Debrief

This is a one-woman show that is about belonging, self-acceptance, and positive problem solving. Even the Kinders were engaged. It was an interactive show. The show ends with a Hip-Hop workshop for the group. The workshops are divided into a morning Primary/Kinder workshop and an afternoon Junior workshop. The cost is \$900. Groups have some choice as to which shows are offered.

Action: Barb will provide information to the office.

## 5. Discussion Items

- Howl-O-Ween Party
  - The event was a success. A binder will be developed for future coordinators, including lessons learned.
  - Council is considering developing a feedback form for events.
- Fundraising letter update
  - Going well so far. There will be reminders sent out shortly. Council and the School are still looking into the feasibility of offering Charitable Tax Receipts.
  - Council will be collecting lessons learned.
- Best of Season
  - A new coordinator has been identified. The date will be December 14<sup>th</sup>.
  - The holiday tent will not be taking place, but the holiday baskets will be held again.
  - We are currently looking for a teacher to coordinate the student leaders in running the bake sale.
  - Proposal to encourage families to bring a food item or donation during Best of Season.
- Spring Events – last Friday of each Month
  - Messy Art (Feb 23)
    - Last year was the first time this was offered and it went very well overall. If anyone has suggestions about what they'd love or what could be added, please contact the coordinators.
    - Proposal to approve budget of \$1,500 for Messy Art night, \$2 admission per child, purpose = fun. Motion approved.
  - General discussion about volunteers not paying the cost of attending event (for family) for which they volunteer. Motion to approve passed.
  - General discussion about whether volunteers should pay for any food they eat. Motion for volunteers to pay for any canteen items passed.
  - Science night (Apr)
    - Proposal to approve budget of \$1,500 for Science Night, \$2 admission per child, purpose = fun. Motion approved.
  - Movie Nights (2 – Mar, May)
    - Previously, the biggest cost was the screen, which Council now owns. Planning for a cost-neutral night. Coordinator would purchase a DVD and raffle it off at the end of the night. There will be a simple canteen.
    - Proposal to approve budget of \$50 per Movie Night, \$5 per family, purpose = fun. Motion approved.
- Mural
  - Two years ago, there was a lot of graffiti, and Council discussed doing a mural on the "green" wall. Council discussed applying for a grant, which the City would support. Donna

Blackburn was supportive at the time. Since then, this has stalled. Council has even agreed on a design at one point. Being raised again to see if this should go forward and who could lead.

- Facilities might need to be involved if something like this were to go forward.
- Action: Admin to look into this with the Board and Superintendent.
- Council lead to look into granting options: Delin.
- Research committee update - \$17,000 previously earmarked for grades 5/6
  - The committee has not met yet. There is support to respect the intent and spirit of the initial fundraising goal, which was intended to support the older grades; however, there is a need to get the input from the teachers and kids to make sure their needs are met.
  - Something for the older grades in the yard was the previous plan for spending these funds. Play structures and outdoor classrooms have been considered. Other suggestions included field trips, using nearby outdoor spaces that can be adopted by the older grades, tech-based activity systems, purchasing sports equipment that is specifically for the older kids, purchasing supplies for some of the junior level clubs, a new facilitated program that is coming to Ottawa called “forest bathing”.

## 6. Other Business

Whole School Dance Program – Luv to Groove. Council has been asked to subsidize \$500 of this program. Motion approved.

Folding tables in the Community Room. Several are broken or damaged and need to be replaced. Council is looking for about 10 new tables. One quote at \$80 each has been received. Motion to approve \$1000 maximum for the purchase of 10 new tables. Motion approved.

Mitten Mondays. In previous years, the School has run this event in January to collect donations of mittens and winter clothing for the Snow Suit Fund. Council is willing to support and would like more information.

Lost and found. Normally at parent teacher interviews, the unclaimed lost-and-found items have been collected and donated. This year, there is a suggestion to donate these items to a school in need. Admin will verify whether this is associated with a request from a school. If yes, Council agreed that we should donate to a school in need.

Council website and twitter account are up and running. Discussion to make the linkage to the Parents of Mary Honeywell Facebook page.

## 7. Principal / Vice Principal’s Report – Pete Veurtjes / Denise St. Jules

Mathletes was a huge success. On Monday, Admin is meeting with the Superintendent on the learning plan. There will be further discussion on EQAO with the Superintendent, SLE team, and members of the board. Wellbeing plan is in progress with the intent to create a welcoming and safe environment that helps kids feel connected. So far, a range of clubs have been established to appeal to a range of interests. Staff and Admin have been working hard at being accessible and visible. Students have started to do the morning announcements. The general appearance of the school is still under review with the goal of renewing it. The bike racks near the parking lot have been removed for the winter to allow for

the snow to be dumped there during the summer without losing parking spots. Progress reports went home today and Admin is looking forward to parent-teacher interviews.

Admin will be sending home a survey on school apparel or swag to see what families are interested in. There will be sample sizes available during parent-teacher interviews. Order forms will go home late next week. Teachers will also do a quick poll of kids to see what they are interested in. Due date for orders will be Nov 27<sup>th</sup>. No online payment (cheques/cash made payable to the school). Expect to receive all apparel prior to holidays. Apparel will keep the MHES crest and the green and grey colour theme.

New website is up and running. MHES Admin now has a twitter account as well. Plan to post some of the events that are undertaken through the year.

Water filling station is still under review. Admin is working with facilities to have it installed. Current timeline is Apr 2018.

Scientists in the School. There is great interest in this from teachers and parents. Cost is about \$185 per session. Request for Council to consider funding this. Council discussed subsidizing a portion of the cost. Admin to solicit for interest among teachers. Proposal to encourage Admin to establish a universal price per child. Admin to bring motion to Council to subsidize anything that could not be covered. Motion approved.

OFIP tutoring has been approved. Admin will be able to recommend 20 students for tutoring. Children who have been identified will receive letters this week (grade 3). Tutoring will start the week of Nov 27<sup>th</sup>.

Follow up on Defibrillators. Board is looking at training more teachers to use them. Teachers will be discussing further at their next staff meeting.

## 8. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 8:57. Next meeting Jan 11, 2018.