

# MHES School Council Meeting Minutes

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**Date:** September 14, 2017, 6:30 – 8:00

**Location:** MHES School Library

## Persons in Attendance:

Wendy Firth  
Karyn Jacobsen-Hughes  
Steven Mariasine  
Julia MacEwen  
Kristen Guptill  
Barbara Brunzell  
Kim Seymour  
Tiffany Lavigne  
Christa Skillen  
Lyndsey Stuart  
Andrea Owens  
Delin Hayton  
Mark Diamond  
Sharon Diamond  
Robert Crampton  
Chrissy Goyette  
Elvan Kuzucuogtu  
Martin Nieves  
Chandonette Arowolo  
Tara MacKinnon  
Sarah Steeves  
Barb Healy  
Elizabeth Conabree  
Liz Popovich-Graham  
Janice Ballinger  
Laura McLellan  
Tracey Quenneville  
Angelina Nikkel  
Lisa Benedik  
Sarah Abramowitz  
David O'Neill  
Wendy Shearer  
Kerry Green  
Kirsten Jacobsen-Hughes  
Denise St. Jules  
Rowan Hartmann  
Pete Veurtjes  
Carole LaPorte

## 1. Opening Remarks – Rowan Hartman

Welcome and introductions. Today's meeting will take place in two parts, beginning with reports from treasurer, Principal and Vice-Principal, followed by the election. Introductions of select members of Council, Principal, and Vice Principal followed.

No changes to the agenda were noted.

Motion to approve: Rob; Second: Krista

## 2. Treasurer's Report – Steven Mariasine

See attachment.

## 3. Principal / Vice Principal's Report – Pete Veurtjes / Denise St. Jules

There has been a smooth start so far. There are 647 kids; 639 bums in seats. Board is watching our numbers closely right now because there could be a reorganization, depending on the number of kids in the different schools. A reorganization could result in more or less classes in the school, which could impact various classrooms. Currently, MHES is looking good in terms of having a stable number of classes. More information will be provided in the newsletter at the end of September. The Principal and Vice Principal have done a number of walk arounds, classroom visits, and generally remaining visible. So far they have received positive feedback from kids. Synervoice messages are the principle communication method, and there is a focus on communication with parents. The board is undergoing a website re-vamp at the moment that should improve MHES website. The board website has already been updated, but the roll out to schools should occur shortly.

EQOA results are coming in. Math results remain low, and there is discussion within the board as to how to improve these results. There will be a focus on improving kids' sense of belonging and pride in being part of MHES. This starts with the Principal and Vice-Principal talking to kids, staff, and parents. This will begin next week at the MHES BBQ (Sept 28<sup>th</sup>), where there will be more involvement from community resources, such as our Community Health Nurse. There will also be a focus on improving the physical environment at MHES, including the exterior look and feel. There is discussion as to how classrooms can become more involved as well.

Terry Fox run will be on a Friday, Sept 29<sup>th</sup>, similar to how it has been held in previous years. It will occur during the last hour of the day. Kids will be encouraged to bring in loonies or toonies.

Three fire drills and a lock down are requirements at the beginning of the year. Two fire drills have been completed so far. Allergy information is coming home to parents shortly.

The Principal and Vice Principal concluded by encouraging parents and students to approach them. They are open to feedback, concerns, or just discussion. The Principal also thanked the previous council for all that they have done in past years.

A question was raised about math results. Specifically, what was the approach of the Principal for improving math results in MHES. The Principal discussed the fact that kids tend to lose track of the

numeracy piece. In an ideal world, this would be addressed across curricula. Teachers also need to be comfortable in appealing to diverse learning styles. The Vice Principal also supported embedding math across multiple curricula.

A question was raised around providing food in the context of allergies. The possibility of providing a list of allergen free snacks on the website was discussed.

Thanks was expressed in relation to the improvements to the exterior of MHES.

A Kindergarten Teacher Representative expressed thanks for the funds that were set aside for the Kindergarten Fun Day at the end of last year. Also, there had been discussion about using the parent resource library in a better way this year. For example, putting this library in the staff room and making it available to parents was proposed. This will be put into place this year.

#### 4. Explanation of Election Process – Karyn Jacobsen-Hughes

The election process is outlined in the MHES Constitution and By-Laws that were finalized last year. Executive and Volunteer positions have been identified, and MHES is seeking names for every volunteer position in order to run the various activities. There are 20 voting positions; however, any parent is welcome to attend meetings and participate in discussions. Voting members are expected to take on additional roles, such as volunteer positions.

Discussion:

If I am not filling one of the volunteer positions, can I still be a voting member?

- Yes, so long as you are willing to put in a few extra hours.

Events not explicitly mentioned in one of the coordinator roles could be identified during voting, or could be run by non-voting members. Agreement, no additional roles identified.

There may be financial or other constraints for people who couldn't take on specific roles, but should still be able to vote as members of council.

- Council expects that all voices will be heard regardless of voting status. Some volunteer activities can be done from home. A proposal was made to allow the new council to decide which events to hold, and leave the remaining council positions as blank boxes for now. There may be select positions that may need to remain. There was a proposal to vote volunteer spots, and add any blank spots to the non-volunteer positions. Agreement for this approach.

A maximum of 20 people can vote. This already exceeds board recommendations.

All voices will be heard. This was reinforced by the Principal. This is also mandated in Board Policies.

Motion to Adjourn the first part of the meeting - Rowan

Second - Liz

Third - Mark

## 5. Elections – Pete Veurtjes

All those who volunteered themselves have been voted in.

Chair – Karyn Jacobsen-Hughes

Vice-Chair – Julia MacEwan

Treasurer – Steve Mariasine

Secretary – Kirsten Jacobsen- Hughes

## 6. Volunteer Positions to be Filled :

- a. Coordinators for current year
  - Babysitting Coordinator – Julia MacEwan
  - Volunteer Coordinator – Amie Scharfe
  - Fundraising coordinator –
  - Pizza –
  - Popcorn – Tif Lavigne
  - Website – Martin Nieves
  - Fall Event –
  - Best of Season –
  - Spring Event(s) – Kristen Guptill
  - Movie Nights – Sarah Steeves
  - OCASC Rep – Elizabeth Conabree
- b. Other voting members
  - Christa Skillen
  - Mark Diamond
  - Delin Hayton
  - Barb Brunzell
  - Elvan Kuzucuoglu
  - Angelina Nikkel
  - Chandonette Arowolo
  - Carole Laporte
  - Robert Crampton
  - David O’Neill
  - Barb Healy
  - Amie Scharfe
  - Tif Lavigen
  - Martine Nieves
  - Kristin Guptill
  - Sarah Steeves
  - Elizabeth Conabree
- c. Finance Committee Selection
  - Steve Mariasine
  - Kristin Guptill
  - Barb Brunzell
  - Delin Hayton

- Sharon Diamond
- Carole LaPorte
- Elizabeth Conabree
- Barb Healy
- Kirsten Jacobsen-Hughes
- Karyn Jacobsen-Hughes

## 7. Social Networking Safety Presentation – Oct 4<sup>th</sup> – Carole LaPorte

Paul Davis is booked for MHES in the afternoon of Oct 4<sup>th</sup> to give a presentation to kids in Grades 4-6, followed by a presentation to parents in the evening. This can be advertised in the board newsletter, and will be in the School newsletter already.

## 8. Adjournment – Next meeting October 12, 2017

Motion to adjourn meeting at 8:09. Seconded.