

MHES School Council Meeting Minutes

Date: October 12, 2017, 6:30 – 8:00

Location: MHES School Library

Persons in Attendance:

Amie Scharfe O’Neill
Angelina Nikkel
Barb Brunzell
Barb Healy
Carole LaPorte
Chandonette Arowolo
Dave O’Neill
Denise St. Jules
Diane Rivard
Elizabeth Conabree
Elvan Kuzucuogtu
Janice Ballinger
Jennifer Hazelwood
Julia MacEwen
Karyn Jacobsen-Hughes
Kim Seymour
Kirsten Jacobsen-Hughes
Kristen Guptill
Pete Veurtjes
Sarah Steeves
Wendy Firth

1. Opening Remarks and Approval of September Minutes– Karyn Jacobsen-Hughes

Round table - those in attendance introduced themselves, their kids, and their hopes for Council this year.

Minutes from September meeting, as amended, approved (Kristen, Dave).

2. Treasurer’s Report – Steven Mariasine

See attachment.

Treasurer’s Report Approved (Barb B, Jennifer H).

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

This has been an eventful month. There have been 2 false fire alarms, 2 student emergencies, the re-organization, and 2 students not making it home from school on time. The school believes strongly in open communication, and the school resource officer has been coming by regularly just to have the chance to interact with students and community. Parents can expect to also have visits from the fire department as well, as part of the School's approach to helping kids get comfortable with people in uniform. The school will also have its first of two lock-down practices next month. There will also be one more surprise fire drill before the end of Fall. The first two drills have seen everyone out of the school and accounted within around 5 minutes (actually clearing the school ~2 minutes).

There are three things the school works on: lock down (most serious, no one moves until they receive an all clear), secure school (e.g., if 911 has been called for an emergency on school, no one in the hallway, blinds pulled down), shelter in place (e.g., wild animal outside, allowed to move freely within the school, but people can't leave the building). The school will almost always let parents know of what occurred following these events.

EQAO results are out and the results are not great, especially in math. The board as a whole did not do well in math results. The school spent the PA day thinking about the EQAO results and looking for ways to make improvements. Drilling down into the questions that students did not perform well on has been quite revealing. There are opportunities for teachers to work on critical thinking in math. During the re-organization, the school was in position to lose one teacher. Rather than moving the teacher to another school, this teacher will support other classes, for example in executing the renewed math strategy, and will ultimately back-fill a maternity leave in the Winter. The school has also been investigating how to incorporate math across all programs.

The school also scored poorly in children's sense of belonging to the school. The school has been hard at work looking at how to help kids feel a sense of community. The school will begin a clothing drive in time for the holidays. There was a suggestion to produce swag other than clothing, such as mugs or water bottles which will be included. This is just a start. The teachers are also working on monthly assemblies based on the boards "Exit Outcomes". These are the characteristics the school values in its population (e.g., resiliency). There was a question about surveying the kids about their sense of belonging. The plan is to get there later in the year, and to involve kids through assemblies, clubs, etc. The school will also be starting a coding club, and will also hold a coding fair.

The school is beginning to work on the physical school environment. Work on the front of the school is already underway. On the inside, there is also work in progress to improve and modernize. The staff room, supply room, and equipment rooms are all in progress.

Regarding the water bottle filling station, the plan will be to use the school's plumbers and electricians. There is a 12 month wait for the labour, but the school is putting pressure to have this done sooner.

Pete and Diane have discussed money that was set aside for a play structure several years ago. Feedback from the teachers, as well as the addition of portables, suggest that there is no need for this added structure. The kids are playing organized sports, sharing the yard, and there have been next to no issues thus far. Kids have been very well behaved. There is a plan to discuss how the kids access the yard at an upcoming staff meeting. The school would prefer to see this money go into chrome books and

“tech tubs” to keep them safe. One parent pointed out that the money was raised specifically for outdoor education. This will be discussed further during the finance committee discussion.

Overall, Pete and Diane feel like things are going very well. The kids are super friendly and enthusiastic, and are eager to talk to them. The lack of technology in classrooms is apparent. Many kids have issues being engaged with pen and paper, and chrome books make a huge difference. Of course, kids will continue to focus on writing skills.

Council requested some information about Defibrillators. The school has a defibrillator outside the gym. The school has the duty to verify the machine routinely, and there is a log book. The machine is inspected monthly to ensure it has a full charge. The principal is trained on it, and several others as well. Refresher training is needed. On average, 1/3rd of teachers have had some first aid training. There are two first aid responders who are not home-room teachers so they are available to respond in the event of an emergency (Sherry Jessup, Ainsley Wetherall). Office staff are also up-to-date. First aid will be discussed at the next Staff meeting.

4. OCASC Report – Elizabeth Conabree

Every year there is a parent council and school training day, run by the Parent Involvement Committee and OCASC. It will be Nov 18th (8:30-1:30) at Sir Robert Borden Highschool. Karen Gorden is the keynote speaker. Child care will be available. If we would like to continue our membership at OCASC, we will need to pay the membership fee of \$35.

5. Adding Another Elected Member

Janice Ballinger was tending to our child care while the vote occurred last year. Proposal to add her as a voting member of Council was unanimously approved.

6. Finance Committee Update – Steve Mariasine

Proposal by chair to collect future suggestions for fundraisers and pass them through the finance committee, who would review and make a proposal to council. If you would like to propose an idea, please submit to the MHES Council email or send them into the finance committee. This would not apply to any events (fun raisers).

Finance committee held its first meeting in September. Budgets were set for known items thus far. **See attached proposed budget.**

Proposal to accept budgets for monster mash bash and best of season – Motion passed (Chandonette, Dave).

Proposal to accept the 10% percentage of tolerance – Motion passed (Diane, Amie).

Finance committee proposed to establish a committee to look at wishlist items to determine how we will spend the money we raise this year (could be the finance committee). MHES Admin, teachers, and parents will have the chance to feed in.

Proposal to earmark money for community initiative (\$1000) – Motion passed (Amie, Barb H).

Proposal to earmark money for supporting MHES families in need (\$1000) – Motion passed (Elvan, Barb).

Proposal to earmark money for an emergency fund for students \$1000 – Motion passed (Amie, Kristen).

Proposal to establish a Chair's discretionary fund (\$1000), that could be used in transaction of \$50 or less without pre-approval, and would be presented at Council after the fact. Two signatures are still required on any cheque from Council. Chair and Vice Chair will agree on discretionary purchases ahead of time, and present full report to council. – Motion passed as amended (Chandonette, Liz). Money was earmarked for outdoor education from previous Councils (\$17,100). Finance Committee proposes to establish a committee to look at the needs of the school and make a proposal as to how to spend this money. Steve will chair the committee. Members: Kristen, Angelina, Janice, Liz, Chandonette, Carole, Dave.

Wishlist: School is hoping to purchase 4 sets of 6 chrome books with a tech hub (\$2700 per set) as well as additional tech hubs for the existing chromebooks. This will be considered by the Finance Committee.

7. Fundraising – Kirsten Jacobsen-Hughes

Proposal to send a fundraising letter for the Fall Fundraiser that would allow people to send in cash/cheque or pay by PayPal. – Motion passed (Janice, Kristen).

8. Hot Lunches/Pizza Update – Julia MacEwen

Orders are still coming in. Deadline to order is Oct 13. So far there are 280 paid orders for pizza and 224 paid orders for popcorn. Feedback about the online ordering process has been positive.

9. Hallowe'en Event update – Coordinator

Seeking a new coordinator. DJ, photo booth, and backdrop are in place. We currently have 15 volunteers.

Dave and Chandonette will run canteen.

Julia and Sarah will co-coordinate. Janice will support during lead up to the event.

10. Activities for this year (dates) – Karyn Jacobsen-Hughes

Messy art night, movie nights, winter dance, science nights have coordinators. Motion to proceed with planning events approved (Amie, Elvan). Chair will provide potential booking dates. Coordinators can reach out to the Finance Committee for budget questions.

Carole and Elvan will coordinate a recipe book. Motion to proceed approved (Liz, Elvan).

11. Volunteers needed – Karyn Jacobsen-Hughes

Deferred

12. Other Business

A dog park has been proposed for the back of school. Council is encouraged to provide their feedback. There was a proposal that Council develop a position letter. This will be discussed at next Council

meeting. The school will also discuss with staff. It was proposed that the issue also be discussed with the extended day program and Elizabeth Ann Seton.

13. Round Table

Nil

14. Adjournment – Next meeting November, 9, 2017

Meeting adjourned 8:46.