

Mary Honeywell Elementary School Parent Council Meeting

February 14th, 2019

PARTICIPANTS

Sarah Steeves	Robert Crampton
Julia MacEwen	Pete Vuertjes
Denise St. Jules	Chandonette Johnson
Wendy Firth	Liz Popovich-Graham
Angelina Nikkel	Mark Diamond
Sarah Misseri	Carole Laporte
Mark Diamond	Delin Hayton
Martin Nieves	Audrey Buache
Meghann Gallop	Elvan Kuzucuoglu
	Dave O'Neill

MINUTES

Welcome (Robert)

Guest: Donna Blackburn, OCDSB School Trustee

- Donna provided an update on some of the board and her priorities for the year and moving forward, along with the opportunity for some Q&A from the MHES Parent Council.
- Donna shared her email address Donna.Blackburn@odcsb.ca, and encouraged parents to contact her with any questions or concerns.

Approval of Agenda - Approval of Minutes (Robert)

- Minutes were approved, with change of the date to '2019

Finance Update (Wendy, Robert)

- Canteen – There was discussion around the need for additional funds for Canteen for the rest of the year.
- **Motion put forward for an additional \$300 for the Canteen Budget (if needed). Motion Carried.**
- Wishlist Update - Wendy/Robert proposed dividing up the budget for Wishlist items as follows:
 - \$2700 Primary
 - \$2700 Junior
 - \$2650 Kinder
 - \$1000 Autism Program
- There was also discussion regarding the \$6K that has been allocated to the Outdoor Classroom. Given the large cost to set something like this up, along with logistical challenges, it was proposed that the \$6K be reallocated to something else.
- **Motion put forward to reallocate the \$6K from Outdoor Classroom to something else. Motion carried (10 votes for the motion, 6 votes against).**
- There was discussion around some ideas that the \$6K could be put toward (which could still include items to be used to support outdoor learning). There will be a discussion on this at the next meeting. Council members are encouraged to come to the next meeting with ideas for

discussion. There was some concern expressed by Admin around some of the ideas proposed and if the items would actually get used, how items would be stored, how items would be transported outside.

- Wendy flagged that there is still \$4K set aside to support Arts & Science Activities. Admin indicated this wouldn't be used this year.
- **Motion put forward asking Admin to discuss with teachers and come up with some ideas of what would work for teachers. Motion Carried.**
- **Motion put forward regarding the division of funds for wish list as outlined above (\$2700 Primary, \$2700 Junior, \$2650 Kinder, and \$1000 Autism Program). Motion carried (with one abstention).**

OCASC – Notice of Motions (Martin)

- Martin is looking into issue around Insurance Policies for special events (such as bouncy castles)
- Martin provided an updated on the province's consultation conducted in 2018. Consultation focused on:
 - Improving student performance in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM)
 - Preparing students with needed job skills, such as skilled trades and coding
 - Improving provincial standardized testing
 - Ensuring students graduate with important life skills, including financial literacy
 - Managing the use of technology in classrooms, such as cell phones
 - Building a new age-appropriate Health and Physical Education curriculum that includes subjects like mental health, sexual health education and the legalization of cannabis
 - Developing the first-ever Parents' Bill of Rights
- Since the consultation, Ministry of Education has indicated that there will not be a decision on these issues right now; rather this will be followed up on in a year or so.
- **A motion was put forward to seek support for OCASC to send the Parent Involvement Committee (PIC) their opinion on the consultation and follow-up. Motion Carried.**
- **A second motion was put forward to support OCASC in asking PIC to vote on this issue, and if PIC is supportive to take this issue to the Ministry. Motion Carried.**
- **A third motion was put forward to support OCASC in asking PIC to direct the Ministry to end practice of reporting teachers who still reference the 2015 Sex Ed curriculum. Motion Carried.**

School Lunch Update (Julia)

- Subway – Julia took the initiative to set up this lunch option with the school directly. Council was provided with the option of supporting this initiative, or having Julia coordinate with the school directly.
- **Motion was put forward for the MHES Council to support this initiative (and in turn, raise money via the initiative), with Julia as the coordinator. Motion carried.**
- Pizza – Slightly more slices sold this term vs. last.

Upcoming events (Robert & Julia)

- Beach party – Event is on track, currently under budget, lots of volunteers.
- Fun Day – Planning has been underway for months. There will be Food Trucks vs. BBQ. Many of the same events will be in place: Inflatables (with confirmation around insurance), Balloon Twisting, Touch a Truck, Face Painting.

- Movie Night- Next movie night April 26th. Survey will go out for choice of movie.
- Community Garage Sale – Volunteers needed to coordinate or event will be cancelled. *Note: Following the meeting, Sarah Steeves and Shane Cassidy volunteered to coordinate.*

Fundraising (Sarah M & Julia)

- Book Fair – taking place on Math Night – Feb 28th, before and after the math night components, and during the day.
- Teacher rep for Boston Pizza – Ms. Brydon is the rep. The Boston Pizza event has been postponed to April 17th. There will be three seatings for reservations – 4, 530, 7.

Housekeeping – Council Office Maintenance (Julia)

- Reminder to all that the Council Office needs to be kept tidy. If event coordinators are using the council office, they need to tidy up after themselves, and keep it organized.

Round Table:

Crossing Guards (Kristen)

- Kristen let people know that the Ottawa Safety Council is always looking for crossing guards.
- Wages are \$18/hr. Flexible hours. Council members encouraged to spread the word.

Principal's Update (Pete & Denise)

- Report Cards went home February 14th, if there are any issues go to the teacher or see admin.
- Looking forward to upcoming Math Evening to get parents engaged with 'new math'
- Admin is looking into transforming part of the library into a maker space. *(A makerspace is a collaborative work space inside a school, library or separate public/private facility for making, learning, exploring and sharing that uses high tech to no tech tools. ... They provide hands on learning, help with critical thinking skills and even boost self-confidence).* Admin is not looking for funding from Council for this, will be using proceeds from Book Fairs to support this, and perhaps donations of items (such as Lego, household items, etc...).

Meeting adjourned at 8:31PM.