

Parent Council Meeting
Thursday, February 14th, 2019. 3:00pm

DRAFT MINUTES

Present: Colin Skinner (Vice Principal), Tara Beers (Teacher), Kylie Etmanskie (Teacher), Kayo Murakami Wood, Judy Gerber-van Vliet, Alice Stagner, Angela Macauley, Heather Kushum Sheedy (Parents)

1. Approval of Minutes

Minutes from the May 10th meeting and September 28th meeting were approved.

2. Principal's and Teachers' Report

Tara B. reported on the following upcoming and recently completed activities:

- 100th day, Valentine's Day,
- Kylie's class to woodworking next week at Molly Brant,
- Grades 6-8 continue to participate in music with Sydenham P.S.
- Mr Beers is helping to coach boys basketball at Sydenham, which has enabled a Grade 8 student to join the Sydenham team.
- Mr Beers is also facilitating an afternoon skate for Grades 4-5 from Sydenham. They will join MPS on the Friday before March break. Kayo will be cooking hot lunch for the whole group. (Volunteers welcome and requested!)

Upcoming trips include:

- Dance workshops at Queens for the whole school,
- Kylie's class is going to the symphony,
- the Primary class will be going to the Grand Theatre in March. Their February trip was cancelled due to weather. The money paid by parents will go toward the March trip.
- The three grade 8 students are to go to Montreal at the end of the year with Central and Sydenham students.
- Whole school end of year trip to Gould Lake is planned.
- Other upcoming trips are Swim to Survive for Grade 3's, Science Quest workshop, Grade 8 SEEDS at Queens. 1000 Islands playhouse will also be coming to the school again this year.

Discussion occurred about whether or not to subsidize SEEDS as we did last year. Tara informed us that the school pays half the cost and the students who are going have applied for bursaries to cover the remainder. Two of the three Grade 8's will be participating.

Discussion around contributing to the Montreal Trip instead of SEEDS resulted in an agreement to contribute half the cost per student. This will mean \$200 per student - \$600 total contribution from Parent Council. All grade 8 students are going to Montreal.

3. **“Me to We” art project - with Central and Sydenham Schools**

Heather shared about her art program. This program would bring all three schools together to collaborate on an art project using upcycled objects. Students would have their pieces shown at the Wolfe Island Gallery. Heather is looking into grants for funding. Heather also shared her After School Art program lesson plan. This would be once per week in the spring. She would charge \$10/session. She is interested to know if parent council would be interested in sponsoring either of these art projects if she is unable to secure grant funding. Colin brought a concern about a conflict of interest if a member of parent council is also being paid by parent council. Discussion was had about use of school space and costs as well as questions about insurance. These issues need some clarification.

ACTION: Heather to continue to pursue grant funding. We will try to clarify policies on use of the school and associated costs. Please see note below summarizing Lisa's information that she provided to parent council members after the meeting regarding these questions.

4. **Feedback/concerns**

No feedback or concerns were returned in response to letter/survey by Alice. We did get some new hot lunch helpers from this outreach.

5. **Debriefing of current events & financial update**

a) Financial update:

- We were able to donate \$150 from the photo booth to the medical clinic and community centre.
- The poinsettia fundraiser brought in \$438.92.
- Fresh from the Farm brought in \$447.
- Our balance is \$3671, after already contributing \$1354.86 of the \$2000 agreed upon for school trips.

ACTION: We agreed to contribute \$200 for each student going to Montreal.

b) Hot Lunch continues to be a strong fundraiser with a balance of \$1301. Sushi lunch was a hit!

c) Activities

- i. #Onigiri-Action Family Night on November 8 was a great success. Thank you to Kayo for organizing.
- ii. Lantern Making Family Night on Nov 19 & 29 were a great success. Thank you to Heather for facilitating.
- iii. Christmas parade on December 8 was another hit! Thanks to all the parents and students who participated and increased MPS' visibility in the community.
- iv. Family Sewing Night was led by Angie on February 8th. Thank you Angie for sharing your skills with MPS.

6. New activity ideas in winter

- a) Paint Night - Kylie will check into using the school for a date in spring for this activity. It was a successful fundraising in the past.
- b) Poetry and Speech supper. Alice would like to organize a potluck supper in March where students can share poems and speeches.
- c) Cheese fundraiser - We plan to sell Wilton Cheese before Easter. Lisa will organize and Angie has volunteered to pick up the cheese

7. Alternative program subcommittee update

Due to time, this item was not discussed. Please see Appendix "Recommendation on the Choices at 7 and 8 Proposal"

**NEXT COUNCIL MEETING:
April 4, 2019 at 3:00 p.m.**