

Parent Council Meeting

Thursday, March 1, 2018, 5:00pm

DRAFT MINUTES

Present: Greg Seiveright (Principal), Tara Beers (Teacher), Kayo Murakami Wood, Judy Gerber-van Vliet, David Stagner, Alice Stagner, Peter van Vliet, Heather Kushum Sheedy, David Murakami Wood (Parents), Sus Bowers (Community Member)

1. Approval of Minutes

Minutes from the January 18, 2018 meeting were approved.

2. Principal's Report

- Ms Etmanskie has returned from her maternity leave.
- The Junior/Intermediate class was at Molly Brant for their tech week in woodworking.
- The sewing portion of tech will be at MPS in Spring.
- The whole school will attend two dance workshops at Queen's in March.
- The grade 3 students will attend "Swim to Survive" in March.
- The grade 7 students were offered a follow up to "Swim to Survive" but the school had to decline the opportunity as the students were not interested.
- Please send spare clothes as we are getting into wet, muddy weather.

3. Principal Profile

- MPS hasn't updated our principal profile since 2011, but it is to be done yearly. This profile is used by the board to match profiles to school principals' strengths when they are matching principals to schools. This is not shared with the current principal and has nothing to do with whether or not the current principal is leaving. It is a profile of our ideal MPS principal. Angie drafted the 2011 version and has updated a draft for us to view for 2018.
- Discussion occurred about the role of the VP versus Principal and how much the school board considers MPS' needs and the profile done by the school council. Greg responded that the question of how much the profile is considered would be a question that needs to go

to Krishna Burra. The profile is one tool of many used to place principals, but it is the one tool that communities have to give input into what we would like in a principal.

- Currently the VP for MPS stays at Rideau full time and Greg covers both schools, since some issues need to go to the principal anyway. Tara added that it serves MPS better to have the same administrator here each week.

ACTION:

Kayo to finalize the principal profile after council members having given input over email and submit by April 3rd.

4. School Garden Project

- Kayo explained that Ms. Etmanskie informed Janette that she would like to step back from the garden project this year. MPS has had the garden project for the past two years, and because her class has 5 grades, some students have already been involved with the garden project for both years.
- The garden committee approached Sacred Heart and Janette is now teaching the program there this year, including next fall. Sacred Heart will host joint garden workshops and MPS will be invited. These will include the strawberry social, seed saving, and a joint harvest workshop.
- Grow Table – Sacred Heart is requesting that MPS lend them the grow table. This was donated to MPS and our parent council purchased the lights. It was agreed that we would lend the table, as long as it is returned in the same condition.
- Kayo had asked Janette about getting fresh produce for the MPS lunch program, but Janette said that the SH kids have priority and the SH parents would like to use it for lunches as well.
- Discussion occurred about an after school garden program and if this is still possible and if the garden club would want to use the grow table. Kayo informed that SH would be doing transplants using the table to transplant in the garden. It is possible that MPS could request one plot for a club if there is interest. Alice wondered if SH could give us some transplants for an MPS plot for greens. Kayo suggested that we could contribute watering and weeding in order to have access to part of the garden. Alice suggested that we could offer to do some work on the garden over the summer in return for a plot. Greg suggested that we should see if there is interest in a club. Kayo informed that last year the students who participated did so

because their parents asked them to and so we may not have as much interest. Greg suggested we put the after school garden club on hold if there isn't much interest.

- Discussion followed regarding buying local vegetables for our hot lunches. Kayo suggested we buy veggies from Okee's farm. We could buy directly for lunches in May/June/Sept, etc.
- Peter wondered if we could have another after school program, such as outdoor activities or sports which might draw more kids. Heather suggested we could do joint after school activities with SH. Tara stated that the community centre board offers sports in spring and summer that are very affordable.

ACTION:

Kayo to contact Okee's farm to seek possibilities of vegetable supply for lunch

5. Alternative program sub-committee update

- Kayo reported that an informal meeting with some interested parties occurred recently, which included Cathy Christie, who teaches education at Queen's. (She also instructed at the seed saving workshop last fall and is involved in other environmental issues). Cathy suggested that MPS propose a new "Choices at 7" program to the school board. She offered to bring the proposal to Debra Rantz and/or the appropriate superintendents.
- The parent council would not be bringing this proposal – it would be a proposal of an ad hoc committee. If the board doesn't show interest at this point, the ad hoc group would not take it any further. If they do show interest, then the ad hoc group would open it up to other parties and the broader community to give input. This is a first step to see if there would be any interest from the board.
- Greg suggested that we may want to email the proposal out to all the parents on council and have a vote online so that we don't need to rush into a vote tonight. Kayo agreed that she would contact those parents who have a vote, which includes anyone at the first parent council meeting in September (excluding the principal).
- Debra Rantz was quite interested in the school garden project in the past. Greg suggested that the ad hoc group send a meeting request to both Krishna B. and Debra R. There is also another superintendent in charge of the Choices at 7 programs.
- Heather suggested that we should find out some information about how previous Choices at 7 programs were developed.

- Kayo reported that the ad hoc group will also approach the mayor as well as Sophie Kiwala to request that they endorse the proposal.

ACTION:

- Kayo to circulate email vote information amongst members who have a vote.
- Greg to find out the name of superintendent who is in charge of the Choices at 7 programs

6. Fundraising

- Kayo reported that our balance looks good. Tara reported that they are thinking of a whole school end of the year trip in Kingston, so nothing too costly. Sus suggested another Wilton Cheese fundraiser.

ACTION:

Kayo to ask Lisa if it is possible to do before Easter.

7. Other Items

- Peter raised the very important subject of MPS declining enrollment as a direct result of the Early Years Centre. Discussion occurred about the status and funding of Early Years. Peter has raised a significant issue in the fact that the location of the EYC is detrimental to new parents considering MPS as an option for JK registration. Over the years, (and especially with the current co-ordinator who has a conflict of interest in her roles with EYC as well as a member of SH parent council), the EYC does not act in the interest of the whole community but rather, as biased program encouraging new non-Catholic parents to register their JKs at SH.
- A few options of location of the EYC were suggested: 1) MPS full-time 2) MPS part-time as a rotating space 3) a neutral site at neither school.

ACTION:

Tara to look into the possibility of housing the EYC at MPS permanently or on a part-time basis. Then, Peter to approach the EYC with options to open a discussion.

NEXT COUNCIL MEETING:

Thursday May 10th, 5pm