

Parent Council Meeting

Thursday, May 6, 2021

3:00 pm

MINUTES

Present: Dawn Diamond (Principal), Lisa Posthumus (Secretary), Kylie Etmanskie, Tara Beers, (Teachers), Judy Gerber-Van Vliet, Kayo Murakami Wood (Parents)

1. Meeting minutes from Feb. 22, 2021 were approved.
2. Principal and Teachers' reports

Principal: Teachers have been bending over backwards to support and teach students virtually. Our caretaker Pat has left to work on his landscaping business. They are hoping to hire a new caretaker from the island. PAC agreed to purchase a thank you card and gift card for Pat. The plan for September is to continue with two classrooms: K-4 and 5-8. Mr. Beers will be returning in September. We do not know if in person school will return at this time this spring.

Indigo book orders are due tomorrow.

Regarding remote learning for the fall: if students are in remote learning they need to decide by June if they will continue remote learning in September. It does affect local school numbers.

Teachers: Tara reports that the transition to online school is going well; the kids are more adjusted as they are getting used to it. Thank you to the PAC for the new headphones.

MPS celebrated Earth Day, participated in an Indigenous workshop with Judi Montgomery, as well as Celebration of Dance. Upcoming events include a junior first aid course, jump rope for heart, and another workshop with Judi Montgomery.

Students are being recognized for their efforts to participate in virtual school. Names go in a jar monthly and a draw is done for an Indigo gift card.

3. School Council Financial update: Lisa reports that we have a balance of \$5186 in the account.
4. Yard update by Dawn: The lighthouse was removed. The school board could not fix it so Pat took it back. The township also did not want to take it on. The hope is that the yard improvements will be completed by August,

including the painting of new games on the pavement (chosen by staff and students), the basketball lines redrawn, and the metal posts removed.

5. PRO Grant - Indigenous Teachings and Family Workshops

We should be receiving the \$1000 grant soon. Kelly may be able to host a zoom, as we probably cannot do the workshops in person this year. A survey is being created now for families. Kelly will approach the public library to inquire about them hosting the Indigenous book library in the Wolfe Island branch. This would be a good way for the community to work together, and they could include a sign to indicate that the books were provided by MPS. \$800 of the grant will go to the books. The workshop series will be announced next week; staff are welcome to join.

6. Items to Purchase

Book order from Indigo due tomorrow. Please send your book titles to Ms Diamond.

Headsets were purchased by the council for online learning. 7 sets at \$478.39

7. Other Business

- a. Graduation: No information has been received from the board yet on graduation. Lisa and Kylie are discussing a plan as it is likely to be virtual. The class will be involved in some way. PAC usually contributes to the Grade 8 trip and we are happy to help in any way we can this year.

- b. Little Forests Wolfe Island

Teachers are interested in being involved in the project as much as we are permitted with the current restrictions. Planting will be in October but Astrid is preparing the soil now. Kylie suggested that Astrid could do a virtual lesson with the students. Kayo suggested to the Wolfe Island Little Forest group that they could build a learning circle space inside the forest. Maureen Buchanan, from the Kingston Little Forest group and a member of the Kingston Indigenous Languages Nest, has suggestions for adding a learning circle to bring Indigenous teachings to students in the Little Forests.