

**Parent Council Meeting**  
Thursday, May 10th, 2018, 5:00pm

**DRAFT MINUTES**

**Present:** Greg Seiveright (Principal), Tara Beers (Teacher), Lisa Posthumus (Support Staff Rep), Kayo Murakami Wood, Judy Gerber-van Vliet, Alice Stagner, (Parents), Pete Bowers, Tom Wroe (Community Member)

**1. Approval of Minutes**

Minutes from the March 1st meeting were approved.

**2. Principal's and Teacher's Reports**

a) Staffing for September 2018

Greg reported that we will have two teachers next year and will keep the same classes of grades JK-3 and grades 4-8. Our projected numbers are 16 students at this time. Tom shared that he knows of two new students who plan to register for next year.

MPS will no longer be twinned with Rideau P.S. next year. Rideau will have French Immersion only starting next year and the English track will be moved to Winston Churchill P.S. Winston only has one administrator on site, which means that they cannot be twinned with another school. MPS will be twinned with Central and Sydenham P.S. Jen Lawless and Colin Skinner are the current principals.

b) Upcoming Events:

May 23-25: SEEDS at Queen's

May 29-31: EQAO Assessment (Gr 3 & 6)

June 4: Regional track & field

June 8: Community Social (see below\*)

June 15: Dinosaur Lady visit

June 19: Full school trip to 4 Cats Art Studio

June 20: Thousand Islands Playhouse Company at MPS

June 21: Talent Showcase for parents - students to perform some of the things they've been working on

June 26: Graduation

June 27: Full school trip to Splashpad

\*Community Social on June 8: Lisa and Tara are in the process of organizing the social and will let parents know if/how we can be of assistance. In case of rain the social will be held under the rink roof. Plan is to have a BBQ and Gary Raspberry will be playing.

### 3. Business from Previous Meeting

#### a) School Council Financial Update

Hot lunch has been the main funding for all the school trips so far this year. Parent Council had agreed to spend about \$2000 on field trips this year and the total will be about \$1900. We have \$900 in the account for "parent engagement". Council agreed to use what is needed of this money for the upcoming Community Social (June 8) and Talent Showcase (June 21).

#### b) Possibility of Housing Early Years at MPS

- Greg contacted Michelle Babcock, Supervising Principal of School Effectiveness, to find out if it would be a possibility to house Early Years at MPS. She wasn't sure if this would be possible. Other schools in the board have Early Years programs (Parenting and Family Literacy Centres) that are ministry-run. The Wolfe Island Early Years program is independent of the Ministry of Education. Greg will follow up with Paula Andrews, Manager of Early Years and Parenting and Family Literacy Centres, to see if this would be possible.
- If Early Years was held at MPS, it would probably be considered a community-use program. There is a precedent for this, but LDSB may expect a fee to be paid by Early Years. Currently Early Years pays little or no fee to Sacred Heart.
- Greg wondered if Township, who funds Wolfe Island Early Years, would put a condition on funding so that Early Years would need to be held in a neutral location or shared between the schools, as it seems that the current arrangement results in Early Years families being funneled into attending school at Sacred Heart.
- Kylie E. has said that the Early Years board is happy to provide space for MPS information. Lisa made a bulletin board to put up at Early Years with information on MPS.
- Alice suggested that we send student emissaries from MPS to Early Years to read with the children.
- Kayo suggested that Early Years could come to MPS weekly for a healthy snack or lunch with the older students.
- Early years will be invited to a few upcoming events: Dino Lady and Thousand Islands Playhouse Young Company.

ACTION: Greg to speak with Paula Andrews to see if MPS would be able to host Early Years.

#### c) Hot Lunch Update

- Kayo will be contributing greens from Okee's farm to the hot lunch program. By next week they should have bags of greens ready. It is unlikely that we will get vegetables from the community garden this year, as Janette has said that the students at Sacred Heart will have priority as they are growing the garden this year.

- Cooks have been offering more vegetarian options recently and this is encouraged going forward.

#### **4. Alternative Program Sub-committee Update**

Please see the attached appendix to see Janette Haase and Cathy Christie's report on their meeting with Krishna Burra, our Superintendent of Education, and Stephanie Sartor, Associate Superintendent of School Effectiveness and Assessment. Stephanie Sartor is in charge of the Choices at 7 focus programs.

- Kayo reported that she and David have been asked to meet with Krishna Burra to give their input into the proposal as members of Parent Council. The proposal writing team has been asked to expand their proposal by June or September, and will include the reasons why Wolfe Island would be the ideal place for such a program. There is concern that the ferry would be an issue for bringing students from town.
- Greg felt that the proposal writing team needs to address the ferry issue and solutions to this in the proposal. He also stated that the focus program wouldn't solve the issue of our declining numbers.
- Also, if there was a focus program using the space at MPS, the board may be more likely to have the remaining students all in one classroom. The issue of space would need to be addressed. Usually new programs require 20 students in each grade. Perhaps we could have a focus program with one 7/8 split class, which would still leave us with two classrooms for the regular program.
- Alice brought up the issue of equity versus equality. Equity is giving everyone what they need to be successful. Equality is treating everyone the same. The board needs to see that our school needs equity and may need more support to be successful and it is their responsibility to provide this in spite of challenges such as the ferry.
- Kayo mentioned that schools north of Kingston may have more "green" space, but Wolfe Island has both "green" space as well as "blue", which would create a unique program for LDSB.
- It was clarified that if the focus program were approved, the teaching position for the program would be opened up for all qualified teachers in the board to apply. The teacher chosen would then be responsible for developing the program further.

#### **ACTION:**

Kayo to contact Krishna Burra to see if he wants to hear from David and her specifically as parents from the proposal writing team, or as representatives from Parent Council (which could include other members). The Alternative program proposal writing team plans to extend the proposal ASAP and Kayo will make an appointment with Krishna ASAP as well. Please send Kayo any questions by email.

#### **5. Other Items**

##### **a) EQAO Support**

Alice wondered if parents could support the students by bringing snacks or in some other way. Tara said that she usually brings some treats for the students to have

after they finish each section of the test. There are two one-hour tests each day for three days.

ACTION: Alice and Kayo will discuss with Tara what they could bring to contribute.

b) After-school reading program

Alice would like to develop an after-school reading and library program as the primary class does not have a chance to visit the library. The senior class does go to the library on Thursdays, but the primary class has math when the library is open. Alice would like to meet one afternoon a week to do some reading aloud and have a trip to the library. She could walk the kids to the library and have parents pick up after.

ACTION: Alice will contact parents when she has decided on a day and time for this activity.

c) Gary Raspberry will be performing at the Grande Theatre on June 6th at 7pm.

**NEXT COUNCIL MEETING:**  
**End of September/Early October 2018**