

Parent Council Meeting
Thursday, September 28th, 2018, 6:00pm

DRAFT MINUTES

Present: Jennifer Lawless (Principal), Colin Skinner (Vice Principal), Tara Beers (Teacher), Kylie Etmanskie (Teacher), Lisa Posthumus (Support Staff Rep), Kayo Murakami Wood, Judy Gerber-van Vliet, Alice Stagner, Angela Macauley, Peter van Vliet, Heather Kushum Sheedy (Parents)

1. Approval of Minutes

Minutes from the May 10th meeting were not handed out, therefore this item was postponed to the next meeting

2. Election of New Council Members

Heather and Alice will serve as co-chairs, Kayo will serve as Treasurer, and Judy will serve as Secretary. Other positions can be added as needed. Kayo will continue to maintain the parent council facebook and twitter accounts.

3. Principal's Report

Jen and Colin are Principal and VP of MPS, Central PS, and Sydenham PS. One or the other will be at MPS on Thursdays.

MPS enrollment is up 25% beyond expected enrollment. We have 20 students this year. Jen is still hiring for a French teacher and the K-3/Planning time teacher. Colleen Hogen currently is the EA, which is now a .25 position.

Planned activities for this year include some combined trips with Central and Sydenham grade 7 and 8 and MPS. The first field trip will be October 11 when they will come with us to the corn maze. An art project and instrumental music activities are being planned. The grade 8's will join Central and Sydenham for the end of the year trip to Montreal.

Tara shared some more of the activities planned for the coming months: Grand Theatre, Cross Country at Fort Henry, Jump Start sports program at Queens, Woodworking at Molly Brant, and a school trip to a Fronts game.

4. Council Activity Plan

a) Summary of Year 2017-18 (See Appendix 1)

Alice summarized the highlights from last year. Please see attached Appendix.

b) Year 2017-2018 Planning

i. Hot Lunch Program (Appendix 2)

Lisa will invite more cooks for hot lunch in the October Newsletter. It should be noted that cooks can have their ingredients reimbursed and do not need to donate the ingredients for hot lunch.

Kayo suggested a separate facebook group for hot lunch to share recipes, themes. Alternatively this could be shared on the current parent council page.

Donations are needed for the kitchen at school, such as granola bars or apples for students who have eaten their whole lunch for the day and are still hungry.

ACTION: Lisa to add invitation for more cooks to newsletter. Kayo to organize a way to share recipes and ideas for hot lunch cooks.

ii. Fundraiser Ideas

The fresh from the farm fundraiser starts on Monday. Kylie has already received quite a few orders. This includes a vegetable bundle and an apple bundle. The produce is Ontario grown.

It was agreed that we will plan on doing the Poinsettia fundraiser again. Kayo will assist Lisa in organizing.

Discussion on whether or not to do Wilton Cheese again. It was agreed to hold off until the new year as we already have two fundraisers planned for Autumn. Angie volunteered to pick up the cheese if needed.

It was agreed after some discussion that we will not participate in the Christmas sale at the firehall this year. Alice suggested that we could do something with the students that isn't a fundraiser to give back to the community.

Lisa informed us that about \$1300 is needed up until December for field trips. We usually spend about \$2000 towards field trips per year. Montreal will be a big cost, which we would like to contribute to.

Kylie plans to organize a Paint Nite at MPS at some point in January.

ACTION:

Kayo to assist Lisa with Poinsettia fundraiser
Fresh From the Farm Orders Due October 11.

iii. Community reach/joint projects

Kayo reported that the future of the school garden project is uncertain. Ongoing support is needed from teachers and parent councils from both schools. Sacred Heart is to be inviting Kylie's class to the upcoming Seed Saving Workshop.

Kayo suggested that we could hold a joint sport day on Wolfe Island with all three schools (MPS, Central, Sydenham)

Alice suggested a dodgeball game with parents and kids or another school event to encourage interaction between the parents at MPS.

Jen shared a few events that take place at Central as a way of building community there: Coffee Central (coffee in the yard once a month in the morning at drop off), and Central Family Dance.

ACTION: Continue conversation about ways we can build community within the school and beyond.

iv. After school art program

Heather plans to do a 4 week art program before christmas which would be held at MPS but open to anyone.

Heather to look into cost of rent and insurance to hold the program at MPS.

Discussion occurred of whether or not parent council should subsidize this idea in any way, especially if some of the students aren't from MPS.

Discussion of a way to incorporate Alice's idea of something for the kids to do for the community over the holidays that wouldn't be a fundraiser with Heather's idea of an art workshop. Heather suggested that she could do a lantern making workshop that would be displayed at poinsettia pick-up and on the Christmas float.

ACTION: Heather to look into costs of using the building for her own art program, as well as for an art workshop for the kids to create lanterns.

5. Alternative program sub-committee update

Kayo reported that discussions will start this fall to look at all proposals. K. Burra will let us know the timelines. We have been asked to expand the proposal from 4 to 8 pages. The writers of the proposal would like the new principal's (Jen's) input. Kayo will plan a separate meeting to get more input from parents on the current proposal. Any new program would be 1.5-2 years in the making. The new ferry may make a program on the island more accessible for students coming from Kingston.

ACTION: Kayo to organize a separate meeting to discuss the proposal.

6. Meeting Schedule

Meetings were set for 2018-2019 as follows: December 6, February 7, and April 4th at 3:00pm. Additional meetings to be called as needed.

7. Other Items

Upcoming local election: the only contested role in the upcoming election is for school trustee. Kayo will invite both candidates to come to the island to meet with parents of MPS and to make sure they know and care about our issues as a small, rural school.

ACTION: Kayo to invite candidates and inform parents if and when they are able to meet with us.

NEXT COUNCIL MEETING:
December 6, 2018 at 3:00 p.m.