

Parent Council Meeting

Thursday, April 4th, 2019

3:00pm

MINUTES

Present: Jen Lawless (Principal), Lisa Posthumus (Secretary), Eric Beers, Kylie Etmanskie, Tara Beers (Teachers), Alix Carr-Harris, Kayo Murakami Wood, Judy Gerber-van Vliet, Heather Kushum Sheedy, Angie Macauley (Parents)

1. Meeting Minutes from February 14, 2019 were approved.

2. Principal's and Teachers' reports

- Tara reported that MPS had a great month of March with lots of activities. Some of the events coming up in April include: Indigenous workshops, Grade 3 Swim to Survive, Running club training for their road race in May, whole school trip to Mary Poppins at Central P.S., Community Clean-up on April 23rd to celebrate Earth Day (parents are welcome – 1:45 start time), Grades 6 and 8 are going to Cataraqui Woods PS for an animation workshop, Grades 4-8 will have sewing for tech in May, all grades have been making brochures on various topics, such as Canada, Health, and Wolfe Island.
- Jen reported that staffing starts soon. Last year we were projected to have 14 students but currently have 25! Staffing for next year will be based on the current numbers, which means we should have the same number of staff next year.
- Kayo has produced a promotional brochure for MPS, which is now ready to be distributed on the island and in Kingston. Please let her know if you would like some brochures to pass out.
- Jen is planning some building improvements for MPS to beautify the space, such as interior painting of the walls.
- Principal Profile is due soon. This is our chance to communicate to the board what sort of leadership we would like at MPS in the future. We can look at an example for ideas. Sydenham PS has an extensive one. Jen to forward it to Kayo and parents can give input into how we want to update our own.
- Jamii Esplanade, an arts-based community engagement organization in Toronto, is working on an exhibition of visual, digital and live portraits called “The Stories the Wind Carries”. The project will be made by and about people from Pikangikum First Nation, Wawa/Michipitoten First Nation, Wolfe Island and The Esplanade (Toronto). MPS and Wolfe Island will be featured.

3. Updates from Previous Meeting

- a.) Paint Night – Kylie is organizing a Paint Night at MPS. Jen will instruct, with help

from Alix and Heather. May 23 at 5:30. (Post meeting note: the proposed date may not work with Jen. Kylie to seek someone else.)

- b.) Oral Story and Poetry Night – Kayo reported that Alice has decided to organize a Frontenac area community group for oral story, with “fireside” gatherings to share oral story, lyric (poetry, rap, etc), and spoken word. The first gathering will take place at her home on April 13 from 7-8. All guests should be prepared to share a piece. Open to ages 8 and up. This will be open to the community, is advertised in the KFPL branches, and an invitation will be sent to the Central PS parent council. Alice has started a Facebook page for the group, called “Speak & Ease”.
(facebook.com/speakandease)
- c.) Art Project – Due to other commitments, Heather will be postponing her art projects for now.

4. Three Sisters Garden

- Kayo reported, as a member of the Community Garden group, that they will be planning for some changes at the Centre Street garden. Some ideas include a focus on local and native plants, flowers for cutting, greens for school lunches, and a three-sisters garden (beans, corn, squash). The Three Sisters Garden would be grown and used for a Community Harvest Soup in the fall with Three Sisters Indigenous teachings. Kayo wondered if teachers would like to have their students involved in the planting of the three sisters garden. Tara indicated that the primary students would enjoy that. Community Garden volunteers will maintain the garden over the summer.
- Kelly Maracle will be giving a series of talks on Indigenous issues this Spring. A follow up to Kelly's final talk will be a Strawberry Social at the Garden on June 14. An event for students could be planned for during the school day in addition to the community event in the evening. The Garden Party is planned for June 15-16. Kayo will follow up with teachers and Kelly to arrange for this event.

5. School Promotion

- Kayo raised the idea of promoting the school during the Garden Party on the morning on June 16. We could distribute our brochures and have some acoustic musicians near the school. Kayo will follow up with Chris Brown regarding possibilities.

Next meetings: May 16 at 3:00pm