

Parent Council Meeting

Monday, October 3rd, 2016, 6:15pm

MINUTES

Present: Greg Seiveright (Principal), Sara Marshall (Vice-Principal), Tara Beers (Teacher), Eric Beers (Teacher), Lisa Posthumus (Secretary), Kayo Murakami, Carolyn Wiens, Christina Pyke, Jason Pyke, Judy Gerber-van Vliet, Tom Wroe, Carrie McCallum, Peter van Vliet, Alice Stagner (Parents), Susan Bowers, Pete Bowers (Community Members)

1. Election of New Council Members

- Carolyn and Kayo will continue as co-chairs. Christina will continue as Treasurer. Judy will serve as Secretary.

2. Principal's report

- There are currently 33 students enrolled at MPS. There are 13 students in grades JK-3 and 20 students in grades 4-8.
- Interviews will take place this week to choose a new half time teacher. Eric Beers has been filling this role. The new teacher may start next week depending on other commitments.
- Accommodation update: The LDSB school capacity committee passed a motion for Debra Rantz to reach out to the Catholic Board regarding sharing of space. A vote will be needed by the full board on October 19th to go forward with the consultation for sharing of space as was recommended in the Ameresco report.

3. The Long-Term Accommodation Plan for MPS - Discussion

- Concerns were raised regarding the sharing of space with Sacred Heart if it means sharing only space and does not include any shared programming. There is concern that this may create or amplify divisions and conflict between students, staff, and families.

- About 10 years ago, there was an informal agreement between MPS and Sacred Heart in which all island children attended MPS for Kindergarten and Sacred Heart for grades 7/8. This agreement had been in place for about 10 years prior. At that time, religion was taught as a separate class; now it is integrated into the whole curriculum in Catholic schools. There were concerns raised that some public school families may not feel comfortable with this if we were to share classes.
- It was noted that the Marysville facility is a low cost facility in good shape, that the population of the island may increase after a new ferry is in place, and it may not be wise to close the building prematurely.
- Tom shared that Sophie Kiwala (MP) is very interested in the discussion of the accommodation plan and the school issues on the island.
- Parent council agreed to write to Elaine Crawford (our trustee) to let her know that we would like to bring our concerns to the board via letter and/or presentation. We would request that the board consult with the community to see if there can be shared services between the two schools. A letter will be drafted by Carolyn and Kayo and all parents will have an opportunity to give input.

4. Council activity plan

- a) Summary of Finance (Year 2015-16) – Our main fundraisers last year were the hot lunches and the Christmas Village, including poinsettia sales. Our financial cushion is not as great this year as it was at the beginning of last year.
- b) Hot Lunches – We are open to new volunteer cooks. Please let Kayo or Christina know if you would like to make a lunch. There is some frozen produce from the garden that can be used, such as tomato sauce.
- c) School Garden Project year 2 – Funding needs to be secured for next year and the Community Garden Committee is working on this. Janette and the Garden Committee are interested in expanding the garden and building a greenhouse as a long-term plan. There are currently discussions underway with the Medical Clinic Board. The Medical Clinic would like to beautify the area behind the building, next to the new senior housing site, and this might be a good fit for the garden expansion. Other areas where the garden project could expand would be to provide food to seniors, serve hot lunch to seniors, and explore more funding possibilities with other community partners.

- d) Christmas Village on Sunday November 27
- e) Poinsettia (Holiday) Fundraiser, as part of CV – Parent Council discussed doing a mailing to all islanders. Cost is \$100.
- f) Other fundraising ideas
 - Chris Brown has expressed interest in doing a fundraising concert for the garden project. This could include displays of the students' work – video, photos, etc. Pete Bowers indicated that he would be happy to participate along with other musicians.
 - A square dance might be a fun fundraiser

5. Others

- Corn Maze field trip on Friday. Parent volunteers are welcome!
- Tech Week is coming up in November at Molly Brant. Concerns were raised about travel time. About half day is spent at the shop.
- Next meeting will be in about six weeks, in time to do some planning for Christmas Village on Nov. 27.