

**Mary Johnston Public School
School Council Minutes
October 21, 2015**

Attendees: Sunnie Hallman, Patricia Uribe, Brett Gibson, Mary-Evelyn Lather, Trish Coupal, Jacqui Murphy, Patricia Walsh, Anne Schott, Sarah Collins, Tracey Wiegand, Jill Magazine, Heather Andrews, Karen MacLeod, Ningsih Dijong, Rob Maxwell, Doug Bray, Harish Pawagi, Steph McIntyre, Jill Pauls, Tara Natter, Helmut Tinnes

1. Request for funds: Mme Hutton and Mlle McManus, 2/3 French Immersion teachers, presented their classes' request for \$200. The idea, inspired by WE Day, is to build benches where students can sit during recess as a way to indicate that they would like to be invited to play. The students would like to build 2 benches at a cost of \$100/bench.

2. Parking update: Constable Bray from the City of Waterloo Bylaw Enforcement office provided an update regarding parking enforcement efforts at Mary Johnston. Parents and staff continue to communicate concerns regarding drivers who ignore safety laws, putting students at risk. Mary Johnston is one of 5 "problem schools" and will receive high priority for visits from the City's single enforcement officer.

As of October 21, the enforcement officer had visited Mary Johnston 15 times in October, an unprecedented number of visits, resulting in over 15 documented violations. Parents and staff have observed that compliance improves when the officer is present, but that people continue to disobey posted signs when the officer is gone.

Parents may provide the license plate numbers of offenders to the principal, Mr. Tinnes, who will forward them to the proper authorities.

Under the Highway Traffic Act, the Definition of Park or Parking, when prohibited, means the standing of a vehicle whether occupied or not, except when standing temporarily for the purpose of and while actually engaged in loading or unloading merchandise or passengers.

The definition of Stop or Stopping, when prohibited, means the halting of a vehicle, even momentarily, whether occupied or not, except when necessary to avoid conflict with other traffic or in compliance with the directions of a police officer or a traffic control sign or signal.

The definition of Stand or Standing, when prohibited, means the halting of a vehicle, whether occupied or not, except for the purpose of and while actually engaged in receiving or discharging passengers.

3. Principal's Update: The school community raised \$1500 for the Terry Fox Run which took place in October. Although the magazine fundraiser is postponed due to the teachers' job action, parents may renew or purchase new subscriptions at any time and it will count towards the fundraising initiative. October 30 is a planned spirit day with details sent via School Day. The Caribou Math Contest for students in Grades 3 - 6 is underway with forty students participating from Mary Johnston. Mary Johnston had students place 40th and 41st. Job sanctions are still in place but students have not been affected.

4. Treasurer: Heather Andrews was acclaimed as the new Treasurer for this year's school council. Heather will prepare a budget to present at the next School Council meeting.

5. Waterloo Region Assembly of Public School Councils (WRAPSC): The purpose of WRAPSC is to assist all School Councils of the WRDSB to further their support of student achievement through parent engagement. Mary Johnson's School Council requires a representative to attend the 6 WRAPSC meetings of the year. Meetings take place on the first Tuesday of the month (with January's meeting on the 2nd Tuesday).

Mary-Evelyn Lather attended the latest meeting and provided an update. There were 2 presentations. The first was by a public health nurse about alcohol abuse among youth, including a list of resources. The other presentation was from three board employees about the revised health curriculum. Parents are encouraged to read the curriculum itself as well as the parent guides provided by the Board. The Board Policy on religious accommodation encourages honoring student's religious beliefs by seeking ways to include (rather than exclude) students in the new curriculum.

Complete minutes from the meeting are posted on the Mary Johnston web page where School Council minutes appear.

6. Council Matters:

- **Events/Functions update:**

Welcome Night and Meet the Teacher Night: this will take place once the job action is over.

School Council's events/fundraisers this year will be:

- Pizza Day (Ongoing): We need volunteers for pizza day; please contact School Council Chair Sunnie Hallman at sunniehallman@hotmail.ca if you can help.
- Coat Drive: lacking necessary volunteers, this initiative is currently on hold.
- Magazine Campaign (Fall): The Magazine Campaign is postponed until the job action is resolved. However, if there are parents who want to renew their subscriptions on line, *or purchase new subscriptions*, MJ will still receive the fundraising dollars. We usually raise approximately \$10K/year from this one!
- Elmira Poultry sales (Jan./Feb. 2016)
- Move-a-thon (Spring 2016)
- Fun Fair: (End of school year 2016): We are seeking volunteers to plan and run this event; please contact School Council Chair Sunnie Hallman at sunniehallman@hotmail.ca if you can help.

- **SCIS and PIC Updates:** Jill Magazine

- Safe, Caring, and Inclusive Schools team (SCIS): The MJ SCIS team works to promote a positive school climate at MJ. We are looking for a community member and another parent member. This group is currently on hold since teachers cannot attend meetings or participate due to the job action.
- Parent Involvement Committee of the Waterloo Region District School Board (PIC of the WRDSB): The purpose of PIC is to support, encourage and enhance the engagement of parents/guardians of the WRDSB in their children's education in order to improve student

achievement and well being. Meetings are open to the public and minutes are posted on the WRDSB website. No update this month.

- **Volunteer Opportunities:** School Council needs volunteers to help with the many school programs and events that we support to enhance student learning and build community. All volunteer positions are described on the Mary Johnston website under the “Volunteer at MJ” tab.
- **The next School Council meeting is November 18, 2015**
- **What’s On Your Mind:**
 - A parent asked for Council to discuss/decide the student request regarding benches presented at the beginning of the meeting. Council discussed the purpose of the benches and possible outcomes following their implementation. We agreed that the proposal was well organized and well intentioned.

Motion #1

Moved by Patricia Uribe

Seconded by Brett Gibson

That the School Council provides up to \$200 for the purchase of materials to support the bench proposal presented by the two Grade 2/3 French Immersion classes.

CARRIED

- A parent recommended that School Council develop criteria for evaluating class presentations/requests for money from School Council. The School Council Executive will develop the criteria in consultation with the principal
- If anyone has questions or suggestions for meeting agenda topics, contact School Council Chair Sunnie Hallman at sunniehallman@hotmail.ca.