

**Mary Johnson Parent Council Meeting  
October 11th, 2023**

Meeting called to order by Pooja Bhalla at 6:34pm

**1. Attendance**

**Parents:**

-Sarah Bester (SB), Bill Halford (BH), Magdi Elsayed (ME), Amy Yardley (AY), Jenna Ferguson (JF), Kara Botelho (KB), Dianne Lapierre (DL), Alison Hill (AH), Andrea Labyt (AL), Amy Neilson (AN), Pooja Bhalla (PB), Adrienne Brown (AB), Mariko Yoshy (MY), Leah Thomas (LT), Sameera Banduk (SB), Francine Baruffi (FB), Brescia Barker (BB)

**Educators of Mary Johnson:**

- Mr. Marcus Hoare (MH)
- Miss Janice Taylor (JT)

2. **Approval of Minutes** - *Motion* to approve Minutes from September meeting made by BH. ME seconds. All in favour. Motion passes

3. **Principal's Update:**

- MH does Territorial Acknowledgment.
- MH presents school and board goals, and a list of items the school thinks would be beneficial for Council to provide. The items are in three main categories: 1) Well- Being (emotional, physical, and mental) 2) Academic (Curriculum, Achievements) 3) Student Support ( Conditions of learning, Spec ed, environmental factors)
- Action items:
  - MH is going to put the teacher requests into order of "priority"
  - MH to provide additional information about providers for certain items, including Gagaball courts / outdoor learning centres.

4. **Learning Strategies / Outreach Options Presentation:**

MY shares some insight into the inner workings of school related funding programs, and how that translates into support and material that MJ does (or does not) receive. Part of MY's job involves coaching teachers on implementation of new tech and new learning strategies. She reviewed some items that may be made available to educators at MJ with possible assistance from Counsel, while cautioning that simply providing materials may not be enough in the absence of training on their implementation.

MY further shared some suggestions on how we could make a difference in our community.

Discussion: MJ could donate some funds to neighbouring schools in need. (example: 200.00 donation could help a school get started with NFL. \$3000 could send an entire school on a field trip. We could donate coats directly from MJ to another school)

SB reported the difference in finance from the last meeting isn't notable.

## 5. Council Matters

a) Council By-Laws acceptance:

*Motion:* ME moves to accept proposed council By-laws. KB Seconds. All in favour. Motion Passes.

b) SB, AL would like to fill the last 2 spots for voting members of the parent council. 2 other parents voiced interest but will wait until next year.

*Motion:* KB moves to make SB and AL voting members. Amy seconds. All in favour. Motion passes.

c) Finalise pizza lunch plan. Allanna conveys to parents that yes she can lead pizza lunches for thursdays. Allanna is not present for the meeting but did pass on the message.

d) SB begins discussion on the importance of Pink Shirt days and proposes maybe we provide pink shirts for all students on Pink Shirt day. Discussion: Could be expensive. (Around 8000.00). Other ideas:- Other pink things AKA jewellery, socks

- Bring in a speaker for the kids on the day of
- Need to also address cyber bullying.
- It is important for parents to know what is happening on the internet. How to get the parents involved and "in the know"
- Dangers of too much screen time.
- Bringing in Paul Davis to talk about internet safety. - SB will look into this further. Table conversation for next meeting

e) Fundraisers and other events:

- End of the Year Movie Night: Led by PB, KB will assist.
- Move-A-Thon fundraiser: KB will lead. AN and SB will assist
- Spirit Wear: Led by LT. She needs some time to reach out to the vendor. Will table until next meeting.
- NFL: Led by FB
- Winter coat drive- Led by PB and MY.
- Literacy night- Led by PB
- Used Book Sale: Led by SB, potentially same night as Literacy night
- Math Madness- Led by BH

## 6. On your mind:

- Spirit Wear round up fundraiser?

*Motion:* BH moves bump charges to the nearest dollar amount for Spirit wear, thereby creating a fundraising method. Sameera seconds. All in favour. Motion passes.

- A caregiver asked about the Gr. 6 field trip. Can it happen? How many grade 6's are there? Can we do an overnight event? Can parents run an overnight event?

- MH answers: This is a level 3 field trip. Did not have permission last year. Around 50 grade 6's. Maybe parents can organise.

- Action item: MH - Will reach out to the superintendent and report back at the next meeting.
- AY asks about cell phone rules in school. MH replies that there is a phones off and away policy during school and recess.
- PB asks about EQAO. More information coming out in the next week.

7. **Meeting adjourned at 8:09.** Minutes taken by AY