

## Parent Council Meeting minutes. November 8<sup>th</sup>, 2023.

Start Time: 6:32

Location: Google meet (due to weather)

Attendance:

1. Sarah Bester
2. Pooja Bhalla
3. Bill Halford
4. Amy Yardley
5. Magdi Elsayed
6. Reza Ramezan
7. Jenna Ferguson
8. Kara Batelho
9. Dianne Lapierre
10. Amy Neilson
11. Sameera Banduk
12. Adrienne Brown
13. Andrea Labyt
14. Marcus Hoare
15. Laura Derksen
16. Leah Thomas
17. Janice Taylor
18. Francine B.
19. Erika Bryant
20. Salma Rahimi

**1. Welcome/ previous Meeting minutes:** Magdi moves to approve minutes from previous meeting (October 11th,2023) Reza seconds. Motion passes unanimously.

**2. Marcus' welcome:** -Thanks everyone for coming on virtually on such short notice.

**3. Nutrition for Learning update:** - Francine addressed whether \$300 is adequate to sponsor a school's NFL onboarding. Her NFL contact indicated that \$300 is far below the threshold and, regardless, NFL is currently at capacity and can't support additional area schools.

- While NFL cannot handle additional schools, donations to NFL are greatly appreciated.

#### 4. Principal's Update :

- Provided quotes for some requested items:
  - White boards for classrooms-\$1000.00
  - DPA bags - \$1500.00
  - French games - \$500.00
  - Letter tiles- \$500.00
  - KW symphony school tour- \$375.00
  - Gaga ball pit and tarmac paint- \$3000.00 (estimated - still TBD)
  - Basketball nets for younger area - TBD
- Sarah inquires about if we still want to purchase french home reading books. It was a budget item from last year's council. Marcus says some schools are shifting away from french Home reading. This is under review at the moment.
- Jenna asks about the budget, and whether we can afford all wish-list items Sarah responds that we are in good shape.
- Bill moves that counsel approve purchasing the wishlist items with actual costs attached, including White boards, DPA bags, French games, Letter tiles and the Symphony Tour. Pooja seconds. All in favour. Motion passes.
- Jenna moves to allocate \$3000.00 to tarmac and Gaga ball pit. Pooja seconds. It was noted, and the motion amended to indicate, that Marcus will inform the council of actual costs before moving forward with these purchases. All in favour. Motion passes.
- Pooja inquires whether we should start putting money aside for future big projects. Table this conversation for now.
- Marcus has been looking into getting speakers in to talk about online dangers. Has spoken to a phycologist of the school board for details on who we could get. Ongoing project. More of an update next meeting.
- Year end for Grade 6's. Marcus brought it up with our family of schools (10 schools in this area). Spoke with other Admins. As a group they plan to ask the superintendent about how to make a potential overnight trip happen. Have not heard back yet but expect to hear back soon.
- EQAO results. [www.eqoa.com/reports](http://www.eqoa.com/reports). Marcus reviewed our results with council. - Bill raised concern re the drop in all areas, and particularly in math, from last year. Marcus indicated that some fluctuation is expected among different cohorts from year to year, He also noted a big focus on reading last year, though reading/writing scores also dropped from last year. Educators are working hard to find a good balance. Reza- suggests we try to learn from high performing schools in the area. Marcus noted it is not an easy doable task, and assures that MJ is always trying to improve and learning how to do the job better. Marcus mentions he was also interested in the questionnaire the students were asked to fill out. How do they feel about school. Confidence levels and eagerness to learn. It is important to look at those items also. Leah- Overall MJ is doing well.

A few percentages up or down seems reasonable. Amy Y- Reviewing the numbers, we are in good shape and feels like teachers do a great job at MJ. We are above average for the province and in this area. Bill- just because students say they are “happy in math class”, it isn’t a success if the kids don’t know math. Happiness is of course important, but kids are at school to learn.

**5. Finance review:** - Even after all the wishlist spending we have significant funds remaining. All expected costs at this point are equal to our expected income for the year, leaving significant remaining funds.

- Pooja mentions the expectation is to spend the money we raise or have it earmarked for a big project.
- Marcus will review any big ticketed items we might need for the next 5 years.
- Janice reminds us about the outdoor learning space idea. Would be nice to have this for the community and our students.

**6. Council Matters:** - Pizza: Allanna is gathering volunteers. There will be 2 additional payment instalments for pizza this year.

- Coat Drive: Pooja will work on a date with Marcus and get the ball rolling.
- Spirit Wear - could we have an alternate logo? Just an MJ?
  - Leah and Janice to discuss
  - Items we are considering: t-shirts (short and long, red and black), track pants (black) hoodies (red and black) toques (black and grey)
  - Timing - 14th or 15th until 26th (1.5-2 weeks) - then 4 weeks until the holidays, ideally get there in time! If we firm things up today we can confirm timelines with vendor
  - Leah will see if we can get sample sizes - will connect with Marcus about whether that is an option
  - Janice suggested we put them up in a window for parents to view

Move-A-Thon

- Friday in March works best for Kara
- Maybe it’s not a fundraiser and instead kids bring their own money for glow stuff and it goes towards another school

Math Night

- May tie it with Literacy Night or the Science Fair in April?

**7. What else is on your mind:**

Administrator

- Joey has not been in contact so Pooja suggested we nominate Sameera as the new admin

- Pooja so moved, Bill seconded.
- All in favour. Motion passes.

#### Mabel's Labels

- First Issue: Kindies ran the Mabel's Labels fundraiser on their own last year. The money has been deposited to the council account (\$65). Should we give it to the Kindies to use for resources?
- Bill moved that we make the money available to the kindergarten class, Sarah Seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
- Marcus to let the kindergarten teachers know that they can spend the \$65
- Second Issue: Should classes be able to raise their own money like this?
- Marcus feels that things should be equitable.
- Bill indicated that while ideally fundraising would be run through School Counsel, he does not think Counsel has the ability, or the right, to tell classes what they can and can't do.
- Perhaps there is a need for each class to have a budget for classroom resources
- Marcus to take away this away
- Sarah to send out an email about Mabel's Labels'

#### Pooja

- Wants to ensure that everyone knows this is a forum where we want everyone to be comfortable asking tough questions

#### **9. Meeting adjourned.** Time: 8:45

Minutes taken by Amy Yardley and Sarah Bester.