

# Margaret Avenue School Council Meeting

Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, January 22, 2020 6:00 p.m.

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Attendance: Silvana, Tanya O-L, Tanya S, Sherrie, Tracy, Christine; SLAM Student - Bethelyn

## **1. Principal:**

Review of last meeting minutes

## **2. School Update – Silvana**

Staffing Changes effective February 3<sup>rd</sup> – Ingrid Steffler, CYW, will be retiring and Ashley Schmidt moving into the role of CYW. As well, Mary-Sue Meredith, VP, has been promoted to a Principal position at Glencairn PS and Margaret's new VP will be Lori Williams, coming from St Andrew's.

There was some discussion around the job action and how/where parents can help out.

Grade 8 Graduation is June 24<sup>th</sup>. The venue has been booked. If staff are not able to attend, more parents will be asked to help.

Yearbook – at this time there is not a committee to work on the yearbook, due to the current job action. School council parents, Tracy and Christine, expressed an interest to lead this project with the help of students.

Tad Milmine is a speaker coming in to speak to the students about anti-bullying and bullying prevention strategies. This ties in well with the SLAM focus and school culture of encouraging kindness and empathy. Mr. Creech initiated this speaker engagement and Silvana will confirm final arrangements.

Student Girls Government & SLAM Report – Bethelyn:

Girls' government is a provincial program for Grade 8 girls to encourage involvement of girls in government and law. This program has been offered for 23 years at Margaret. It runs from December through to May and involves a trip to Queen's Park. This year's girls' government has chosen the topic of sexual harassment in school/work as their focus topic. They are also working on a letter to the provincial government and hope to meet with Doug Ford.

SLAM's vision is for a more cultured and inclusive school environment. Mr. Crich is the lead of the SLAM group that has been running for three years. Every month SLAM works on a character trait. This month's trait is empathy. One of the actions they did this month to support empathy was to write compliments on sticky notes and post in the washrooms. SLAM also supports the recycle and compost program in the school – 'garbage in garbage, compost in compost, and keep recycling bins sorted'.

### **3. Financial – Silvana**

No changes to the financials

### **4. Parent Engagement Sub-Committee**

- PRO Grant: Sherrie & Tanya S
  - Sherrie & Tanya drafted and submitted the PRO Grant before the December deadline. We will hear by January 31<sup>st</sup> if approved and the granted amount.
  - The focus is on diversity and inclusion and format will be a speaker event.
  - Salem Debs may be the speaker and Sherrie is confirming availability and cost.
  - The speaker may be presented during the school day to include parents, staff and students.
- Fundraising:
  - There will be Margaret Ave “merch” available for purchase to support some fundraising. Toques, hoodies, lanyards and the remaining inventory of water bottles
- Margaret 125: Tanya O.
  - Saturday April 25 is the event date.
  - Tanya has collected information from the school and initiated an Instagram account to start promoting the anniversary event.
  - Silvana will share the Instagram account through Margaret Instagram and to the Board communications group to spread the word more widely through their social media (twitter, facebook and instagram).
  - Mrs Breckles has volunteered to be the staff lead (along with other staff dependent on job action)
  - The event format will include open house to tour through rooms, display of historical artifacts, presentation with speeches and dignitaries.

### **5. Other Business**

- WRAPSC – An update from the January WRAPSC meeting will be available at the February school council meeting. In the meantime, minutes are shared out from the WRAPSC group to be referenced. For the February WRAPSC meeting, Barbara Ward – Mental Health Lead at the Board, will speak about human trafficking, cannabis/vaping and school mental health resources. Barb has invited feedback from parents with regards to how best to access these resources and input on how these topics tie in with the curriculum. Christine will share this information with council members to invite any feedback to share back at February WRAPSC meeting.
- Misc. – This year every classroom will be equipped with a ceiling fan and screens for the windows

### **6. Next Meeting Date: February 26**