

Manor Park School Council and Home and School Association Meeting Minutes

January 16, 2013
MPPS Library

Present:

Shari Brodi		
Marie Blythe-Hallman	Sue Noble	Laura Frappier
Tammy Moffat	Fatima El-Khodari	Erin Yoshida
Victoria McMullen	Susan Steele	Tami O'Dette
Jen Coulas	Kari Glynes Elliott	Nancy Grinberg
Caroline Schamerhorn	Tomomi Matsuoka	Kathryn Pizana
Eric Fauteux	Donna Muldoon	

Welcome:

Meeting called to order at 7:01pm by Marie Blythe-Hallman, chair.

Minutes from November meeting discussed. Comments were made about the parent resource lending library. Susan Steele agreed to provide more details about the funding as the current information is a little misleading. Minutes were approved with these observations added.

It was suggested that forms for (such as for volunteering and pizza, etc.) be posted on the website.

Several people offered praise to Nancy Grinberg for the choir which performed this day. It was a very successful concert.

Principal's Report:

- holiday concert finally took place today – choir was amazing, parents helped out
- parent volunteers are stepping up to take on new tasks – choir, badminton, etc. - all have met board requirements (applied, interviewed, checked, etc). Shari will send out info about further training – Jan 31st, March 5th - 1st requirement is police record check, contact Shari if you want to get process started – cost is \$51, but there is a \$15 discount with a letter from Shari – the whole process is free if you're willing to wait (about 8-9 weeks) – need letter for that as well.
- There is talk of having a volleyball team
- If we can find a parent volunteer, we might be able to keep the leadership team going

Security

Shari has been consulting with Bill Tyres – examining how to improve security. Not much is going to happen right away. They are looking at a new buzzer system and security cameras in office. Right now all doors are locked. Three outside doors use swipe system. Bill will provide more swipe doors for free, including the front door. It will be a hassle for

Manor Park School Council and Home and School Association Meeting Minutes

January 16, 2013

Library

volunteers who come and go so we are looking for advice on how to handle days like today when school is open for events. Apparently a letter was sent out to parents (several said that they hadn't seen the letter) reminding people that visitors need to wear visible name tags and need to sign in, etc. School is asking that parents not accompany children to office when they are late. This will reduce traffic in school and encourage independence. Also parents should drop items off at school rather than go to classroom
Snow days are especially tough – lots of unfamiliar adults in school
Sign in and sign out important to know who is in school in case of emergency
Emphasis on being on time

Asked how school council can help? Suggested that we add reminders on our website. Being on time is a life skill that our students will benefit from learning.

Shari has a question for parents at Manor Park – if there is a subject or an issue that parents want to discuss, please mention it to Shari. She is willing to look into getting someone in to speak on a subject, possible guest speaker, could have members of community come in.

Also, 3 or 4 students have been accepted into a program that will allow them to go to Tim Horton's camp in NS for March break.

Fundraising for Phoebe Rose

Her big sister is in Donna's class. Phoebe Rose suffers from a very rare cancer, treatment (and related costs) can be very expensive – she may be going for treatment in Philadelphia. The school has already raised close to \$3000. Her story is in the media, the blog written by her mother is here: <http://phoeberoserocks.blogspot.ca/> The kids at MP are aware of her situation and wanting to help.

Monkey Rock concert will be held next Thursday (January 24th)

Garage sale will be held February 2nd from 9-12.

Kindergarten registration

Jan 28th to 31st – it's not the only time (you can register at any time), but it is the best time since it helps school to plan for new year.

Kindie switch

Due to staff changes, several kindie classes have been modified:

Casey Atwell has transferred from Jenn Cathmoir's class to Caron Jackman's class (sk EFI).

Lisy Lindsay has transferred from Elizabeth Makuch's class to Mouna Souaid's class (sk EFI).

Manor Park School Council and Home and School Association Meeting Minutes

January 16, 2013

Library

Volunteering and School sports

Since many local schools are not participating in sports, MP might have to stick to inter-school competition this year.

Lack of clarity regarding teachers and labour action

Questions were asked about the state of labour relations.

There is a union meeting tonight.

- fields trips are back on, but up to individual teachers whether to participate or not
- swim to survive still on
- teachers are waiting to hear more before restarting extracurricular activities
- staff meetings are back on

MP remains very busy – lots of activities

MP has more parents signing up for accreditation than any other elementary school

Susan S is hoping parents step up to help with track and field – we need to think ahead, need lots of coaches, volunteers don't need to be experts.

If big event does not take place for all schools, MP might have own sports day

Council will put request for volunteers on MPSC website

Timing? Kids need to start training as soon as snow melts

We will put call out for basketball (2nd) and volleyball (1st) coaches

Question was asked about field trips – we don't want one class to get trips and other classes to miss out.

staff trying to be coordinated

EQAO

A question was asked about guidelines on other issues since Dec 10th. For example, will teachers help with EQAO? Earlier message suggested that teachers will NOT help with EQAO. However, as far as Shari knows, testing is going ahead.

Still waiting for clarity.

What about *Concours d'art oratoire* (speeches in French) and spelling bee?

No regional spelling bee – will do it in class, but not right now.

No clarity yet.

Manor Park School Council and Home and School Association Meeting Minutes

January 16, 2013

Library

New Technology for classes

Technology has been ordered for Manor Park. These devices were paid for by the MP school council with money raised in our many fundraising activities. The teachers were consulted on their needs.

OCASC

Monthly meeting of Ottawa SC assembly – one member from each school should attend.

Next meeting January 17th at Fisher Park at 7PM.

Meeting after that on Feb 21st at Fisher Park.

MPSC newsletter

Currently written by Marie, but she's busy with being the chair. It's not very time consuming, but she would prefer that someone else take it on. Are there any volunteers? If so, please contact someone on the school council or email the general school council address manorparkschoolcouncil@yahoo.ca

MPSC Website

New links have been added. Members should get into the habit of checking it periodically as news items will be posted there.

Susan Steele will send Britt details about the lending library and he will post a blurb on the site.

Bathrooms

Changes with nighttime staff. At this moment, not everyone has keys.

Tim is training new staff to watch out for bathroom needs – new toilet paper rolls, soap, etc.

New faucets appear to be working well

Staff are checking bathrooms to make sure toilets are flushed

What can council do to help?

Maybe poster? Doubts that poster would work.

What about painting the bathrooms cool colours? Sports teams colours?

Problems ebb and flow – seems better now

Tim has checked that all faucets work

This is an ongoing problem – always has been an issue.

Discussion will continue

Manor Park School Council and Home and School Association Meeting Minutes

January 16, 2013

Library

Meeting adjourned at 8:01. No meeting in February. Next meeting to be held March 6, 2013.

Meeting of the Home and School Association

Financial Reporting and Update:

Mike will not be treasurer next year - need a new one for next year.

Victoria provided this report.

- Tammy is looking for a new coordinator to take on the magazine fundraiser – very little work required.

Funding requests from teachers

None

It was noted that if there are fewer field trips this year due to labour action, we need to plan to spend money on something else. (Our policy is to spend all money budgeted so that parents who raise money this year know that their kids benefit).

Some field trips have already taken place, but invoices haven't come in

There was some discussion about possible events to take place of field trips. Maybe “mask” programs – very artsy, week of work, drama, storytelling, - important to cover as many kids as possible – mandate of council is to support all kids – some possibilities would be claymation, drumming, etc.

Funding request from parent volunteer

Looking for \$20 to buy stickers for yoga class, want (about 25) small stuffies to help children learn breathing

Debate – do we fund volunteer activities?

We have had a budget for teachers running programs, why not parent volunteers? Under what circumstances? Several people expressed support, but there was general consensus that we need to set guidelines.

It was agreed that we will debate this by email communication first (among executive).

Fundraisers

Pizza

Manor Park School Council and Home and School Association Meeting Minutes

January 16, 2013

Library

- Kathryn – earlier decision to extend pizza to 19 weeks didn't work very well, she will recommend that next year we offer shorter sessions, form for next session is ready to go, too many people want to change in mid stream, really chaotic, kindies got pizza for 1st time, can we add blurb about health standards? Also nut free, is it halal? Want firm deadline. Need to find ways of handling forms.
- Since teachers are no longer collecting money (due to labour action), volunteers have to collect money.
- Long session is too expensive for many parents.
- Next session will be shorter.

Dance a thon

- donation kits went home today
- everything is ready
- Feb 8th
- display case is ready
- no glow sticks this year
- every teacher has a box for donations – volunteers will collect
- song wish list
- requests will come from classrooms and teachers

The meeting was adjourned at 8:34.

Secretary

Chair