

Manor Park School Council and Home and School Association Meeting Minutes

March 6, 2013
MPPS Library

Present:

Shari Brodie	Erin Yoshida	Michael McMullen
Sue Noble	Jutta Paczulla	Maha Albari
Wendy Colthart	Kathryn Pizara	Donna Muldoon
Susan Steele	Jen Coulas	Laura Frappin
Marie Blythe-Hallman	Sensa Asefi	
Kari Glynes Elliott	Celeste Gibson	

Welcome:

Meeting called to order at 7:03pm by Marie Blythe-Hallman. Since we do not have quorum yet, approval of minutes from January meeting is delayed

Principal's Report:

- Shari Brodie reported on a new program for boys that is run by Big Brothers, Big Sisters; MP has two mentors (they are security recruits who are seeking to become policemen), the program is about working with small groups of boys, working on relationships, etc.
- there is also a program for girls called "Go Girls" (mentioned in an earlier meeting)
- MP also offers also piano lessons, which uses keyboards, called "heart of the city", MP has a volunteer teacher
- there will be a volleyball tournament – date not yet set, but likely end of March or beginning of April, Brenda Grier now coaching boys and girls,
- MP also has a volunteer who is teaching basketball skills
- gym is very full, lots of activities, yoga, choir, sports, etc.

Vice-principal Laura Frappier spoke

Peace tree project

- ✧ Students working on peace tree project – asking students from a variety of countries what are varied messages of peace? Each class is learning about different peace symbols, there will be announcements on PA, letters will be sent home asking parents to write 'peace' in home language
- ✧ Maha's grade 6 class has improved upon original idea

Safe School Initiative

- ✧ another initiative is related to Bill 13 which requires schools to form a group that focuses on safe school – discuss making MP safe and inclusive – members include Susan Steele, Maha Albari, Jen Coulas, a student from grade 6, (looking

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for a boy to make it representative); group intends to focus on mental health, talking to Ontario public health and other groups, looking at ways to educate staff

- ✧ premier's award for 'accepting' schools – a student and parent have written letters to nominate MP – results will be known later

Shari spoke about 'pink day' last Thursday

- ✧ some students gave presentations, now available on youtube (search for 'True Colours')
- ✧ 'pay it forward' charity wants to come to school to give out bracelets, idea is to do a good deed, pass on the bracelet

Maha spoke about new technology bought with council money (see minutes from earlier meetings)

- ✧ 6 multi-media carts, teachers have received training on how to use new technology
- ✧ still waiting for projectors to be installed in classrooms upstairs (in 'new' wing)
- ✧ teachers says that they appreciate the technology

Labour relations

- ✧ not all extras run by teachers, still plenty being done, parents have stepped up with sports and clubs
- ✧ many teachers want to resume extras, communication needed with union
- ✧ activities that improve health (esp mental health) are still going on
- ✧ Shari says that the teachers want to be team members
- ✧ Maha says that the teachers appreciate the parents' support
- ✧ all teachers are covering necessary activities, but they are unhappy at what they have lost – lost money, pensions
- ✧ latest message from Ministry is that the Ministry will talk to the teachers in a nicer way, but there are no new elements being offered

- ✧ parents report that some teachers appear less happy, environment is less positive

- ✧ school acknowledged that teachers are sad and frustrated

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- ✧ It was pointed out that there are tradeoffs – teachers are able to spend more time with their classes, more time to prepare since they are not doing extra curriculum activities
- ✧ no timelines offered as to when situation will be reevaluated
- ✧ teachers are losing salary, waiting to hear what new govt will do
- ✧ refusing to do extras is the only labour action that teachers feel that they can do
- ✧ parents are losing patience – those who can might be thinking of moving children to different school boards (Note – lots of parents are not wealthy enough to afford private, not Catholic, not French – public school is only option)
- ✧ a parent suggested that council might consider stepping away from their policy of neutrality to express an opinion, maybe write a letter to Wynne
- ✧ Suggested that union reps need to take message back to union about parents losing patience
- ✧ everyone wants this issue resolved
- ✧ decided that council can debate whether we should do something (and if so, what) by email (might not be appropriate in meeting)
- ✧ re communications to kids – teachers have been careful about not politicizing issue, much of the info probably comes from home
- ✧ school officials not supposed to 'correct' kids on what they know or the opinions they express
- ✧ debate – council should stay neutral, but individuals can express their opinions
- ✧ info is available on website
- ✧ school council is reluctant to appear to be taking sides

Susan Steele – resource library

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- ✧ received a donation of more books, library remains underused, but parents are starting to learn about it and use it
- ✧ link to 'safe schools' encourages parents to discuss mental health
- ✧ the whole system is set up to be confidential
- ✧ wide variety of subjects – autism, aspergers, anxiety, parenting advice, discipline, grieving, crisis in family, adoption, etc.

Shari spoke about safe welcome program

- ✧ Ontario govt is offering funds to lock doors, make schools more 'secure', school has received advice on security (see notes from last meeting)
- ✧ **Shari wants to hear parents' opinion on security,**
- ✧ swipe doors are coming, right now all doors are locked except front door,
- ✧ is this necessary? there have been incidents where people have gained access to school when they should not have – for example, parents without custody tried to take kids, armed man ran through school several years ago.
- ✧ Parents asked questions - will system be turned off after school?

- ✧ People have propped doors open, will system allow access without compromising security?.

- ✧ Question about effectiveness of a camera, buzz-in system (like at de la Salle)

- ✧ Parents expressed opinion that this increase in security is unfortunate, but probably inevitable
- ✧
- ✧ MP is already on waiting list to have system installed (but could decline if offered)

- ✧ Council agrees that we should ask parents what their opinion is – through websites, newsletter, etc.

No OCASC update

Bathrooms

Marie reported that the washroom situation is ok. Some faucets will be replaced.

- ✧ Council has been asked to provide signs to encourage kids to flush toilets and wash hands

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- ⤴ A coop student is responsible for checking boys' bathrooms (among other tasks)

Field Trips

- ⤴ Shari reported that Ministry will pay for external field trips (McSkimming for example) – no clarity
- ⤴ minutes from previous meeting need to be corrected – field trips are not yet back on – teachers have been asked not to organize field trips

Minutes

quorum exists now - minutes from January approved (with correction re. field trips)

No new business

Meeting adjourned 8:22

Meeting of the Home and School Association

Meeting of the home and School Association called to order.

Mike McMullen gave his report

pizza money is up about 40%

still waiting for invoices and receipts – for sports equipment, technology

Guidelines for funding parent volunteers

The motion was discussed by email, Erin drafted a motion that notes that council wants to encourage parent involvement, but also wants to avoid conflict of interest. Parents spoke up about draft. General consensus is that we don't need to specify a limits to funds. Each request should be decided on case by case basis.

Motion passed.

Here is the wording for the motion that was approved at the council meeting:

"Manor Park Home and School Association recognizes and encourages parent initiatives that improve the learning environment and provide students an enriched educational experience. To this end, the council will consider requests for funding for parent-led initiatives that benefit students from 2 or more classes. If a request for

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funds is made by an executive member of the school council, s/he will abstain from the vote."

Funding requests

Request from Tammy Moffat for \$1000 for non fiction books

Request from Britt Elliott to maintain website \$80 per year due this month

Both motions approved

Council wants to express appreciation to Britt for website

Pizza handouts going more smoothly

April 18th is last day of this session

Kathryn will send form to Britt to put on website

Dance a thon news

reported by Sue Noble

- ⤴ seemed to be a success
- ⤴ so many people helped make it a success, great vibe, had to host it twice due to snow day on first date
- ⤴ didn't make as much money (\$11,000), probably because too many other items going on – pizza, hoodie orders, yearbooks, fundraising for Phoebe Rose
- ⤴ Professional Sound and Lighting donated their services the 2nd time around – much appreciated
- ⤴ very positive, lots of exercise

plant sale

Erin – will take place one week before May Fair – May 18th

May Fair

Jutta spoke

- ⤴ well prepared by Tammy
- ⤴ planning to keep things more or less the same
- ⤴ Jutta and Welsey Wark plus Gael and Phil Italiano
- ⤴ will soon need donations for toys and books
- ⤴ Rays Reptiles and inflatables already booked
- ⤴ community donations underway

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Mike wants to point that we need a new treasurer by June – if someone is interested, they could help out at May Fair

Will also need two people to have signing authority over summer

Tammy looking for someone to take over magazine fundraiser

Meeting adjourned at 8:50