

Manor Park School Council and Home and School Association Meeting Minutes

October 17, 2012
MPPS Library

Present:

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| Shari Brodie | Sue Noble | Leigh Anne Richardson |
| Celeste Gibson | Jen Coulas | Marie Blythe-Hauman |
| Kathryn Pizana | Wendy Colthart | Bruce Devenny |
| Tammy Moffat | Nancy Grinberg | Pamela Moore |
| Victoria McMullen | Sarah Cook | Kari Glynnes Elliott |
| Caroline Schamerhorn | Susan Steele | Erin Yoshida |

Welcome:

Meeting called to order at 7:00pm by Kathryn Pizana.

Minutes from September meeting approved.

Principal's Report:

- Boys won gold in soccer tournament; girls played well, but did not win
- cross-country results – there were 4 parent volunteers, kids did well, some placed in top 10
- badminton club will start in November. Shelia McMillan is responsible, also certified coach helping, some teachers helping out
- leadership club and yearbook still on
- MP approved to be part of piano program 'heart of the city' awaiting police record check, offering private lessons, 2 pianos will be tuned earlier than usual, pianos will be made available, will look into getting keyboards too
- MPCC lunch time programs have started
- kindergarten play structure is now open
- MP has 165 kindergarten kids.

Concern over access to playstructure during school day:

Some kindergarten kids playing in MPCC playstructure ran into an issue with local daycare providers who want to use the structure during the school day. Some of the very young children from the home daycare are playing in playground area near fieldhouse, raising safety concerns. Shari said that the private home daycare providers were rude (swore at her) when she spoke to them about mixing with the school kids.

Shari has asked for clarification about who can go where on school property - including tennis court. She is asking that school have exclusive use of play area during certain times - currently waiting for final answer.

EQAO - results released

No details were released at meeting, but results are available on website.

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New process for volunteering at school

OCDSB has released their new volunteer process – information will be added to school council website.

- Potential volunteers need up-to-date police reports.
- Letters need to be sent home with children advising parents that supervisor is not school board employee.
- If parents want to volunteer they should talk to Shari
- Mr. D pointed out that secondary school teachers are being adamant about resisting extracurricular activities - the new process is aimed primarily at secondary schools.
- Susan Steele pointed out that MP also has lots of new teachers - often takes a while to find their way before they start volunteering
- Shari pointed out that this process is not necessary for drop-in help – it is primarily geared to parents running programs, often without teacher supervision.

New Kindergarten class

A new kindergarten class has been opened up (will start on Friday). A new teacher has been hired full time; some part-time teachers have become full time. This class will have all new equipment since the school had ordered for 7 classes anyways. Now all classes will have about 25 students (parents will be informed if their child is moving).

In addition, school is still receiving registrations for new, mostly junior kindergarten students.

Goals for 2012-13

Leigh Anne explained that we usually choose some overriding goals for the school year – should discuss what our goal will be for this year.

It was suggested that in light of the difficult labour situation – maybe we should focus on volunteer support to help kids deal with transition?

There was a debate about how to do this without harming the council's relationship with teachers.

Leigh Anne offered to come up with a suitable paragraph for us to vote on.

Susan volunteered to ask staff their opinion.

Parents would like to emphasize that we are respectful of teachers' situation, but would like our children to have opportunities to enjoy school activities.

Bathroom improvement

Victoria brought up the issue of the bathrooms – they are pretty yucky, often lack supplies, faucets not working

Should we consider a campaign to encourage kids to clean up after themselves?

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What about a toilet monitor?

Maybe we should remind parents to teach their children what to do - maybe posters in the bathrooms?

Shari dislikes the fact that there is nothing but hand dryers - but adding paper towels cause problems too

Kathryn thinks the taps need to be changed (that is for the school board to consider).

Leigh Anne would like to hear from Tim and rest of custodial staff as to what the true issues are.

BTW, kindergarten kids have own bathrooms - very nice.

Shari says they have had plumbers check the facilities, but she says she could push for physical changes if we feel they are needed.

Leigh Anne suggested a checklist to indicate when supplies (such as soap) are replaced
Shari pointed out that Mr. D is our health and safety officer (he admitted that they don't worry as much about bathrooms as about more obvious safety concerns)

If this is going to be a goal, we need to create a list of specifics

Victoria will take this on.

Responsibilities of the chair

Erin has said she is willing to be the permanent main communicator with Shari (easier just to have one person).

Marie is volunteering to be communications coordinator. Leigh Anne put forward a motion and everyone voted yes.

Kathryn volunteered to take on the gift giving aspect of the job.

If members cannot attend a meeting, we ask that they please tell Chair because we need quorum in order to vote.

School Council info day - October 13th - no-one from MP went. Tammy suggested that we look on school board website for details.

Maha told council about an invitation to Ottawa Carleton teachers union info night (for parents) on government passing of new bill. School council is invited to send representative – meeting takes place Wed. Oct 24th 6PM at Travelodge.

New website

Leigh Anne introduced the new website.

Council applied for a grant - got \$1000 - been working with designer, still working on some tech glitches, just about ready to release.

Parent Resource Library

Susan suggested that she could post info on parent resource library on new website.

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This resource library arose out of a public grant from public health - parent lending library – will provide guides on wide range of topics like anxiety, bully, parenting, learning disability, etc. Some parents have also donated books.

She will send us the list of available books and process (parents don't have to come in - just communicate with Susan and she will put book in child's bag)

Susan is asking for donations and requests - this is meant to be a resource for parents.

Meeting adjourned. Next meeting to be held November 21, 2012.

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.

Teachers' technology needs

Leigh Anne asked if teachers had been consulted about potential new technology (as discussed in last meeting)? Susan said that there has been lots of dialogue.

Maha is taking lead. Has talked to lots of teachers. Too early to say, but so far, leaning towards ladybugs and tech carts. Smart boards may not be good choice.

Money has already been approved so council does not need to be consulted on what the teachers want.

New funding requests

Susan requested \$100 so she could buy new underwear for kids.

She also requested donations of clothes, especially winter clothes (coats, snow pants, mittens)

Also looking for a volunteer to come in once per week to sort clothing bin. Marie offered to help Susan.

Kathryn passed a motion to approve \$100; all voted yes.

Pizza

Pizza delivery might get difficult due to new kindie class, but otherwise, all going well.

Magazine subscriptions

Tammy gave update - not very successful yet - deadline is Friday for paper orders, online orders can be renewed all year - so far \$800 earned.

Book fair

Tammy reported that it will take place week of Nov. 13th. Will need parent volunteers.

Monday, Nov 12th evening after 6PM and Thursday, Friday that week.

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Dance a Thon

Sue Noble - considering possible dates.

Chair for next meeting is Erin Yoshida.

The meeting was adjourned.

Secretary

Chair