

Manor Park School Council and Home and School Association Meeting Minutes

October 14, 2015

MPPS

In attendance

Steve Bezanson, Brenda Bugge, Renata Cameron, Wendy Colthart, Benoit Corbourieu, Bruce Devenny, Suehila Elkateb, Mary Ruth Endicott, Andrea Genereaux, Marie-France Jeurond, Sharon Leslie, Aasha Logan, Sue Massaad, Dan Martin, Sue Noble, P.J. O'Neill, Nardin Patel, Kathryn Pizana, Edith Post, Leigh Anne Richardson, Caroline Sullivan, Erin Yoshida

Action Items

Erin Yoshida to contact Christina Kaeser (last year's traffic sub-committee chair) to get an update on where the committee left off and her recommendation about how to proceed.

Proposed Council goals for 2015-16 school year to be circulated to MPSC prior to November meeting for review and feedback. [COMPLETE - circulated October 15, 2015]

Sharon Leslie to provide a summary of Pro-Grant options for the Council to consider at the November meeting.

Suehila Elkateb and Leigh Anne Richardson to review MPSC bylaws for necessary updates.

Manor Park School Council

Meeting called to order by co-chairs Sue Noble and Wendy Colthart at 7:00 p.m.

Approval of October Agenda and September Minutes

Approval of September meeting minutes moved by Caroline Sullivan, seconded by Sharon Leslie. Approved with minor edits.

School Council Elections

Kathryn Pizana acclaimed as Vice-Chair for 2015-2016 school year.

Administrative Items – Sue Noble and Wendy Colthart

Co-chairs request that Council members email in advance if they are unable to make a meeting; 8 members are required to be present for quorum.

Council Goals for the 2015-16 School Year

The group brainstormed potential goals for the MPSC to achieve during the current school year; proposed goals include:

1. Ongoing goal of working with school staff in light of unsettled labour relations this year.
2. Digitization of Council records (i.e., transitioning to Google accounts)
 - Steve Bezanson and Mary Ruth Endicott have volunteered
3. Exploring alternative fundraising ideas/initiatives to reduce reliance on funds brought in by Mayfair so that the event can be reduced in size (especially in light of issues with volunteer resources)

Manor Park School Council and Home and School Association Meeting Minutes

October 14, 2015

MPPS

4. Working with school and city staff, and community association to find a solution to traffic issues on Thornwood. This would require the development of a plan with specific asks to be taken to city councillor, Toby Nussbaum.

Action item: Erin Yosida to contact Christina Kaeser (last year's traffic sub-committee chair) to get an update on where the committee left off and her recommendation about how to proceed.

Action item: Proposed Council goals for 2015-16 school year to be circulated to MPSC prior to November meeting for review and feedback. [COMPLETE - circulated October 15, 2015]

Next Steps: Parents Reaching Out Grant (Pro-Grant) – Sharon Leslie

The Pro-Grant is provided to schools in order to develop initiatives which encourage greater parent engagement in the school community. As updated at the September meeting, MPSC was awarded funding which will be used to hold 2-3 events during the current school year. Sharon Leslie led the group in a brainstorming session on ways to best use the funds. Ideas included:

- Continue the "good life teachings" sessions presented in 2014-15 school year
- Speakers on advancement for women in sport (LGBT and ethnic, cultural issues) or athletes with disabilities to speak to parents or children.
- Parenting grandchildren – number of people in the community raising grandchildren
- Internet safety and cyber security
- LGBTQ or transgender issues

It was noted that attendance for these events is typically low. More creative solutions like holding one event with numerous speakers/sessions may allow for the money to be used to also address barriers to participation (childcare, transportation, more central locations, etc.).

Action item: Sharon Leslie to provide a summary of Pro-Grant options for the Council to consider at the November meeting.

By-law Review/Update

Action Item: Suehila Elkateb and Leigh Anne Richardson to review MPSC bylaws for necessary updates.

Principal's Report – Sue Massaad

[See report in appendix A for further details]

Sue Massaad provided information and sought feedback on the proposed changes to French Immersion curriculum. Many expressed concern about the reduction of French language instruction in grades 1-3, as well as the truncated consultation process. Further details on the changes can be found online: <http://www.ocdsb.ca/sch/Consultation/Pages/French-Instruction-for-Kindergarten-and-Primary-Early-French-Immersion.aspx>

Vice-Principal's Update – Dan Martin

Dan Martin provided an update on the ongoing bussing issue, noting that, while some positive changes have been made, some busses are still arriving late. As such, a new route was added on

Manor Park School Council and Home and School Association Meeting
Minutes
October 14, 2015
MPPS

Thursday, October 15, which pulled from three other bus routes. Affected families received on Wednesday, October 14, 2015.

Open Forum

Open Forum is an opportunity for parents to raise questions or concerns for the administration, teachers or other parents.

It was requested that the school encourage school monitors to allow for younger students to be more independent during break time (i.e., opening packages, etc.). Sue Massaad recommended that concerns of this nature be brought to teachers.

Manor Park School Council and Home and School Association Meeting Minutes

October 14, 2015

MPPS

Manor Park Home and School Association Meeting

Meeting opened at 8:29 p.m.

Financial Update – Erin Yoshida

Budget – current status:

Chequing account balance – \$24,300.62

GIC – \$25,278.96

- Thus far, \$1000 has been approved for French Book in the Bag materials
- Teachers stipend – 9 teachers have requested funds (9 @ \$100) – Deadline for teacher request for funds is Friday, November 6; a reminder to be circulated
- Pizza money has been deposited
- GIC has matured, principle and interest have been renewed; however, the next time the GIC is up for renewal, Erin would like to renew the \$22K principle, but move remaining money to the Association's chequing account. This will keep the account balance above \$10K and avoid any banking fees.

Motion: At the next renewal of the GIC, renew the \$22K principle and move any remaining money into the Association chequing account.

Erin Yoshida moves, Mary Ruth Endicott seconds. Motion carries.

Signing Authority – Erin Yoshida

Signing authority on the association cheques needs to be updated to reflect recent changes in Council.

Motion: Change the signing authority to authorize Wendy Colthart, Kathryn Pizana, Sue Noble, and Erin Yoshida, and remove all other individuals.

Mary Ruth Endicott moves. Sharon Leslie seconds. Motion carries.

Fundraising Updates – Fundraising Coordinators (Kathryn Pizana, Sue Noble, Wendy Colthart)

The Association is open to new fundraising ideas and initiatives and encourages greater parent involvement beyond parent council. Updates on current fundraising initiatives included:

- Pizza Day: despite some logistical challenges, the Pizza Day fundraiser is going well.
- Mayfair: one parent expressed interest at the September meeting and subsequently followed up. Mary Ruth Endicott to follow up. Tables have been booked through Sue Massaad.
- Magazine Subscriptions: A reminder to go out to parents this week, written orders due October 16, online orders can continue throughout the year.

Manor Park School Council and Home and School Association Meeting Minutes

October 14, 2015

MPPS

- Bookfair: the bookfair will be held on November 20th PA Day. It is possible that traffic may be lower than in previous years due to the current labour dispute.
- Dance-A-Thon: interested members are encouraged to contact Sue Noble if interested in assisting with the Dance-A-Thon. Most of the preparation happens before Christmas.
- It was suggested that the parent council consider hosting a bake sale during the spring play.

Action item: Mary Ruth Endicott to follow up with parent interested in organizing Mayfair.

Meeting adjourned 8:44pm.

Manor Park School Council and Home and School Association Meeting Minutes

October 14, 2015
MPPS

Appendix A: Principle's Report

Principal's Report- October 2015

Proposed changes to French Instruction

The Board has proposed changes to the French Instruction for Kindergarten and Primary Early French Immersion students:

- JK and SK would be 50% English and 50 % French
- 60 minutes of English instruction would be introduced in Grade 1
- Math in Primary EFI would shift from French to English

There is a public consultation being held at Fallingbrook Community ES on October 22nd at 7 pm.

The Board would also like to hear your feedback by filling out the parent survey.

Link to community/ parent survey: https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Survey_Recommended_Changes_French_Instruction_Kindergarten_Early_Primary_French_Immersion

Labour Action

- ETFO and the government continued bargaining again as of October 5th. Media reports that some progress is being made.
- Progress reports may be affected if a deal is not reached soon. Data is due into the office on November 2nd and progress reports are scheduled to go home on Nov. 12th
- OSSTF support workers have been in a legal strike position since October 5th. This includes our ECEs, EAs, support staff (social worker, psychologists, etc.), librarian, front office staff and custodial staff.
- There have been no changes to security at Manor Park due to strike action. All exterior doors are locked during the school day with the exception of the front door. Visitors are all asked to sign in at the front office and wear identification in the building.
- Parents may find that they have to wait longer when picking up children during the school day as office staff will not call down to class.
- Student safety remains our top priority.

Manor Park School Council and Home and School Association Meeting Minutes

October 14, 2015

MPPS

School Council Liability Insurance

The Board will be providing School Council Liability Insurance through OSBIE (Ontario School Board Insurance Exchange) from Nov 1, 2015– October 31, 2016. Confirmation of insurance will be sent to the school council chairs within the next few weeks.

Change in Superintendent

Stephen Sliwa will be leaving our Board on November 6th to take on the role of Director of Education with the Upper Canada District School Board. Barrie Hammond, our retired Director of Education will act as our interim Superintendent until a replacement is announced.