

**Mazo de la Roche Public School**  
**School Council Minutes**

*Date : September 27, 2023*

*Mazo Library*

*Start Time : 6:30PM*

*End Time: 8:04PM*

**Attendance:**

Katherine Gousis – Principal	Maria G.
Pamela Cytrynbaum – Vice Principal (virtual)	Becky B. – Volunteer Coordinator
John M. – Co-Chair	Kathleen F.- Secretary
Rachel M. – Co-Chair	Pamela M.
Moxi Z.– Treasurer	Amy L.
Leila S.	Natasha S. (virtual)
Matthew B.	Tristin K.(virtual)
Jess C.	

**1. Welcome – Principal Gousis**

- Introductions
- Meeting agenda reviewed

**2. What is School Council – Principal Gousis**

- School Council Handbook
- Highlighting the big ideas
- PEAC video
- latecomers to the meeting were introduced.
- John detailed the PEAC video a little more, from his perspective. He identified how councils have changed from solely fundraising. It is about parent engagement, involving them in the school community, and events now. A great example was Family Fun Night last spring.

**3. Election of School Council Executive**

- John & Rachel are Co-Chairs. They spoke in detail about their past experiences.
- Kathleen is Secretary. She said a little about herself. She was Secretary last school year.
- John explained the role of Volunteer Coordinator and Treasurer. Becky will be the Volunteer Coordinator and Moxi will be our Treasurer.

**4. Principal's Report**

- John welcomed Principal Gousis to Mazo.
- School start-up forms are out
- The School Council Forum will be October 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2023 at Dr. Denison SS from 5:30PM to 8:30PM. Two parents from council executive may attend. Typically, each will attend a session, share the

info and bring that back to council. This can be discussed with the Co-Chairs later.

-School handbook/school council constitution. It is reviewed every couple of years. The board recently updated theirs, but we can revisit ours at another time.

-The Principal and Vice-Principal profiles should be updated yearly.

-The hybrid meeting model will continue

-The purpose of council is to have open communication between the community and the school

-Sub-committees may be required

-Pro Grant (Parents Reaching Out Grant); a combination of money council raises that the board will contribute a portion. It can address inclusion, racism, identity affirming culture, parent engagement, knowledge. John mentioned in the past Mazo was a part of a Newmarket parent network. Schools pooled Pro Grant money for a series of topics. This was more successful in person than online. Mazo did not end up applying last year because we had a strong fundraising program. The maximum amount matched last year was \$800. Pamela mentioned we have Paul Davis booked to come to Mazo in April to do age appropriate discussions for grade 2-8 students. There will be another session booked for parents.

-Reorganization. A grade 3 teacher was declared surplus. One grade 3 class dissolved and students were redistributed. This forced some grade 2 students to relocate classes. There are 585 students at Mazo this year. There are 18 busses.

#### 5. **Mazo Priorities**

-mattering and belonging

-teaching through lens of anti-oppression and equality

-supporting students' mental health and well being

-supporting students' learning journey through continuous improvement

#### 6. **Highlights of our Strategies**

-continuing to build material and electronic resources for regular use

-engaging in conversations, allowing routines and practicing good character. This week is safety week.

#### 7. **Fundraising Plan**

-what is a fundraising plan?

-who should develop the plan? Us in collaboration.

-when is the plan created? Early in the school year.

-when should the money be spent? The same school year

-what may funds be raised for? Technology replenishment (was off the list but we could potentially revisit), field trips/guest experiences, graduation, agendas.

#### 6. **Treasurer's Report**

-Mme Gousis will present this report for today's meeting

-There is just under \$13,000 in the school budget

-John will send a details list of where the money came from last year

## **7. Meet the Teacher Night**

- Wednesday October 4<sup>th</sup> from 6-7PM
- Classrooms will be open to view and meet teachers.
- Last year we had a table set up for School Council. If anyone is available to join, that would be great. We can work in shifts.
- We are hoping to do a flash food drive. Help may be required afterwards to help pack up donations.
- Boxes and a sign up sheet will be needed.
- Mme Gousis will include this in her communications.

## **8. Graduation**

- Wednesday June 26<sup>th</sup>, 2024. The exact time is TBA.
- The ceremony will be held at Mazo and the reception will be at The Shed.
- This year we have 85 students in grade 8.
- A few parents have approached Rachel about planning.
- A sign up sheet for grad night can be available at Meet the Teacher night. That way an official sub-committee can be established.
- John suggested having a chair for each sub-committee to make communication easier.

## **9. School Council Meeting Dates**

- October 19<sup>th</sup>
- November 20<sup>th</sup>
- No December meeting
- January 15<sup>th</sup>
- February 15<sup>th</sup>
- No March meeting
- April 3<sup>rd</sup>
- May 9<sup>th</sup>
- June 5<sup>th</sup>
- all meeting begin at 6:30PM

-everyone likes the idea of sub committee meetings. These ideas can be shared at regular council meetings.

-John: Can we officially declare everyone here members at large? This is Important in the event we are required to vote. School staff and trustees can not be voting members. Mme Gousis approved. She will create an Edsby group where she will post agenda and meeting minutes. John asked if the Edsby poll could be used to approve meeting minutes? Mme Gousis will investigate it. This allows everyone more time to read minutes.

-Pamela asked how parent questions or concerns are brought to meetings. The response was to let admin or chairs know about a week in advance and they will add it to the agenda.

## **10. Teacher's Report**

- Athletics: -cross country running and intermediate volleyball teams
- Clubs/Committees: choir (4-6), student leadership (gr 7-8)
- Upcoming events: orange shirt day (Friday September 29), Terry Fox Run (October 2), Walk for

Wenjack (October. stay tuned to Mazo matters)

-Contests: Lions club international peace poster competition. Ages 11-13. Choose one entry to send to the local lions. If selected, the entry goes to national contest. Writing - polar express publishing. students to apply directly with parents. Students in past have been published.

John asked of those joining us online would like to be voting members. Both Tristin and Natasha said yes.

Natasha question: can parents come to watch the Terry Fox Run? Pamela will ask that communication to be sent about it. When is cross country? Communication will also be sent about it.

Emails for those attending online were shared over the chat.

Meeting adjourned: 8:04PM