

Michaëlle Jean Public School

Council Meeting Minutes

Thursday, April 8th

7:00pm

In attendance:

Council members: Ashley Bebbington, Corrine F, Deep Swaroop, Elnaz Golestani, Kim Sato, Patton Su, Sushma Kavikondala.

School Staff: Nora Mazlounian, Christine Chin

Regrets: Bryan Wright, Moiz Mohamedali

1. Welcome & Introductions

Kim welcomed everyone and thanked everyone for joining the meeting. Kim shared the agenda.

2. Approval of February Meeting Minutes

Kim asked if everyone has read the February minutes, and these were reviewed. Kim motioned to approve the February minutes; Corrine seconded them? Minutes were approved.

3. Principal Report and School Improvement Planning

Nora spoke about the different resources that can be accessed to support students and retention of students in the French immersion stream. She said that no marked difference in students leaving and/or students registering for the French immersion program was observed this year compared to the last few years. The board will have some teachers help student's transition next year from virtual to face to face leaning and in general all around adjustment.

Nora also spoke about the yearbook. She said almost all pictures have been received/collected and that the front cover page is almost ready. She also told us that school sent out a google form to collect some more information from students and that the teachers were almost done with compiling the notes.

4. *Treasurer's Report*

Patton gave the treasurer's report and said that we started with \$14,807.16 and that there were three major expenses. The council spent \$551.38 on tumble books (budget approved last meeting), \$548.05 on Sara Westbrook "Parent Presentation: "Nurturing your Child's Emotional Well-Being", and \$615.24 was spent on the presentation for the prologue. A total of \$13,072.49 is still left and may be carried over to next school year.

Kim thanked Paton and said that some of the hand-outs from Sara Westbrook presentation would be available in the next newsletter. She also told us that Sara was an approved presenter by the board and so, the board will reimburse the council \$500 for the presentation.

Then Nora spoke about the prologue for presentation at school. She said it was basically a concert in French and that it was very engaging for the kids with kids singing and dancing in some classes. She acknowledged that she thought the online presentation was different from a live concert as kids are more aware of restrictions when watching the online concert from within their classrooms, but she felt overall it was a good break from routine and a good start to the carnival week at school.

Kim asked if any technology will be purchased from school council funds this year? Nora explained that since every year the technology is purchased via the cost share program with the board but this year the board has put a freeze on all cost share programs, so she does not think it is a good use of the council money to purchase technology this year. She felt that this would be a better project to take up next year. Christine added that with the virtual programs, the technology requirements of the school are changing, and school has given out many chrome books and so, she felt it best we hold off on this till next year, so that we have a better idea of what the requirements will be like.

5. *Committee Chair Reports*

Communications Officer (Corinne)

Corinne told us that she is working on the next communication letter and she hopes it will go on Monday. She thanked everyone who submitted content for the school letter.

School Climate (Elnaz)

Elnaz told us that this year the school did not have a winter carnival but were able to have a spring carnival. Activities like button making using kids' paintings were made by volunteers at home and easter eggs were purchased for each kid so that they get to paint them and take them home. Additionally, outdoor activities were arranged by the school staff for kids to play and participate in. Nora added that the eggs were a big success and that kids enjoyed painting them.

Student Success (Deep)

Deep updated us on the FAST (Family and Schools Together) program that was conducted for MJPS families. Though the program has ended, the families with their Parent Partner (Kim) will meet up to 12 times per year, now as part of FASTWORKS. Funds are through FSYR (Family Services York Region) and their sponsors. Kim told us about the talent show that the families put together as part of the last FAST meet and that MJPS families have many hidden talents, and that it was amazing to see the various activities/tricks that were displayed. Elnaz echoed that FAST program was very engaging and useful. Kim told us that a total of 21 families came together for this program. She also told us that this brought together kids from virtual and live school together and helped build a community.

6. *Teacher's Report*

Christine gave us the highlights of the various activities going on at school. She thanked the council on behalf of the teachers for putting together the various activities including the button making and egg painting. She told us that the classes were participating in the bingo game this week and that the students were thrilled to play it and are enjoying it thoroughly. She appreciates some of the fun stuff that kids are able to participate in. For outdoor activities, the teachers came up with stations that required no equipment to maintain COVID safe activities. They had stalls where the kids had to tell the teacher the signs of spring and where kids had to take on the shape of a spring sign, for e.g. bend their body like a rainbow etc. They had 12 stalls in total and the kids had fun at the stalls today. She also told us that Mr. Segbor has been ordering healthy individually wrapped snacks such as apples, yogurt, cheese etc. and these were available in individual bowls for each class in the front foyer. She told us that they usually try to have three different food

groups like dairy, grains, and fruit.

Nora added that the food/snack program is subsidized by 'President Choice Foods' through the nutrition program for schools and that she would send a small acknowledgement on this to Corrinne, to be added to the school newsletter.

7. *New Business*

Budget Proposal for Next Year

As the next meeting is the last meeting, Nora proposed that the school council come up with a proposed budget for the next school year and incorporate some of the items that we may want to spend the council money on. She also said that we should be looking at fund raising activities for next year while letting the families know the items towards which the funds are being raised. She also proposed that we look at various types of fund-raising activities and said that so far, pizza lunch was the biggest fund-raising activity for the school and different proposals on how to continue with the pizza lunch next year were discussed by the council members. Other options like selling magazines, conducting virtual programs by ROM, Ontario Science Centre, San Diego Zoo, using an app to buy groceries etc. while donating to the school etc were also discussed. Options on continuing the milk program and/or having ice creams for kids were also discussed.

Lunch Assistants

The council also discussed the problem of having enough lunch assistants to help mind kids at lunch time. Nora explained the need for sufficient lunch assistants to enable kids to go out, especially due to the COVID cohort restrictions. Different options like the council paying for the police clearance for lunch assistants, helping parents apply for the police clearance etc. were discussed. Nora said that the council money is specifically reserved to go towards kids' activities and so cannot be used to subsidize the police clearance fees for lunch assistants. Various questions on whether VSS could be used for applying to the lunch assistant position or a separate screening for employment was required were raised. Discussion on this ensued and it was later confirmed that a separate clearance for employment was required to apply for the lunch assistant position.

Ashley enquired if she could help out on any day of the week or had to give a prior notice for the days she could help. Nora explained that she could let the school know at the beginning of the

week and that would be fine.

Staff Appreciation Gifts

Corrinne enquired about buying staff appreciation gifts for staff with the council money. Nora informed us that the council money is reserved for students and we cannot buy gifts for the teachers. Options of buying fit cards for scholastic, buying classroom material etc were discussed.

School Constitution Update

Kim asked the council to go through the constitution, so that we can vote on updating the constitution next meeting. She is hoping to add a section to the council and that we can read through it and approve it.

8. Adjournment

Kim motioned to adjourn the meeting. Sushma and Corrinne seconded it. Meeting adjourned at 8.30pm. Final byes!