

Michaëlle Jean P.S.
School Council Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, April 19, 7:00 pm

The fifth meeting of the MJPS Parent Council for the 2016-2017 school year was held at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, April 19, 2017 with the Principal Nadia Russiello, the co-chairs, Silvia Moreno-Ip and Marisa Mahabir and the following people in attendance: Andrea Pape, Tracey Cunningham, Mohammed Soltani (Community Ambassador), Sally Wang, Sarah Liang (Community Ambassador) Merav Sharon, Vivian Cho, Lixia Yang, Li Goa, Daniel Yan.

Absent with Regrets: Beatriz Bernard (Teacher Rep), Randi Magder, Ali Pourfajar, Brenda Powrie, Tara Sable, Jean Rudman (VP)

1. Welcome: (Nadia, Marisa, Silvia): Thank you for taking the time to come on out especially after we had to reschedule.

2. Approval of February Meeting Minutes: Tracey approved and Merav second.

3. Appreciations and Recognitions: Tracey: Thank you to Silvia who has been extremely patient and composed re: Town of Richmond Hill lunch “journey”. Thank you to Lixia for organizing the pizza volunteers and Nemartha and Rebecca for their continued spear-heading efforts with the pizza lunches. Thank you to all staff (teachers, admin, support, caretaking) for supporting us with the massive endeavor. Thank you to Jessica Zhang and Kim Sato for taking on pizza for next year. Tracey will be available as a safety-net support for next year. **Silvia:** Thank you to those who organized the Family Math Night. Well-organized, well-attended. There was a variety of activities for all the kids. Impressed at what kids can do nowadays...particularly the problem-solving activities. Teachers did a fabulous job. We appreciate their support and seeing the teachers’ children there as well. **Nadia:** Thanks to council for accommodating the switch of the council dates. **Marisa:** Thank you to Nadia for bringing in Jungle Sport. It was great! Everyone enjoyed it.

4. Treasurer’s Report: (Sally): Updated as of April 4th. See handout. Highlights in red are changes from last meeting. Yellow highlighted items are items that has been charged. Items under budget have also been noted. We should put another noted in the Newsletter re: QSP. Pizza...more than we expected by \$61.00. Tracey will give Sally numbers as to how much we will spend on pizza. How did we do first term comparing second term? Better in second term. Donation drive, we did not make our budget. Fun Fair expense: \$450 is left over from last year.

5. MJPS Community Ambassadors (Nadia): We have 2 community ambassadors (Group of parents to help out other parents in Richmond Hill) Mo and Sarah with 2 others who were not there. Worked with Yvonne Kelly making links between the community and our school. Sarah: Started taking a training course of 12 weeks re: education, safety, anti-abuse, anti-bullying, women’s rights. We are all parents in this community. Triple P program of 20 people working together with all the schools. Recently they have worked with Silver Stream P.S. Handout to

distribute to other parents. They are a liaison between parents (language barriers, too afraid) and school. Also setting up a "Coffee Talk" maybe once a month, depending on interest. First one is May 12. Coffee Talk: "Parents meeting parents". People speak all different languages. Who attends? Community ambassadors, parent council was invited. Mo talked about how he started in 2007 working with CCSYR and the different work he does for various organizations. Speaks many languages. He's ready to help. They are a group of people who also support each other. They focus their time on the school their children attend but help out other schools. Work with refugees to help with settlement in Canadian schools. If you notice any parents who are new here...this is the community helpers to help them. There is also a contact list that will be handed out to the school office. There is a group email on the Silver Stream handout. We can put the information for all parents in the Newsletter. Bring it up at the Grade 1 Orientation in June. Nadia will send the date of the orientation once it has been established and they can set up a table that day. This is a new program.

6. Parents Symposium:

(Silvia): Was put on by YRDSB. 900 parents attended. Largest turnout for parents and educators. Pre-registered for breakout sessions. All kinds of topics. Applying for OSAP, Technology. Google Classroom: new tools our kids are using. Let parents know what it's about. Some login issues became part of the learning. Take-aways: this is the way of the future with technology. If parents have questions, talk to the teacher. Another take-away: 2 little girls promoting social conscience. Wanted to help the homeless. They came up the "Odd Sock Campaign". They've gone global, sending mismatched socks to the world. Very inspiring. Encouraging you to attend next year. Learn a lot and meet a lot of new people.

(Sally): STEM workshop, playing games, working collaboratively to create bridges to carry weight. Website: "wemadeit". Contests available for students. Another workshop with "clues" and locks for problem-solving. "Learning is Fun"

(Li): Attended last year as a parent. This year, she helped organized the event as a volunteer. There was a training session on how to introduce the presenters. Many different roles for volunteers.

Marisa: Every year it gets bigger. Strongly encourage you to attend. There is babysitting as well.

7. Admin Report: (Nadia)

Principal's Report

1. Planning for 2017-2018:

Grade One Registrations: 122 (projected 159).

2. Grade One Open House: We will need parent volunteers to give new parents/families tours of the school. More information regarding date and time to come.

3. **Grade 3 Transition Committee:** Who will be overseeing this committee? We need to start planning now. Date: June 20th. Silvia, Marisa and Merav will be working on this. Nadia will send out an email soon to find a date to start planning it.

4. **Haiti Fundraiser:** Assembly on April 12. Dance-a-thon on April 28th. Eco Club is creating terra cotta pots that children can win. Tickets will be available next week. \$2 donation = 1 ticket, \$5 donation = 3 tickets. All money collected will go to Schools for the Children of the World. Our goal is \$10,000 again this year. We are helping to build the "Tree School" in Honduras. Nadia showed a slide show about the school they built in Honduras "Escuela Luis Alfonso Guerra" "The Jungle School". One of the classes wrote letters to the students and they wrote back last year.

5. **Snack Program:** Mme Rudman, M. Segbor and Mme A. Lee have co-ordinated a snack program that provides apples in the office for students who have forgotten a snack or need an extra nutrition break throughout the day. Provided by a grant we applied for. Next year, we need to talk about how to fund it if we don't get the grant.

6. **Parent Survey:** YRDSB will be inviting parents/guardians to participate in a survey May 1-19, 2017. This survey provides an important opportunity for parent/guardian voice. Results will be used to guide planning to support student achievement and well-being. You may complete the survey online or on paper. The online survey will be available in English. Paper surveys will be available from the school office in English, Simplified Chinese, Traditional Chinese, Farsi, Gujarati, Hebrew, Korean, Punjabi, Russian, Sri Lankan Tamil, Urdu and Vietnamese. We value your input and encourage you to complete the survey. The information you provide will be anonymous, considered confidential and kept in strict accordance with all relevant legislation. Information about how to access the online survey will be sent home with students at the end of April. Please contact the school if you have any questions.

7. **Staff Updates:** We welcome M. O'Leary back to our caretaking team. He was back with us after March Break.

Mme Hijazi's last day with us will be April 28th. Sujeetha Janakan will be joining us in the office beginning May 1st until the end of the school year.

7. **Teacher's Report: (Beatriz Bernard)**

April 19th 2017 -MJPS School council meeting
I send my regrets for tonight's meeting.

Hi Everyone...

MJPS is swinging into spring!!

Never a dull moment at our school.

To recap the month of February, it was busy:

- Grade 1s Hands Up For Health program
- Grade 3s at the Heritage School House
- Red, White and Pink Day, Jersey Day, Lights out Lunch Day from our Eco Club.
- The grade 1s went to the Richmond Hill Theater to watch “les Aventures de MystEric”, a magic show about math and numbers all in French. This is an extension of the FSL program and the math curriculum. It was funny and educational!
- Grade 3s had Scientist in School
- Lice Checks were done after our return from March Break...Thank you school council!
- Twin day was fun...teachers and students twinned up...see the pictures on our TV
- Our second concert was amazing...great fun was had by all!
- And to end the month...our Character Matters Assembly!

And here we are in, homestretch of April....May in our midst:

- We wore blue in support of World Autism Day
- On April 6th, we had Family Math Night, and it was a huge success!! Many teachers put in long hours to prepare different math games focusing on math curriculum expectation. Parents moved from room to room in 3 different shifts and tried games and puzzles (Problem solving, games, puzzles). It was wonderful to see parents and their children work together to solve math problems!! A survey was sent to parents to ask for feedback. We want to see how we can improve it for future Math Nights. Thank you to those who have helped by responding with their feedback.
- Bricks for Kids and Karate Kids for Grade 1s is in full swing.
- Director’s cut is a buzz in the grade 3 classes. Students are making short clips of stories or commercials. They are becoming little Directors!
- We had our Haiti/Honduras Fundraiser Kickoff Assembly. Once again we are trying to help other students to be able to have a wonderful learning environment such as the one we have, but sometimes they need a helping hand. Families have been asked for donations to help us achieve our goal of ten thousand dollars.
- Our wonderful librarian, Mme Tollefsen, and her wonderful volunteers have once again taken on the task of having a scholastic book fair. Students will be able to go and look at the books this week with their classes. They can then either bring money to school to purchase the books, or come in after school with their family to purchase.
- Crazy hat day is happening on April 26th,
- Students will be enjoying the play of The Velveteen Rabbit/Le Lapin en Velour
- And to end the month, we will be having our Character Matters Assembly as well as our Haiti/Honduras Fundraiser Dance-a -thon.

We are hoping for May flowers!

- During the first week of May we will be having our Jump Rope for heart kick off
- Grade 1s will be having Scientist in the school
- Grade 2s will be going on an amazing trip to the Science Centre
- Grade 3s will be having their EQAO tests
- And June 1st is the last of our 3 concerts!

8. Other Business:

-Pizza: (Tracey): We're winding down the last pizza, mid-June. Worked well having two sessions. Having the year split, gave us better sales in the second half. Consider this going forward for next year. This is well organized, a lot of work but it's easy as it's all organized. It's our revenue generator.

-Lunch time programs: Tracey: This is not easy. We've been doing the programs for the last six years. Difficult year this year trying to get the behind-the-scenes done. Is this something do we want to run next year? Think about this and would like to table this for June. "I am deeply disappointed from the Town of Richmond Hill". Had a meeting in September/October with Town with concerns and complaints. Coordinator assured that the issues from last year would not happen again. If we don't do the lunchtime programs with Town, there are other programs, "Karate Kids", "Bricks for Kids" as other options. There are board approved providers. Cost is higher. With the Town, the costs are more reasonable but we have more issues. Caution us as to how many programs we offer. Thinking of equity of those who cannot access. Town programs are much more reasonable in terms of cost. Maybe only run 3 programs. Rotate through the grades.

-PRO Grant: Nadia gave us some information re: topics we can reach out to. \$1000 to spend. Mandate: Use it for something that benefits the school and community. Looking at Triple P, learning opportunities to provide teaching around positive parenting. Looking to coordinate dates (2-3 sessions) and providing it for our school. Could offer babysitting. Application for next year is due May 25th.

-Frozen Yogurt Sales (Lixia): Sent an email to Daniel. Program is now called "Snack Centre" ...new website. Bring it to table to discuss dates, prices and if we want to go ahead. There are 6 different flavours. Maybe give 2 options. 48 cups per case. Must order by cases. Prices \$28.32 per case. Averages \$0.59 per unit. Deliver to all the schools on Tuesdays. We would deliver to classroom Wednesdays. Orders can be done online. Thinking of trying it for 4 weeks. We have to clear out the freezers. Would need 3 parents on the Wednesday to distribute appropriate flavours to the class lists. Distribution has to be really quick.

-Maybe do 1 flavour to help with distribution.

Lixia has a master list of volunteers to ask for help with distribution. Reach out to them and see if we can get 3 parent volunteers for each of the 4 weeks.

-Each week has a different flavour.

-How much do we charge? \$1.50 this year. \$1.75. We voted on it. Passed.

-Will be distributed at lunch. Lixia will send out dates: Tracey suggested May 10, May 17, June 7, June 14th.

-Thanks Lixia for coordinating. When does the vendor need to know the final order #s.

-Communications: (Ali): Will be reaching out to you for Newsletter to get your blurbs in. Those of you who need to get him stuff, think about it as he will need it for May 1st.

- **Fun Fair (Marisa and Silvia):** Sarah has volunteered to lead the Fun Fair. It is on May 25th. A few others have come forward to help Sarah. We have 6 plus Sarah. Shelley would be willing to talk to those who are doing it. This needs to happen soon. Huge undertaking. More people the better. Glad someone has stepped in, otherwise it would not happen. Nadia is concerned about the timeline and whether it is doable this year. If not, what little event could we do? Two years ago, we did a movie night. Company came in to provide movie and we pre-sold pizza. Logistics and time may not allow Fun Fair. Some still want Fun Fair, others think we should do a smaller event.

-Committee will meet with Shelley to see if we could make the Fun Fair happen in this timeline. Today, we should vote to see if a Family Movie Night would be an alternative if the timeline does not allow us to do a Fun Fair. Tracey motioned that if we cannot run the Fun Fair, we run movie night. Silvia seconds.

-**Chair Updates: (Marisa and Silvia):** BAPS is doing Community event night on Monday April 24th...Paul Davis, great speaker speaking on Social Media Safety from 6:00 pm. Speak to students during the day and in the evening he does a presentation for parents from a parent perspective. How to protect children as they access this technology. You are welcome to invite friends and family who would like to see him.

May 3rd: Community event "Fun Fair 60th Anniversary" from 5-7. Library opened from 1-2 pm that same day.

Next meeting is our final meeting. Usually a potluck or order in. Last dinner meeting, we ordered from Joe's and we got the order wrong. They provided us with certificates to compensate. If it's ok, we'll take the certificates and use them towards the cost of the dinner to the final meeting. Yes...let's go with Joe's for June 12th meeting

Meeting was adjourned at: 9:11 pm.

Action Items for April 19th, 2017

	Date Opened	Person(s) Responsible	Action	Completed Yes/No
1.	April 19th	Lixia	Sending email re: Frozen yogurt volunteers	
2.	April 19th	Lixia	Composing cash online flyer for yogurt sales	
3.	April 19th	Li	Coordinate a meeting with Fun Fair volunteers and Shelley	
4.	April 19th	Silvia	Organizing Triple P meeting.	

	April 19th	Nadia	Will send out an email to organize Grade 3 transition.	
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Action Items for February 13, 2017

	Date Opened	Person(s) Responsible	Action	Completed Yes/No
1.	Feb 13th	Nadia	Send email to executive for next budget meeting	Closed
2.	Feb 13th	Marisa	Email QSP rep re: not this year for drive	Closed
3.	Feb 13th	Marisa	Get in touch with Priscilla Joshi and Stella Zang to start organizing Fun Fair	Closed
4.	Feb 13 th	Beatriz	Send info to Lixia re: Frozen yogurt	Closed
5.	Feb 13th	Lixia	Talk to Tracey to see what she has done for Frozen Yogurt	Closed