

Michaëlle Jean P.S.
School Council Meeting Minutes
Thursday, December 1st, 2016-7:00 pm

The third meeting of the MJPS Parent Council for the 2016--2017 school year was held at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, December 01, 2016, after a lovely meal at 6:30 with the Principal Nadia Russiello, the vice-principal Jean Rudman the co-chairs Marisa Mahabir-Byers and Silvia Moreno-Ip and the following people in attendance: Andrea Pape, Beatriz Bernard (Teacher rep), Randi Magder, Vivian Cho, Tara Sable, Merav Sharon, Ali Pourjafar, Sally Wong.

Absent with Regrets: Tracey Cunningham, Li Gao, Dawn Bender-Levine, Lixia Yang, Zenobia Schlichter, Priscilla Joshi, Kaaran Remzi, Tony Gu. Steall Cong Zhang

- 1. 7:00 pm Welcome (Nadia Russiello, Marisa and Silvia):** Marisa thanked everyone for taking the time to come to the meeting during this busy time. Attendance went around. Please add your email to the attendance as there are some mistakes.
- 2. 7:10 pm Approval of November Meeting minutes:** Beatriz motioned to pass and Merav second
- 3. 7:15 pm Appreciations and Recognitions: Nadia:**
Thank you Marisa and Silvia for dinner tonight. **Andrea:** Thanks to admin for all that you do on a daily basis. **Nadia:** Thanks to Ali for all of your patience with the emails about the Newsletter. **Ali:** Thanks for all the feedback and for those who handed in their input on time. **Beatriz:** Thank you to volunteers and Mme Tollefson for the Scholastic Book Fair. Takes a lot of planning and organizing.
- 4. 7:20 pm Treasurer's Report (Sally):**
Sally brought copies of the budget which was updated as of yesterday. Donations are down. Donation button is always on school cash online. In the Newsletter, we are highlighting that it's always there. Mention at Family Math Night? Resources that have been purchased because of donations. Marisa and Silvia will reach out to other councils to see how they had more success with donations. Send communication throughout the drive, flyer going home mid-way. More chances to win, formatting a different way.
Big discussion about how to get people on board. We need to promote it more. Table at concert...flyer on table?
- 5. 7:40 pm Principal Report and School Improvement Planning (Nadia/Jean):**
 - 1. Staffing**
We have had some more staffing changes this month.
Mme Bourrie is now on maternity leave. We are happy to have welcomed Mme Brown back who will be the LTO (Long Term Occasional) teacher for Mme Bourrie until the end of the school year.
 - 2. Mega Hoops**
We are excited to welcome the Ontario Basketball Association (OBA) to MJPS from Monday, December 12 to 14! They will be running a program called "Mega Hoops" during gym class.

Thanks to the communities' support for school fundraising efforts we are able to offer this program free of charge to our students.

Mega Hoops is Ontario Basketball's flagship community program designed to teach fundamental movement and basic basketball skills while developing physical literacy in young athletes. The program is two-fold: Mega Hoops provides curriculum to teachers and also allows schools to request that OBA clinicians deliver programming through gym classes or special events. The program provides age- and stage-appropriate instruction in line with the Sport 4 Life's Long Term Athlete Development Model (LTAD) principles. Just like children need to learn to read and write, they also need to learn to move with competence and confidence across a variety of movements, giving them the tools required to be active for life. Physical literacy is essential to building happy, healthy, and well-rounded students and citizens

3. Quest Conference:

Our Board held its annual Quest Conference from November 16th – 17th.

The focus was "Deep Learning in a Digital World". Teachers who attended heard speakers and attended sessions about embedding digital tools and learning into our practice.

4. Cost Sharing:

The deadline for cost sharing was November 30th. Our school Tech Teacher (M. Mohamed) worked with administration to determine our school needs for ordering.

The following has been ordered:

- * 10 iPad minis
- * 10 Otterboxes
- * Charging station for 20 devices
- * 6 laptops to add to our 14 in the laptop cart
- * 3 in 1 SMARTBoard and easel

Thanks to School Council for their support. Total cost of technology ordered was \$12, 451.14 with School Council paying \$4,980.46 and the Board covering \$7,470.68.

5. Front Foyer and Room 118 updates:

The school has ordered and installed a TV in the front foyer. Further additions will include a shelf for lunches, updated seating and a unit for parent resources. Metal shelving for Room 118 has been ordered. We will advise council once it is installed.

6. Jean: Last council meeting I was not here. School Improvement Plan:

Foundation comes from the Board Improvement plan. 3 pillars: Mental Health, Math and Modern Learning.

Modern Learning: Tech plays a part but not all of it. See monograph re: Modern Learning on Board Website. Authentic, relative, deep learning. Acting locally and think globally and vice-versa...building world citizenship pieces. The Board's improvement plan drives our school's improvement plan. In the new year, we will be revising the school improvement plan. Nadia added about outdoor "deep learning". Staff is looking at our space outside to see what we can build, what space we have to work with. Working on Character traits this year-highlighting that piece as a staff. We have changed our way of teaching. We have to change our mindset. Teachers are co-learners with the students. Students are teaching their teachers. There is a lot of inter-learning among grades.

Silvia: How can we as council communicate with the rest of the community how the things are changing?

-We have teachers on staff who have joined the Modern Learning team.

-Board Improvement plan is a 5-year plan.

7. 7:50 pm Teacher Report (Beatriz):

- The Remembrance Day celebration was lovely. We thanked those who fought for our country and helped to make Canada the wonderful country it is.
- Thank you to council for supporting the scientist in schools program for the grade 3/4 classes.
- We are thankful to Mme Tollefson and her tireless band of volunteers for running the French Book Fair. She always provides our students with ample opportunity to expand their French learning. Parents enjoy as well.
- On November 22nd, our school was treated to a wonderful show by the Duffle Bag Theatre, It was very entertaining and fun was had by all! Thank you to council for covering the cost of the show....it was well worth it!!
- Progress reports went home on the Wednesday and parent teacher interviews were held on the Thursday afternoon and evening and Friday morning. It was great to see parents coming to discuss their child's progress with their teachers!!
- Nov 30th and Dec 1st teachers decorated gingerbread houses to raffle off as part of our United Way donations and giving back to our community. We all enjoyed the time together building the "houses" for a good cause. Students will be able to buy raffle tickets in the next few weeks. The gingerbread houses will be put in the front display case.
- December 8th is the first of our 3 concerts for the year. Classes are busy preparing their performances.
- From December 15th-21st, our grade 2 classes will be visiting the Vivian Outdoor Resource Center (VORC)

"Vivian Outdoor Resource Centre (VORC) is located north of the community of Ballantrae, Ontario and the school building and sits on the beautiful Oak Ridges Moraine. The building at VORC operated as a two classroom school from 1955 until the late 1960s when all students were relocated to Ballantrae Public School. In 1972, the school opened as an outdoor education centre

The naturalized school yard represents a focal point for introductory mapping activities, nature games and exploration. This site provides a first-hand experience with the mixed uses of the lands on the Oak Ridges Moraine. Part of the area was mined for aggregates, leaving a large bowl-shaped sand pit that is slowly naturalizing. The balance of the property is home to pine plantations, mixed forest and fields, and an abundance of wildlife.

The property also demonstrates the forestry history common to this area. In the 1800's, early farmers cleared land leaving open areas highly susceptible to wind and water erosion. Topsoil and sand was blown off creating a landscape of sand dunes and the solution was extensive tree planting. The Department of Lands and Forests and York County organized the planting of thousands of trees in these areas from 1920s to the 1960s. Trees stabilized the sand and reduced the associated problems of flash floods and droughts. Now, students can walk under the canopy of red and jack pine plantations and imagine students of an earlier time, reforesting the Moraine."

- On December 22nd, MJPS students will be coming to school in pyjamas! This is part of spirit days that will be happening throughout the school year.
- Also on Dec 22nd, our friends from BAPS will be coming to regale us with a holiday concert.
- On December 23 we will have our Character matters assembly as well as our very own Holiday Sing Along.
- From the staff, many thanks to school council for all you do and Happy Holidays! See you in 2017!

8. 8:00 pm

Other Business:

- **Pizza (Tracey):** We are anticipating purchase pizza items for January. Moving right along.

- **Lunch Time Programs (Tracey):** Have finished. New session will be starting in the New Year. Those on waiting list will be given priority.
- **Carnaval Committee:** Nadia met with the committee. Week of Feb 6-10th. Wednesday will not have anything planned due to grade 3s going on field trip. Monday outdoor, Tuesday, performance and bingo, Thursday skating, Friday craft day. All is tentative. Door decorating and button contest. Meeting again December 19th to check the status. We will need volunteers for the outdoor activities, tying up laces.
- **Ali P. (Communications):** Please continue to make sure your communications are clear. Please send in your blurb for your committee for December 15th.
- **Chair Updates (Marisa and Silvia):** Thank you for coming out to our meetings and helping out as much as you can. Extra hands makes it go a long way. Safe and Happy Holidays. We'll see you in the New Year.

9. Meeting was adjourned at: 8:47

Next meeting: Monday, February 13, 2017

	Date Opened	Person(s) Responsible	Action	Completed Yes/No
1.	December 1 st ,	Tracey	Find out about Frozen Yogurt as a fundraiser. Who will take it on. (Mme Bernard is willing to help but can't take it on)	
2.	December 1st	Lixia	Call out by email to volunteers if they are available for more dates for pizza/pita/yogurt	
3.				

Action Items for November 10th, 2016

	Date Opened	Person(s) Responsible	Action	Completed Yes/No
1.	November 10 th , 2016	Lixia	Call out by email to volunteers if they are available for more dates for pizza/pita/yogurt	?

2.	November 10 th , 2016	Marisa and Silvia	Will send info about dinner for December Council meeting	Yes
3.	November 10 th , 2016	Li	Reach out to volunteers for interest in Carnaval committee	Yes