

Michaëlle Jean Public School
School Council Meeting Minutes
Thursday, May 21st – 7:00pm

In attendance: Julie, Randi, Patton, Shabbir, Varinder, Kim, Deep

Regrets: Mounika, Raheleh, Qiauzhu, Leanne

School Staff: Nora Mazloumian

1. Welcome & Introductions

Thank you for tuning in virtually, as a result of the school closure due to Covid-19.

2. Approve Minutes from December 2019 Meeting

Everyone reviews the minutes from December 2019. Shabbir moves to accept the minutes, Varinder seconds, all agree, the minutes are passed.

3. Principal's Report (Nora)

Nora and central administrators had a meeting and discussed that School Council will be able to carry over all of the funds. Normally this is not permitted, but this year will be an exception.

Online learning has challenges, many schools are facing issues. The school board has provided many tools to help teachers with online learning. The teachers who were already set up with Google Classrooms had an easier transition.

There is the option to synchronous learning for teachers to engage with students one on one or in small groups. They haven't been able to do this with a whole class as of yet. There is a discrepancy between the Board, Union, and Province about what is permitted.

Some families have many concerns about online learning. The focus is that everyone's physical and mental health comes first. Classwork is secondary. There shouldn't be any pressure to complete schoolwork at this time.

Discussion about how online learning is going for our families.

There is no information about report cards as of yet. The report cards will be based on work completed prior to March Break.

How will schools manage the disparity of learning levels for incoming students? At the start of the year, the teachers will do a diagnostic to see what the students already know and will attempt to fill the gaps. There may be a need for transition for September.

Discussion about percentages of the student population who are not engaged in online learning. Only a small percentage are not participating, the majority of our students are online. There is a big difference in the perception of the amount of work being assigned.

There is some concern about supporting our children in the French Immersion program if the parents do not speak French. Google Read and Write is a useful tool to help families with translating the French instructions into any other language.

Next year will have 19 classes, and there might even be a need for an additional class depending on enrollment over the summer. As of right now, there will be 7 Grade 1s, 5 Grade 2s, 7 Grade 3s. Orientation for incoming grade ones cannot proceed as usual. The teachers will be preparing a video to send out to families and also possibly a virtual presentation. Paper documents have been sent out already. A virtual tour of the school would be a great idea but as of right now, Public Health is not allowing entry to the building longer than 10 minutes. Perhaps later this could be possible to help new students feel more comfortable with the transition.

Agenda purchases are put on hold because once placed, they cannot be changed. We will wait for an official announcement regarding September start before placing our order.

There is planning underway with the Board and Superintendents to allow families to come to the building and remove their personal belongings, hopefully before the end of June.

Discussion about grade 3 students visiting BAPS. Nora will discuss the possibility of a virtual tour of BAPS. There will not be any yearbook or graduation ceremony this year, unfortunately due to these circumstances.

Everyone enjoyed the video compiled from all of the MJPS teachers and staff. Was much appreciated by students.

4. *Financial Report*

We needed to refund the lunch program funds to parents as a result of the school closure. We have a lot of money to carry over to next school year (\$17,178). Julie moves to allow approximately \$2,400 for agendas for the upcoming school year to be ordered over the summer once the Board approves, Kim seconds, all agree, the motion is passed.

5. *Other Business*

Discussion about feasibility of hosting a School Council virtual event to support parents during this time, perhaps regarding mental health or technology workshops. The Board has published tools to help parents with the online learning methods. Question about who would be managing this session? Deep has experience with teaching technology to adults. We can put out a Google Form in the next newsletter to see if there is interest in this type of session and what their challenges may be, including language barriers. Perhaps there are people in our school community who would be willing to help others in this regard? There are many people in challenging situations as a result of being at home, we could identify resources to offer help. The teachers could possibly do a mental health check in with their students.

Kim mentions that Sergeant Ken from CanFitPro did a discussion about nutrition and resiliency for both adults and children. Wonders if a virtual discussion or virtual gym class would be of interest to the school population for a June session? Kim will investigate this initiative.

Julie discusses the possibility of some way for the Grade 3s to commemorate their graduation. Perhaps a card sent to each student would be feasible.

6. *Adjournment*

Meeting Adjourned at 8:10pm. Final goodbyes!