

Michaëlle Jean Public School

Council Meeting Minutes

Tuesday May 4, 2021

7:00pm

In attendance:

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

School Staff: Nora Mazlounian, Christine Chin

Regrets: Bryan Wright

1. *Welcome & Introductions*

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

2. *Adapt/Approval of April Meeting Minutes*

Kim asked if everyone has read the April meeting minutes, and these were reviewed. Kim motioned to approve, and Patton seconded. Minutes approved.

3. *Principal Report and School Improvement Planning*

Nora presented the budget proposal for next year. She suggested that the council consider prioritize purchasing items based on proposed revenue balance for next year. Classroom items are purchased by teachers with the budget provided by school through board approved vendors. School council subsidizes the performances (2 to 3 each year), each costing about \$800/\$900 and this was included in the budget proposal. Jungle sports and MovementX conducted activities at MJPS and the teachers/Nora prefer Jungle sports. Budget was allocated for either Jungle sports/MovementX/other companies to carry out activities at the school, pending clarity on what kind of activities would be permitted in the upcoming year. Budget also included expenses for Grade 3 transition, which was lowered from \$3,000 to \$2000 in line with lower revenue and fewer number of grade 3 students' next year. Carnival and carnival culture expense, and fun fair expense (\$5,000 allocated, which is up from \$4,000 to account for hiring a DJ etc.) were also included.

The budget allocated to various activities totaled to \$23,100 and the remaining balance was \$500. Within the proposed budget there was no allocation of funds towards ‘Angel fund’ or ‘Plan Canada’, but Nora proposed that the council could look at reallocating the school resources, about \$500 to Plan Canada and \$300 to Angel Fund later.

Kim suggested that the school could consider writing to the student that they (Kim’s family) sponsored through Plan Canada. Kim asked if the school had any indication on whether pizza lunch program would be permitted next year, but Nora told us that there was no info available from the board yet.

4. *Treasurer’s Report*

Patton gave the treasurer’s report and said that there was only one expenditure for Easter in April. The balance opened with \$13,072.49 and \$230.06 was spent on Easter eggs, therefore the remaining balance is at \$12,859.43. Patton also told us that after accounting for any expenditures in May and June, he will present the budget for the whole school year (2020-2021) in September. Nora informed us that the reason she penned \$8000 as the estimated amount transferred from this year to next year in the budget she proposed, though the balance at the end of April is ~13,000, is because she deducted ~\$3000 for the Year 3 Yearbooks. If more than \$8000 gets transferred from this year to the next, we may have the budget for ‘Plan Canada’ and/or ‘Angel Fund’.

5. *Committee Chair Reports*

School Climate (Elnaz/Kim)

Kim gave us an update on Elnaz’s behalf. Elnaz procured information from different pizza outlets for the pizza lunch program at the school. Dominos and Pizza Nova are unable to pack the pizza slices individually. Little Ceaser’s individually packed pizza slice will cost \$2.68/slice and Abruzzo’s individually packed slices will cost \$3/slice. In 2019-2020, the school ordered pizzas from Abruzzo’s which cost \$1.67/slice and the school charged \$4.25/slice, so the revenue margin was good. Elnaz is going to speak to Richmond Hill Costco manager to check if they could provide the school with individually packed pizza slices. Moiz offered to speak with the owners of ‘Toppings’ and check if they could provide a more competitive rate. The school council

brainstormed possible ideas on how to increase the revenue margin. Christine suggested we add an apple to the pizza and then we could possibly charge \$5 for lunch and boost the revenue.

Nora and Patton also added that with ~\$1.50 in revenue for individual lunch on Fridays, the estimated revenue from pizza lunch that was proposed in the budget by Nora would be close to what is expected, assuming no decrease in number of orders. The cost of the apples from 'Eat Right' is estimated to cost \$48 for 100 individually wrapped portions. Ashley suggested splitting the year into three terms for the lunch order to boost order numbers, especially to boost orders from year 1 kids.

One of the parents attending the council meeting asked the areas where school funds are used and if there would be a possibility to fund raise to purchase protective equipment for the school? Kim told her that the school inquired about purchasing HEPA filters last summer, but to maintain equity among schools, the school board would purchase such protective items and school council cannot fund them. The school funds are usually used towards science and technology purchases, funding programs like 'Scientist in school', field trips, spring carnival, school dances and parent presentations etc. Nora added that the budget she presented at the beginning tracks the expenses along with suggestions on where the money can be spent, however the school council votes on the spending and has the final say on the areas where the money is spent.

The council also discussed other fund-raising possibilities including inviting the school community to participate in downloading affiliate marketing apps, such as Flipgive, onto their phones and every time parents use the app to purchase items, the school would get about 3% of the amount purchased based on the vendor the purchase is made from; online cash donations to school; designing greeting cards by kids at school (cards have the kid's names and date); street/school sale like a garage sale at school etc.

Community Involvement (Moiz)

Moiz suggested activities for community involvement such as spending time at 360 kids interacting with the kids there and getting involved in environmental initiatives that are offered by the town of Richmond Hill for planting trees, cleaning up areas etc. He also told us that 360 Kids

get a lot of donations during holiday season and that the school food drive may be more beneficial to 360 Kids if it is held during spring/summer.

Communications Officer (Corinne)

Corinne told us that the last school council newsletter for the year will be going out in the first week of June.

Student Success (Deep)

Deep gave us an update that Kim would continue working with 21 families on the FAST (Family and Schools Together) program as well as the Mother's Day card activity with the families and that they are looking at meeting bi-monthly for the next two years. Christine mentioned that this program has helped one of her students' and she thought that the program was very helpful.

6. *Teacher's Report*

Christine gave us a quick report on the online classes and said that the teachers are happy to see the kids online every day and hopefully it will be in-person classes soon.

7. *New Business*

School Constitution

Kim provided a quick update on this and said that she would be sending the constitution soon and that we could vote on it via google.

School Clubs

Sushma brought up the possibility of having school clubs such a reading club, chess club etc.

Nora told us that the school, previously, had clubs during lunch such as Introduction to Robotics/Lego Club, Karate, Arts Club, Choir etc. Nora said the school is open to having clubs, COVID permitting.

Virtual Family Paint Night

One of the parents' attending the meeting suggested hosting a virtual family paint night for kids in September and possibly turning it into a fund-raising activity. She suggested that the school

council could have once a month virtual family activity night/evening and could make it a pay per night fund-raiser.

Nora – Thank you

Nora thanked all the members/parents for participating and taking the time to be part of the school council and contributing to the school community.

8. Adjournment

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