

# **Michaëlle Jean Public School**

## **Council Meeting Minutes**

**Tuesday, November 10<sup>th</sup>**

**7:00pm**

**In attendance:**

**Council members:** Ashley, Corrine, Deep, Elnaz, Kim, Moiz, Patton, Sushma

**School Staff:** Nora Mazlounian, Christine Chin

**Members-at-large:** Fariba, Julie, Karima, Sepide, Varinder, Youn

**Regrets:** Bryan

### ***1. Welcome & Introductions***

Kim welcomed everyone and thanked everyone on the call for joining in and suggested that everyone introduce themselves.

Nora (principal MJPS), Elnaz (School Climate), Sushma (Secretary), Christine Chin (Grade 1 teacher), Moiz (Parental Community Involvement), Corinne (Communications Officer), Deep (Student Success), Ashley (Volunteer Coordinator) and members-at-large (Youn - Grade 3; Sepide - Grade 1; Karima - Grade 1; Fariba - Grade 1; Julie – Grade 3, Varinder - Grade 3 etc.) all introduced themselves.

### ***2. Approval of October Meeting Minutes***

Kim thanked Nora for the October minutes, asked if everyone got them. October minutes were reviewed, and Patton moved to accept the minutes, Ashley seconded it and the minutes are passed.

### ***3. Appreciations and Recognitions***

Kim noted that no classes were closed so far due to COVID-19. Thanked Corinne for the PTA newsletter.

#### ***4. Principal Report and School Improvement Planning, and Teacher's Report***

Nora and Christine updated about the school improvement plans. All new school improvement plans are on hold but we continue to focus on the new math curriculum and Modern Learning spaces.

Christine updated on the new curriculum and assessment changes, particularly for math. She noted that usually there are five math sections: data management, algebra, numbers and denomination, measurement and geometry, and visual science. On the first term report cards (sent out in February) the math assessment is usually split by sections, but in the new assessment method, a shift in focus of assessment will be seen, where all students will only be receiving one total mark encompassing all sections. There is a shift to focus more on math processes, and how students are using these processes, giving a more holistic view of students as learners. That would be one of the big changes coming in with the new curriculum.

Nora spoke about the modern learning spaces and told the committee that previously the school council had agreed that two empty classrooms would be allocated to create a modern learning space. Some of the school money was invested in updating the technology, but due to COVID everything was postponed. However, with the money from the previous years', the rooms are updated with interactive white boards (installed that week) and tables with white boards. One of the rooms will be allocated to STEM learning. Christine elaborated on the STEM learning space that this space is mainly for students to tinker with different materials, build things based on a theme and use their creativity to problem solve. Depending on the budget, an example of items that may be purchased for this space are 'makeado sets'. Sometimes students may get the opportunity to play with Roblox, coding, etc.

Nora pointed out that the school already has the green screen available with the iPads to record students.

Moiz volunteered to help with technology purchases (such as iPads), if needed.

Nora told the committee that usually for technology purchases, when the school puts up some funds the board either tops it or matches it, as part of a cost-sharing program, but this year cost-share is also on hold. But because of the carry-over of funds from last year (Nora

applied for permission which was granted), the school can make some of the purchases as noted above and get the STEM space ready.

Julie asked whether the school was looking at purchasing VR glasses for the STEM space and was there any progress on this as this was discussed in the previous meetings? Nora noted that she had approached the board 'Technology Lead' to procure them, but was notified that VR glasses may not be suitable for younger students due to possible side-effects such as nausea, dizziness etc. The board is considering running a pilot program to test the VR glasses in younger students and Nora had volunteered MJPS to conduct the trial, but they have not yet reached out on this. This may be possibly be on hold due to COVID. Christine noted that there are few resources available to gainfully use the VR glasses with younger students and it may be better to wait to purchase them.

#### **5. *Treasurer's Report***

Patton reported that there was one expense over the last two months of \$2367.63 and that was purchasing of the school agenda for the kids. This was approved in last year's school council meeting. So, the school year started with \$17,178.79 in school funds, minus the above expense, the funds are at \$14811.16.

#### **6. *Committee Chair Reports***

Kim invited each committee officer to update the council.

- Corinne (Communications Officer): Corinne welcomed any ideas for the December newsletter, feedback on the hyperlinks and layout of the newsletter. Everyone agreed that the newsletter was very well-done, was very user friendly and no changes were required. Corinne wanted to know if the newsletter should be translated to other languages. It was agreed by everyone, that the newsletter will only be put out in English at this time.
- Moiz (Parent Community Involvement): Moiz reported that there were a few emails with different ideas on parental involvement exchanged and wondered if a different meeting could be set to discuss them in detail. Kim agreed and suggested that a different sub-committee be set up to discuss these further. Kim put forward the motion to have a sub-committee meeting in early December and Moiz seconded it. Kim opened the membership for the sub-committee to members-at-large attending the meeting.

Kim requested Ashley's help with following-up on the school email's and Ashley agreed.

- Deep (Student Success): Deep said that ideas on student success were being brainstormed. Deep had previously introduced the FAST (Family and School Together) program, a two months' program on bringing the school community together. She will be sharing more information and flyers on this with Kim and Nora.

At this point, Kim suggested having virtual presentations. Nora put forward that out of the \$14811.16 remaining in the funds, about \$3000.00 would be budgeted for the Grade 3 transition at the end of the school year, including the yearbook etc. Some money is usually allocated to subsidizing 'Scientist at School' program, but Nora felt may be too expensive to run this year due to lower number of kids in each class. She also said that some of the budget is spent on 'Prologue Presentations', which are French programs including plays, dance and/or music performance, costing about \$600-\$800, and this year they are offering virtual presentations, but she is not sure of the cost yet. Kim said that the 'Scientist at School' is offering online workshops with individual student kits and the students get to follow the virtual presenter. The virtual workshop has a limit of 27 kids and can be broadcast to two classes simultaneously; however teachers may still need to help the students follow the steps as instructed by the presenter.

Elnaz told us about that various fundraising activities, and other virtual educational activities available through Zoo and libraries like virtual tour of zoo, storytelling, coding etc. She will update on the possible programs more in detail later. She also said that RHPL was willing to customize the programs based on the school requirements. Sushma suggested looking at the virtual programs by Ontario Science Centre and the ROM, as they have programs like 'meet the scientist' etc that may be available to schools at subsidized rates.

Kim wondered if these programs could be made available to the students in the 'virtual stream', but Nora said that virtual students were on a different platform and if the programs were offered after school, then the links can be sent to all students. Christine pointed out that virtual program is on a different schedule to in-person program, so the virtual students will not be able to participate in any programs during the day. Julie suggested it may be good to balance the programs being made available to both virtual and in-school students, as the funds available were contributed to by all. She asked Nora

and Christine, if the ‘Scientist in School’ program can be managed by teachers as no parent volunteers are allowed this year. Christine felt it may be challenging and Sushma felt that it should be manageable for the Grade 3 and Grade 2 students but may be more challenging for Grade 1 students. Nora and Christine agreed that this may be feasible for Grade 3 and Grade 2, but not for Grade 1.

## **7. *Other Business***

Kim showed us the school council website which has the school committee details, meeting agendas, council newsletters, school constitution etc. MJPS constitution was reviewed in 2016 and as the constitution is supposed to be updated every two years, Kim suggested updating it in line with some resources that she showed us. She suggested the constitution be updated especially on budget issues, where any expense greater than \$5000.00 would need to be approved by the school council and expenses that are commonly spent on a yearly basis can be documented and put into the constitution. This would help streamline the budget and give the school council a better idea of the working budget. Kim asked for volunteers to help with updating the constitution, so that it gives us a better understanding of the purpose of the school council as laid out by the Government of Ontario. Nora volunteered to help amend the constitution and then present it to the school council for approval. Kim agreed with thanks.

Elnaz asked if she could send the links of virtual programs to be included into the December newsletter to Kim and Corrinne, and they both agreed.

Julie requested for volunteers for the Grade 3 yearbook. Usually, the yearbook is put together by mid to end April and distributed to students by end of year. Volunteers would mainly need to coordinate and gather pictures because students are divided between virtual and in-school programs, help with planning the layout of the yearbook etc. Julie felt that the total commitment would be about 15 hours. Deep, Ashley and Corinne volunteered to help.

Nora told us about the virtual Remembrance Day celebrations at school including the presentation put together by the teachers etc.

Deep enquired about Diwali showcase and wanted to know if the school was going to put up any activities for Diwali. Nora agreed that it would be a great idea and suggested they discuss this further.

Sushma enquired if the parents on school council can have a WhatsApp group to be more connected and could the meeting be recorded to help with documenting the items discussed. Nora agreed that the meetings can be recorded, so long as everyone consents to it. It was suggested that everyone consent to being recorded prior to entering the meeting via an option in the waiting room. Kim will coordinate the creation of the WhatsApp group for the council.

Julie asked about the 360 charity drive and Nora said she would check if the school can have a charity drive. Moiz said that one of the fund-raising ideas was to hold an online auction and use the funds to buy food boxes/bags for a food drive or toy boxes for a toy drive. He thought it may be good to have further discussions on this through the sub-committee.

## **8. *Adjournment***

Meeting Adjourned at 8:20pm. Final goodbyes!