

MINUTES

Nellie McClung Public School School Council Minutes

Nellie McClung Public School Library
September 26, 2018
6:30 PM

Attendees

Council Voting Members	Present (Y/N)?	Council Voting Members	Present (Y/N)?
Melanie Saltzman. (Chair)	Y	Gilah B.	Y
Keith Isaac (Treasurer)	Y	Jennifer N.	Y
Avery Zeidman (Secretary)	Y	Liana S.	Y
Beth C.	Y	Maria B.	Y
Eileen P.	Y	Silvia M.	Y
Elise S.	Y	Stacey S.	Y
Gianoula K.	Y	Zvi W.	Y

Council Non-Voting Members:			
Pamela McInnis (NMPS Principal)	Y	Julia De Rose (NMPS Vice Principal)	Y
		Brian Gerson (NMPS – Teacher Rep)	Y

Non-Voting Attendees:	
Andrew H.	
Julia S.	
Marc F.	

20 people were in attendance. A sign-in sheet was circulated and retained by the Chair, which contained an email distribution list for attendees for communication purposes.

Call to Order

The Principal called the meeting to order at 6:34 PM. The Principal and Vice Principal each introduced themselves.

Agenda

An agenda was distributed.

Election of New School Council

There was a discussion regarding the role of the Council. Reference was made to the Council's Constitution, and copies were distributed. The document is available on the school website. The Principal reviewed key areas of the Constitution as it relates to the Council and the responsibilities or expectations of each voting member.

The Constitution calls for a maximum of 15 members, and the Principal explained the process of an election if more than 15 people in attendance expressed interest in being on Council. The need for a quorum in meetings was discussed as was the code of ethics, need for attendance, and need for participation by each member.

The Principal gave the opportunity for each person in attendance to introduce themselves and state their involvement with the school and whether they wanted to be on Council.

The Principal went through applications received by the school for those wanting to be on the new Council and confirmed with each person present that they still wished to be a voting member on Council. A total of 14 people present wanted to be voting members of the Council, and a **motion** passed unopposed approving all 14 people as Council members.

Appointment/elections of executive members then occurred. Melanie Saltzman was the only person who expressed interest in being the Chairperson of the Council, and she was acclaimed as such. Keith Isaac was the only person who expressed interest in being the Treasurer of the Council, and he was acclaimed as such. Avery Zeidman was the only person who expressed interest in being the Secretary of the Council, and he was acclaimed as such.

COUNCIL INITIATIVES

There was a discussion about last year's events and the Council was open to considering new events. Generally, events must occur on Thursdays when permits are available. Committees and subcommittees will be established in advance.

Bingo Night. Last year, a bingo night was held where all attendees had tons of fun. A bingo night will be held this year on November 29, 2018. Sign-up sheets will be distributed as will requests for bingo night volunteers. There was discussion about whether to use Walmart gift cards through FunScript to purchase prizes or get better value by using Incredible Novelties and Dollar Store items. Discussion about capping sale of bingo cards (125 to 150) through cash online and not making any available at the door to enable better planning for possible larger crowds from bigger school population than last year. Also considered was gym capacity per fire regulations. Possibility of second bingo night if warranted.

Kid Like Me Campaign. This is held for about 2-3 weeks from the end of November beginning of December. It's a toy drive distributing toys through York Regional Police Charity, Holiday Heroes, to local children in need. York Region District School Board assists by delivering toys from our school to Holiday Heroes.

Food Drive. The food drive was held in January last year for a couple of weeks. Dividing the timing of this and Kid Like Me contributed to greater donations. This year there will not be a classroom contest for a pizza lunch, and the focus will be on giving for charity. Instead, the whole school will compete to achieve school-wide prizes like extended recess or movie events.

Staff Appreciation Certificates. \$100 certificate to each teacher (totaling 34) was approved last year, used for supplies, indoor recess equipment, etc. where children benefitted. This year there are 43 teachers. Discussion about same this year, but earlier on, and placing deadline for use date.

MOTION: To approve purchase and distribution of 43 gift cards at \$100 each for distribution to teachers to be used by December 31, 2018, and receipts for purchases to be provided by January 14, 2019, failing which certificates will be clawed back/returned to school. Seconded. **Passed unopposed.**

Valentine's Day Dance-A-Thon. To be held February 14, 2019 this year. Last year was a great success. Attendance is free. Funds are raised for specific project spending (e.g. tarmac painting, sound system). Students receive pledge sheets, pledges are at \$5 increments, for which students get ballots to put in ballot boxes for prizes of their choosing.

Fun Fair. To be held Thursday, June 6, 2019. Bounce Entertainment has already been booked – they were great last year. No charge to enter. Council subsidizes cost of event not recouped by food sales, silent auction, etc.

Meeting Dates. The following meeting dates were established for Council:

Wednesday, October 24, 2018
Wednesday, November 21, 2018
Wednesday, January 16, 2019
Wednesday, February 20, 2019
Wednesday, April 10, 2019
Wednesday, May 15, 2019
Wednesday, June 19, 2019

Treasurer's Report

No information was processed since last meeting on June 18, 2018, at which time the balance was \$14,955.84. This does not include money to be raised from the

first round of Pizza sales, which was about \$22,936.99. Our total budget as of the date of the meeting is **\$37,892.83**.

Principal Report

The Principal stated there was a very positive start to the school year.

The Principal reviewed some EQAO results that had just been released to the public.

Category	This Year's Results
Grade 3 reading	87%
Grade 3 writing	93%
Grade 3 math	85%
Grade 6 reading	78%
Grade 6 writing	85%
Grade 6 Math	50%

The Principal encouraged the Council to remind parents that EQAO results are also available on the Internet and that their child's results will be sent home with their child shortly.

The Principal advised a classroom reorganization had occurred recently in French Immersion where 5 classrooms were reduced to 4, and all the students who were moved have adjusted nicely.

There was discussion about the use of EDSBY, especially after October 1, 2018. Some have issues. Teachers have attended information sessions. Teacher can open a thread to enable confidential replies from parents. A question was raised about a parent workshop being helpful, and Mr. Gerson volunteered to arrange same.

It is very important to notify school of absences through EDSBY, call, or student agenda. The form for religious holiday absences sent at the beginning of school this year will not be used again next year.

The Principal advised it was safety week this week. A hold and secure drill was held today – students and teachers in portables went in school building for same. A lockdown drill (where portable students and teachers stay there) will occur likely tomorrow – students get advance notice to reduce their anxiety.

Curriculum night is tomorrow, September 27, 2018 between 6:30 PM and 7:30 PM. This is not an interview night. It is an open house/meet and greet where children can show parents their classrooms. No appointments are made or necessary.

There will be a presentation for grade 7 and grade 8 classes at 6:30 PM lasting approximately 20 minutes. Student led conferences will be held later in the year, and parents also can schedule one-on-one meetings with teachers at their request any mutually convenient time. There will be no Council table at curriculum night this year.

Spirit Wear is starting shortly. A French version of the kindness matters shirt will be new this year.

Orange Shirt Day will be held at Nellie on Monday, October 1, 2018 because the Friday September 28, 2018 date was already established as Pink Shirt Day. Pink Shirt Days will be held for the most part on the last Friday of each month. Awards for Kindness Matters will be given out in the classrooms this year, although there will still be assemblies too (just not awards at assemblies). In September, the challenge was to invite a new friend to play at recess. In October, it will be to help a classmate in need.

Officer Ron is the new police liaison for our school. Next week there will be a police presence at the school and they will be working with the Grade 5 students to hand out parking tickets (made by students) or having discussion with drivers about safety.

Flag football and Cross Country Running have both gotten off to a great start.

The Terry Fox Run was held today, and our students helped raise once again more than \$2,000 for this charity while having a great time.

Fundraising Requests

After some discussion about the cost-sharing program and need to purchase technology early on rather than later in the school year, a request for funds was made.

MOTION to approve spending of \$6,250 on technology to take advance of the \$6,250 in cost-sharing. Seconded. **Approved unopposed.**

There was a request to repeat an initiative of providing \$100 per kindergarten class for supplies, photos, copies, etc.

MOTION to approve spending \$100 for each of the five kindergarten classes (totaling \$500). Seconded. **Approved unopposed.**

For music classes, one teacher requested \$779.14 for the purchase of a second Orchestra Bell Set (which helps students who have difficulty blowing into wind instruments). Two teachers requests a total of \$412.56 for the purchase of percussion instruments.

MOTION to approve spending \$779.14 and \$412.56 for the requested instruments.
Seconded. **Approved unopposed.**

8:17 p.m. Adjourned