

MINUTES

Nellie McClung Public School School Council Minutes

Nellie McClung Public School Library
April 5, 2017
6:30 PM

Attendees

Council Voting Members	Present (Y/N)?	Council Voting Members	Present (Y/N)?
Melanie Saltzman. (Chair)	Y	Maria B. (Member)	Y
Keith Isaac (Treasurer)	Y	Zvi V. (Member)	Y
Stacey Reznick-Schipper (Co-Secretary)	Y	Hilda S. (Member)	N
Avery Zeidman (Co-Secretary)	Y	Julia S. (Member)	Y
Shelley V (Member)	Y	Lynne A. (Member)	Y
Gianoula K. (Member)	Y	Maria S. (Member)	N
Silvia S (Member)	N	Jennifer B. (Member)	Y
Jody B. (Member)	Y	Katerina (Member)	N
Rebecca D. (Member)	Y		

Council Non-Voting Members:			
Pamela McInnis (NMPS Principal)	Y	Julia Waiser (NMPS Vice Principal)	Y
Lourdes Haist (Teacher Rep)	Y		
Gayle Grossman-Bly (FDK-Teacher Rep)	Y	Brian Gerson (NMPS – Teacher Rep)	Y

Non-Voting Attendees:	
Karen F.-M.	

Call to Order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 6:32 PM.

There was a motion seconded to approve the minutes from the last meeting, and it was approved unopposed.

Grade 8 Funds:

Karen F.-M. attended the meeting as a parent of a grade 8 student at NMPS and as a volunteer assisting with the graduating trip and graduation ceremony. She was chosen to make the funds request to Council.

Last year Council approved \$1,000 for the graduating trip and graduation ceremony. This year's Valentine's Dance took away some (\$700) of their

earning potential. The cohort is 24-25 students in grade 8, and they requested funds to support their events.

Little or no information was available regarding how much money has been raised by the graduating class already. However, it was stated that they are approximately \$700 short of their goal, which also relied on the contribution of \$1000 from Council as was approved last year.

They have planned a Mariposa cruise around Toronto Harbour, an Amazing Race type of scavenger hunt in downtown Toronto, followed up by dinner at the Spaghetti Factory.

MOTION: Seconded to approve \$1,700.00 to go towards grade 8 graduating trip and/or graduation ceremony. Motion approved unanimously.

Treasurer's Report:

Opening Balance February 17, 2017	\$19,598.15
Inflows:	
Pizza	\$16,373.08
Fun Fair	\$2,100.00
Other	\$119.00
<i>Total Inflows</i>	
Outflows:	
FundScrip	-\$7,500.00
General spend	-\$3,585.69
SCO Line Fees	-\$1,450.00
Fun Fair	-\$651.45
<i>Total Outflows</i>	
Closing Balance April 5, 2017	\$25,003.09
Less Approved/not Spent (Fun fair 5350, Teacher appreciation 2164, Tarmac 1500, Sports tent 1000, Kinder 904)	-\$11,155.12
Available Funds (not including FundScrip)	\$13,847.97

INITIATIVES

Tent: This was approved October 2016. Suppliers have been contacted. One quoted \$850 without logo or colours or \$1150 plus tax with a logo and colours. Another supplier quoted \$1200. However, neither the suppliers is desirable. A request was tabled for contacts to other suppliers for a 10' x 10' fold up tent with logo for which there is a budget of \$1000.

Tarmac: Up to \$1500 was approved by Council at the last meeting for tarmac improvements. Quotations are being obtained from three different companies. Significant improvements can be done including paint overs, moving the four square from in front of the basketball area to the primary area, and otherwise. One quote has been received and is waiting for two more. Quotations will include improvements to the kindergarten area.

Sound System: Up to \$2500 was approved by Council at the last meeting. The system was delivered and installed. It is awesome. It was used for movies, and it will be used for the concert scheduled for tomorrow. All those involved love the ease of use on the iPad and the wonderful sound. The USB plug-and-play also makes things almost effortless. A big thank you to Council for their assistance.

Outdoor NERF Toys: Some outdoor Nerf toys were purchased earlier in the year, but more needed for all grade levels. They are used well, but they do get worn out. The grass/fields can't be used until May in accordance with Board policy to let the grass grow and seed properly. These toys are great for use on the tarmac. For kindergarten, more dollar store types of toys are also desired such as chalk, bubbles, etc. Many items are stored in the bunker outdoors. An inventory will be done to see what needs to be recycled or thrown out. We want to get rid of the big plastic shovels [being a swinging hazard] and possibly the hula hoops [sometimes a safety hazard]. We do have a water table, and the children love the Playhouse, and there was a discussion about putting a request on Facebook or otherwise for a further house to be donated, though it would need to be inspected for safety first before accepted.

MOTION: Seconded to approve spending of up to \$1,000.00 on Nerf toys and dollar store items for the current term and in consideration of September term start. Motion approved unanimously.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Eco Plan Greening Project: The Eco-team have turned their attention to the rectangular curbed area outside the Southwest door of NMPS. This area is often muddy, and they want to beautify it by planting various perennials or other flora and fauna. Aside from beautify the area, it will help prevent a potentially unsafe activity of the children jumping over the area. They want to make the area low-maintenance.

MOTION: Seconded to approve spending of up to \$350.00 on flora and fauna to beautify the rectangular curbed area outside the Southwest door of NMPS. Motion approved unanimously.

Sneak It In Week: This was a Participaction initiative, although they are not involved this year. The YRDSB is involved. Exercise and activity will be incorporated into various daily routines. For example, staff will be asked to wear

running shoes to work. Participants will walk around portables, use stairs for exercise, etc. The Healthy School Team is playing an active role.

Earth Hour/Week: On April 21, 2017, the grade 1 and 2 classes will participate in a field trip to plant trees. On April 28, there will be an initiative of a 20 minute makeover [after the character assembly] where students will walk around the school grounds and nearby community areas to clean up. Gloves and bags are being provided through the city of Vaughan.

Sports: The Junior girls' and boys' basketball teams are playing and doing well.

Mental Health/Modern Learning: Last week, NMPS staff participated in learning activities where they were introduced to various new and exciting technologies.

School Climate Survey: This is done approximately every 2 to 3 years with grades 5 through 8. It is an online survey that students complete, then teachers, and then in May parents are invited to participate as well. A communication will be sent out with further information. The survey is voluntary, but it is requested that council members promote participation. Results will be available next fall.

School Concert: This will take place tomorrow at 6:30 PM. Cookies will be sold for \$3.00.

Graduation & Sibling Photos: This will occur on April 7, 2017 for grade 8 students and senior kindergarten students. Sibling photos will be April 20.

Jump Rope for Heart: The event will be on May 5, 2017, and the campaign will kick off in about one week.

Play Leaders Program: The event is scheduled for May 5, 2017. A public health nurse will attend the school to help train older grades to mentor the younger grades about being a good sport, playing games, and exhibiting leadership skills. The students are very much looking forward to it.

PARENT SYMPOSIUM

This was well attended by NMPS administrators and Council members. Council members who attended were invited to share their key takeaways.

Session – Steven Covey: The classic book by the offer of seven highly effective habits of successful people was applied to the student and teaching context. Discussions were held about how to model for and connect with your children. There was discussion about the need for self-regulation for parents and not just children. There was discussion about spending quality time with your children and focusing on what is important. Suggestions were made to collaborate with your children to establish win-win situations. It was also suggested that you plan

the week ahead with your children regarding school work and activities, possibly using the whiteboard; this would help manage expectations.

Session – Classroom Games: There was a discussion about various games that could be used in the classroom to support learning.

Session – Healthy Foods: A presentation was given by a dietitian discussing healthy foods. Concerns were raised about the healthiness of foods used in fund-raising activities and the quality of ingredients. It was noted that we have two pizza days per week when some other schools only have one pizza date per month.

Session – Parent Involvement: The presenter compared parent involvement [such as volunteering or participating in Council] to parent engagement such as parents supporting their children at home.

Student Initiatives: One person discussed how two 10-year-olds began the Odd Socks project, where over 40,000 socks were donated and given to the homeless. In our meeting, Ms. Mclinnis shared some of the student driven initiatives at NMPS, such as a grade 6 boy starting a Yu-Gi-Oh club, and a group of grade 4 girls starting an arts club for grade 2 students. Some Council members suggested these initiatives should be shared and promoted.

FUN FAIR

There is a concern about getting enough volunteers. A request was made for each councilmember to personally ask at least one other person if they are available to volunteer at least 30 minutes for the fun fair. It is believed that personal requests to do one shift will lead to greater success and more volunteers than the mass communication requests that are sent. The poster is being prepared also asking for volunteers.

The subcommittee is to meet immediately after the Council meeting to discuss further details about the fair, for which no minutes are necessary.

COUNCIL MEETING adjourned at 7:34p.m.

NEXT Meeting Wednesday, May 3, 2017 at 6:30 p.m.