

# MINUTES

## Nellie McClung Public School School Council Minutes

Nellie McClung Public School Library  
November 29, 2017  
6:30 PM

### Attendees

<b>Council Voting Members</b>	<b>Present (Y/N)?</b>	<b>Council Voting Members</b>	<b>Present (Y/N)?</b>
Melanie Saltzman. <b>(Chair)</b>	Y	Jhony B. <b>(Member)</b>	N
Keith Isaac <b>(Treasurer)</b>	N	Julia S. <b>(Member)</b>	Y
Avery Zeidman <b>(Secretary)</b>	Y	Lynne A. <b>(Member)</b>	Y
Beth C. <b>(Member)</b>	N	Maria B. <b>(Member)</b>	Y
Gianoula K. <b>(Member)</b>	Y	Sylvia M. <b>(Member)</b>	Y
Gilah B. <b>(Member)</b>	Y	Stacey R.S. <b>(Member)</b>	Y
Heather M. <b>(Member)</b>	Y	Zvi V. <b>(Member)</b>	Y
Jennifer B. <b>(Member)</b>	Y		

<b>Council Non-Voting Members:</b>			
Pamela McInnis <b>(NMPS Principal)</b>	Y	Julia Waiser <b>(NMPS Vice Principal)</b>	N
Cheryl Urback <b>(NMPS – Teacher Librarian)</b>	N		

<b>Non-Voting Attendees:</b>			
n/a			

Approximately 13 people were in attendance. A sign-in sheet was circulated.

### Call to Order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

### Agenda

There was an agenda distributed and approved.

## Treasurer`s Report

<b>Opening Balance October 20<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>\$15,154.68</b>
<b>Inflows:</b>	
Pizza	159.05
Bingo Night	1,062.00
Close out general account	1,544.19
<b>Outflows:</b>	
Bingo Night	-731.91
Educator appreciation	-303.16
General Spend	-1,205.33
Dance-A-Thon	-379.98
<b>Closing Balance (Nov. 28, 2017)</b>	<b>\$15,299.54</b>
Less Approved/not Spent	\$11,456.41
<b>Available Funds</b>	<b>\$3,843.13</b>

### Initiatives

#### **Bingo Night**

Many attended. We invite feedback.

Many thought it was amazing, and the only issue is that it is only once per year. It all went really well. The kids loved the prizes. There were a lot of little packages of prizes, so everyone got something.

We estimate that we broke even on the event. Because we used the Walmart cards with FundScrip, we brought in over \$1,000 and spent about \$750 (not including the FundScrip, which brings it about equal). From the treasurer's numbers it looks like we made \$300 to \$400, but we really didn't because Walmart cards are split between various events through the year.

This year most prizes were under \$3 and that was key.

#### **Kid Like Me Campaign**

Three members of staff have stepped up to help out. Kid Like Me is on the School sign on the South side. Posters have gone up. In the next 2-3 weeks more donations will flow in. Announcements are being made. Kids will go to classrooms and talk about it. Teachers have added to blogs and are encouraged to do so, etc.

NMPS will send out to parents in email reminders, changing the format and message a bit to keep it fresh. Avery will be away during the last week of the

Campaign, so we need someone to manage the completion, including working with staff volunteers to count and box toys and arrange toy parade to load bus on December 14<sup>th</sup>. Avery will provide boxes before he leaves and liaise with Board to arrange and communicate pick-up time. Melanie and a few others agreed to assist.

### **Food Drive**

This will be done in January 2018 to coincide with the school's winter concert, asking people to bring donations. It starts on January 15<sup>th</sup> and ends on January 26<sup>th</sup>, 2018. In addition to food, the charity is looking for all kinds of gloves for kids and adults.

### **Valentine`s Day Dance-A-Thon**

Kids are already talking about it now. Still need to decide how we will promote it – what expenditures we direct our funds at. Last year was sound system and tarmac. We talked about musical instruments and outdoor equipment. Balls get lost in neighbours' backyards, in some cases as many as seven. Maybe we can put a sticky note on their doors asking them to throw the balls back over the fence – this has worked before.

So musical instruments and sports equipment it is. We can also buy musical instruments that can be used by all grades, including grade 1 etc. (xylophones, bucket drumming, etc.)

There is a committee. The day of the dance is when bodies/volunteers are needed to watch. Ask your friends about volunteering for a shift to assist. In January, a request will be made in newsletter. Otherwise run same way as last year with a couple of changes. Like way we give out the prizes (last year everyone was called down to office). The "swarm" will be avoided by separating by classes, going in to each class to hand out the prizes for greater control.

Last year there were donations from teachers and their time. There was a toy sale, and a lot of prizes were purchased already. Last year there were incentives for the whole school (like movie afternoon, extra-long recess etc.). We will focus asking for donations or gift certificates on the fun fair.

### **Fun Fair**

We had to change the date of the fun fair because the provincial election is on Thursday June 7, 2018. The new date is Wednesday, June 6, 2018 – which does not conflict with other schools' fairs. We have to permit the school on Wednesday, but that is okay. Bounce confirmed they will be available for the new date. Everything booked is okay, including the food vendors.

There was a committee meeting. This year we are using Bounce and a different company for inflatables, 2 bouncy castles, a double slide, bouncy obstacle course, 5 wall rock climbing wall (compared to 2 last year), there is a train, Wevolve skateboard park, Reptillia, magician, Glama Gals, (there will be no photo booth this year based on reviews last year). We also have face painters for basic face painting. There will be Guitar Rock with Me and tattoos will be given out; fire, ambulance, police, etc. Art table will be done again.

Same food – pizza, candy floss, ice cream, freeze pops, no popcorn.

We need help/volunteers the day of. We need everyone and their friends. Bouncy castles will be staffed with people hired though. There will be vendor tables, but we need donators for silent auction items. We can do baskets again this year depending on the value of the individual donations given. The silent auction made a lot of money last year.

### **Requests for Funding**

#### **Milk Bags**

Two weeks ago someone came in to show how to weave them into bedding for homeless people. They are incredible. Ms. L. has a purse made from this, and it is incredible. The kids are working on it with them. Mr. Gerson created two weaving boards from wood, making it easier to do the weaving. Also need scissors. Asking for \$70.

**MOTION To approve \$70 for this; motion brought, seconded, and passed unopposed.**

### **Principal`s Report**

Last meeting there was a funding request for robotics kits, but the school does not need it anymore. We put the school's name in for draw, and we won 2 kits (\$500 each). So that one is off the table, so those funds do not need to be spent.

Volleyball intermediate teams: Boys made it to the 2<sup>nd</sup> round, and girls to second part of the first round. The kids real stepped up.

Kids are very happy about Jungle Sport in the gym and excited. They have a wide range of apparatus. We have just fit in to get kids to have three turns each. We break even on this because it is \$10 per person. Children become much more adventurous on their second day. When done every second year, kids are more keen on it and don't lose interest. We will probably do it every other year.

Jhony and Melanie went with the Principal to the School Council Forum. It was very interesting with many discussions. We shared what our school is doing. Some schools said they do not have any men on their Parent Councils. Our Council is diverse. The forum was very informative.

Traffic at the school's front is a concern. People block the middle lane. A message has been put out, and the situation is being monitored. Offenders are asked to moved. There also is concern about people parking on both curb sides. We are not as bad as some other schools, but we will be working on it.

Discussion: There also is concern about some who smoke on school property, during drop off and pick up times. They are parents. They have been approached by other parents – they are standing near the bus loop. This will be monitored and addressed.

### **Student lead Conferences**

It is impossible to please everyone with the format, but we invite input to make it better.

Any of the children who are “struggling” with issues will already have had some communication prior to the conferences. The Conferences are about bridging the home-school connection and having parents see what the kids are doing. A main part in the curriculum is self-assessment and goal setting. We work on that, as part of this process.

An issue was raised that nothing new was shared – just test results that were already seen. We could focus more on goal setting for the student instead of reviewing tests, sort of like a growth plan. Some parents felt that perhaps there should be more time on review of strengths and weaknesses for the students. This feedback will be shared with the staff. Teachers will continue to work with kids on how to reflect. Also, they want to see more of the student's work or a greater variety.

Some parents felt that 15 minutes was too short. It could increase to 20 minutes. Generally people want to speak to the teacher, and time may not be enough if teacher is behind schedule. There are up to three students scheduled at the same time, but could be 1 or 2 as well. It was scheduled by divisions. This will be explored. Some parents felt there were some difficulties with three students at a time in the class and there was a suggestion that two may be better. It would be less distraction. This can be discussion topic with staff because there may not be enough time during two days or they may not agree about distraction level with three students.

Edsby seemed to work well as far as scheduling. Some parents thought they were going to get a final message invite to register now, but did not, and that may be addressed at the board level.

## **Past & Upcoming Events**

There will be a Kindness Assembly in December. Future assemblies will be kindness focused instead of character assemblies. The Vice Principal and Well-Being School Team are spearheading this area.

There are various Spirit Days planned from now until June 2018. First is December 8, 2017 Pajama day! Look to emails for further information. There will be a hat day and crazy hair day too!

On January 10, 2018, Rock and Rings involving grades 3-6 will be teaching curling in the gym. This will be very cool. They chose the age range. The "rocks" are on wheels.

On January 18, 2018, French Immersion Information Night will be held for parents of the three local schools, including ours. This is primarily for parents of year 2 kindergarten students.

January 19, 2018 is PA day, and kindergarten and French Immersion registration start on that day.

The Winter Concert will be held on January 25, 2018, to be included in the Friday email.

Spirit Wear is being delivered next week.

Melanie requested that because our next meeting is not until January 24, 2018, if you are available for Valentine's Day or know of someone, please email her your available times. Thanks.

**7:35 p.m. Meeting Adjourned**