

MINUTES

**Nellie McClung Public School
School Council Minutes
October 6, 2014
Nellie McClung Public School Library
6:30 PM**

Attendance

Council Voting Members	Present (Y/N)?	Council Voting Members	Present (Y/N)?
Maria Shtemberg (Chair)	Y	Rob Ephraim (Member)	Y
Keith Isaac (Treasurer)	Y	Zvi Vaxman (Member)	Y
Roman Kanter (Co-Secretary)	Y	Darren Greenspoon (Member)	Y
Avery Zeidman (Co-Secretary)	Y	Heather Moskoske (Member)	Y
Mike Kember (Member)	Y	Lynn Axmith (Member)	Y
Neil Grunberg (Member)	Y		

Council Non-Voting Members:			
Wendy Thompson (NMPS)	Y	Cheryl Urback (NMPS)	Y
Traci Shatz (NMPS)	Y	Brian Stone (NMPS)	N

Non-Voting Attendees:	
Jessica Zeidman	
Shelley Vainshtein	
Francis Silbergleit	

Opening

- Meeting commenced at 6:35

Preliminary Matters

- Introductions
 - Attendees introduced themselves
- Ground Rules
 - Maria reviewed ground rules
 - Keep it civil
 - One person talking at a time

Treasurer's Report

Opening Balance (September 4)	\$15,823.96
Inflows:	
Pizza	\$11,515.00
Fundraising Made Easy	\$1,699.97
<i>Total Inflows</i>	<i>\$13,214.97</i>
Outflows:	
FundScrip	\$5,000.00
Lice Squad	\$616.98
<i>Total Outflows</i>	<i>\$5,616.98</i>
Closing Balance (October 3)	\$23,421.95

- Fund Requests
 - Primary teachers (See also addendum to minutes):
 - Printing/processing for school year – up to \$100 per class
 - Request for DVDs
 - Outdoor equipment for playing in the pen
 - \$957.75 requested in total for Kindergarten staff
 - Motion by Zvi to approve, seconded by Mike, all in favour
 - Magazines
 - Deferred until next council; will see if parents could donate
 - Grade 3-4 (See also addendum to minutes):
 - Funding for school field trips
 - Need to revisit what activities will be funded; things like busing will be up to parents to pay as a discretionary fee
 - Request for individual timers, games for indoor recess, classwords the vocabulary game, Appleletters, Lego simple machines – Total \$354.82
 - Recommendation that school reach out to parents
 - Recommendation to defer until we know what parents will donate, seconded by Neil, all in favour

- **Action:** Avery to put together communication about getting board games
- Science activities: \$240
- Additional science activities for \$195
- Grade 2
 - Magazines: \$200
 - Motion to approve 4 above, by Mike, seconded by Zvi, all in favour
- Junior/Intermediate: grades 5-8 (See also addendum to minutes)
 - \$140 for 14 power bars
 - \$251 for books (intermediate) – novel studies, like to keep current
 - Guitar: \$338
 - Brain Pops: video snippets on current topics – grade specific; asked for grades 4 to 6; different licensing types. Feedback was that it was very US based, so there were different ways of spelling.
 - Motion to approve first 3 items and defer Brain Pops until next meeting and do the 30 day trial, by Maria, seconded by Darren, all in favour
 - Busing/field trips: motion by Roman to approve \$200 per class to be put into a field trip account, and that cost for volunteers will be covered as a priority, seconded by Neil, all in favour
 - Motion by Neil to have \$50 gift cards per teacher at a dollar store, for use by teachers to purchase supplies, seconded by Avery, all in favour

Principal's & Vice Principal's Report

- Summary of Council Activities:
 - Wendy thanked council members for participating on curriculum night
 - Code of Conduct
 - To be worked on by Council
 - Will be posted to the school site
 - Wendy showed how to find the policies for review on the Board website
 - Constitution review
 - Wendy showed where the constitution is found on the website
 - Constitution needs to be reviewed annually and amended as necessary (e.g., number of members at large)
 - Principal profile
 - Profile and characteristics that Council would like the principal to have
 - SIP alignment
 - Wendy discussed how the School Improvement Plan works and looks like
 - School Improvement Plan
 - Resources and strategies that would improve achievement

- QSP
 - Subscription program that aligns with literacy goals
 - Volunteer parent would work with QSP and coordinate orders and remitting funds for purchased magazines to QSP
 - Looking for QSP organizers
 - **ACTION:** Request for QSP organizers to be put out to list of volunteers
- EQAO Results
 - Results were discussed in the recent newsletter
 - Wendy discussed NMPS results, showing Year over Year changes
 - Different cohort of kids taking the grade 3 test
 - On October 27th faculty will look at areas where kids did well, and where there were challenges; e.g., At first glance it appears that NMPS students are challenged with answering multiple choice questions; last year faculty worked on students responding by making thinking visible and explaining their answer. There is improvement, but it appears students are guessing, rather than solving a multiple choice question.
 - Work will inform SIP and will be presented in January
 - A general concern was voiced among those present that there was a decline;
 - Wendy acknowledged the concern the concern, but pointed out that only Junior Math declined significantly, while the rest of the results were relatively the same
- Quest Conference November 19-21
 - Hosted by York Region
 - Brings students, staff, teachers, parents from around the world
 - Topic for this year is Mobilizing for Sustainable Improvement
- Snack program
 - Program will continue, funding received
 - Last year open baskets of snacks were in classrooms
 - Went for fruit that had a peel, for hygiene purposes.
 - Need parents to help purchase snacks and come in and administer them
 - Suggestion using some pizza volunteers to administer the snack program

Teacher's Report

- Staff wish list
 - See in Treasurer's Report
- Cross country results
 - Recent area meet for cross country
 - One grade 8 girl placed 7th out of 164 competitors; will represent school in Regionals on October 10th
 - Grade 8 girls team overall finished 4th out of 34 schools
 - Two grade 8 boys finished 7th and 11th place out of 158 competitors.
 - Both boys are to represent NMPS at Regionals on October 10th.
 - Grade 8 boys finished 2nd out of 34 schools
- Grade 8 fundraising: cookies and dances

- Fall dance to be held on October 31, funds to go to grade 8 graduation
- Each grade has assigned times for dances
- Each student will pay \$2
- Cookie fundraisers to go to grade 8 graduations; \$2 per cookie: to happen December, February and April
- Healthy schools
 - Applying for \$1000 grant from Metro for Healthy Day
 - Focus is on different areas of living healthy
 - Applied to MLSE for teaching kids how to dribble
 - Want to move into the direction of promoting healthy living next year, instead of a snack program
 - Will look into promoting physical activity to kids

Discussion of initiatives

- Kid like me
 - Fundraiser was also done last year
 - Program encouraging students to recognize that there are kids like them who are less fortunate; will raise money or bring unwrapped toy to donate for kids who are less fortunate
 - Avery to organize
 - Motion to run program end of November, all in favour
 - **ACTION:** Cheryl to ask for teacher representative
- Food drive
 - Food drive was also done last year
 - Maria cannot run the program this year, looking for someone to step in and take over.
 - Mike and Zvi to run with it.
 - Need to coordinate with the food bank around timing for the field trip
 - **ACTION:** Cheryl to ask for teacher representative for the program
 - Volunteers need to do a police background check – now done on the spot for those with a letter from the school.
- Outdoor movie night
 - To be tabled for a later date
- Other
 - Double the amount of money from Funding Made Simple was raised this year, with fewer students in the school.
 - Expect to make \$7,500 from pizza

Other

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Action Items (Before Next Meeting)

Action	Responsibility
Communication for board game donations	Avery Zeidman
Send out request for QSP organizers	
Ask for teacher participation in Kids	Cheryl Urback

Like Me program	
Ask for teacher participation in Food Drive	Cheryl Urback

Adjournment

- Meeting adjourned at 8:15

Council Meeting Dates

Next meeting: November 6, 2014