

# MINUTES

**Nellie McClung Public School  
School Council Minutes  
September 5<sup>th</sup>, 2012  
Nellie McClung Public School Library  
6:30 PM**

## Attendance

<b>Council Voting Members</b>	<b>Present (Y/N)?</b>	<b>Council Voting Members</b>	<b>Present (Y/N)?</b>
Mark Jacobson <b>(Co-Chair)</b>	Y	Zvi Vaxman <b>(Member)</b>	Y
Jackie Garber <b>(Co-Chair)</b>	Y	David Lui <b>(Member)</b>	Y
Sonia Buk <b>(Treasurer)</b>	N	Gayla Ber <b>(Member)</b>	Y
Roman Kanter <b>(Secretary)</b>	Y	Pooja Gulati <b>(Member)</b>	N
Marjie Fazeli <b>(Member)</b>	N	John Kennedy <b>(Member)</b>	Y
Leanne Goldshlager <b>(Member)</b>	N	Mike Kemper <b>(Member)</b>	Y
Yaffa Rabkin <b>(Member)</b>	N	Sheetal Jogie <b>(Member)</b>	Y
Carol Klait <b>(Member)</b>	N	Fun on the Run <b>(Community Rep)</b>	N
Marina Avisar <b>(Member)</b>	Y	Miriam Milashut <b>(Member)</b>	N

<b>Council Non-Voting Members:</b>			
Wendy Thompson <b>(NMPS)</b>	Y	Lisa Vien <b>(NMPS)</b>	Y
Traci Shatz <b>(NMPS)</b>	Y	Shara-Lynn Fraser <b>(NMPS)</b>	N
Cheryl Urback <b>(NMPS)</b>	Y		
Bob Berman <b>(NMPS)</b>	Y		

<b>Non-Voting Attendees:</b>	
Jessica Zeidman	Jessica Leinwand
Avery Zeidman	Sabira Juma
Keith Isaac	Shahid Juma
Janine Isaac	Darren Greenspoon
Dana Naggat	Parm Pabla
Elana Litani	

## Opening

- Mark greeted everyone
- Quorum was not confirmed

## Preliminary Matters

- Approval of Minutes – June 13<sup>th</sup> Minutes
  - Approval of minutes deferred since quorum not achieved
- Call for any new business to be added to this agenda or future agenda
  - Safe arrival policy requested
  - Funding for sports equipment



## Principal's Report

- Welcome & Norms
  - All in attendance introduced themselves
  - Wendy reminded all about norms and behaviours
    - Speaking one at a time
    - No sidebars
    - Respecting start and end on time
    -
- Staffing & Organization
  - Staffed for 19 grades 1 to 8 classes
  - 9 kindergarten
  - 700 students in NMPS; mostly in primary division
  - Staffing to be reviewed at end of Sept (week of Sept 24) via reorganization process that occurs across the province to ensure ministry guidelines met
    - Kindergarten: max 32 students
    - Grade 1-3: 20 students
    - 3 and 4: 23 students
    - 4-8: 26 students
  - Going with most straight grades as possible
  - Some combined classrooms needed
  - Ministry allows for up to 10% over allowance per school board
  - May involve some students to be moved
  - Will involve conversations with teachers and then with parents
  - Reorganization will be in the upcoming newsletter
- Elections
  - Election date to be decided by Council – September 20<sup>th</sup> chosen to be election night
  - Purpose is to elect council
  - Information circular to be sent home on Friday describing council role and the positions
  - Need to decide on council within 30 days of start of school year
- Wish Lists/Spending
  - Constitution to be posted online
  - Standard form for teachers to request funds from council
  - Wendy spent \$4K to move kindergarten fence in order to prevent future repairs – Wendy requesting council to share in the cost of the fence
  - Marina made the point that the amount of sharing should depend on what is in the fund and what the council want to spend on other programs
  - Funds should be allocated to cost sharing for technology
  - Objection to cost sharing for fence for fear around what such sharing would do for parental fund raising motivation
  - Decision around spending to be tabled with the new council

- Wendy explained why funds were not spent due to ministry cost sharing
- School Climate
  - Visitor Entry
    - Entry and exit procedures being reviewed for kindergarten classes
    - Feedback includes whether they can go out front door or kindergarten pen
    - Suggestion made that access through the pen may be done
    - One attendant described what is done at the school she works at:
      - Kids line up against the wall, teacher walks them in
      - Leaving, kids lined up against the wall and parents come and meet their kids
    - Experience from previous school
      - Class that went out the front door or stairwell was dismissed five minutes prior to the rest of the school
      - Suggestion that kindergarten bus kids be counted prior; bus drivers not to open the door until EA is present; all kids get brought in immediately
    - Visitors to report directly to the office
    - Concern by parent if their kindergartner was not in the pen.
    - Swipe cards to be installed for portables on the side of the building
  - Bullying
    - Restorative practices
      - Ensures children who are the parties to bullying have the opportunity to speak to one another with teacher supervision
      - Character room
      - Two staff available after lunch to continue conversation
      - Relayed to students through character assembly and relayed by students
      - Concern that teachers may not know the students and their sensitivities – EAs responsible for knowing about the special needs students
      - Concern about kindergarten rooms not inside the kindergarten area, and ensuring the kids are not being bullied

### **Teacher's Report**

- Grades 3 and 4 peace tree conference on October 17
- Will have 6 students representing the grades
- Selection will be done via discussion with teachers
- Notifications around the various programs like little chefs will be sent out in the upcoming newsletter and will be posted on the website

### **Treasurer's Report**

- Beginning of School Year Numbers
  - Report was deferred as Treasurer was not in attendance

### **Fundraising Committee**

- Outline/Schedule of Possible Fundraising for School Year
  - Will refer to Start, Stop Continue document to decide on next year's plans with new council

### **Communications Committee Report**

- No new updates

### **Positive Climate for Learning Committee**

- Obtained computers from corporate donation
- Computers to be imaged
- Seeking volunteers with technology background to help support imaging the computers
- Need to do a second run to pick up the remaining computers, laptops and projector – will be available in October
- Portables
  - Bathroom usage & procedure
    -
  - Lunch monitors
    - Currently no lunch monitors in portables
    - School assistants go from portable to portable to check up on the students
    - Intermediate students act as lunch monitors and eat lunch in the class/portable with students
    - Question whether lunch monitors get any training in how to be a lunch monitor
    - In newsletters, school assistants are requested, who are paid. Last year there were 7 school assistants; looking for 10 this year.
    - During recess, Playground Activity Leaders there to ensure kindergarten kids, primary kids engaged in recess
  - Security in and around portables
    - Buddy system in place, with card swipe into the building
    - Office is notified if child is coming to the office
    - Close circuit cameras in place around the perimeter of building
  - Parents will be invited to be part of committee and discuss issues like bullying

### **New and/or Other Business (Time Permitting)**

- Safe arrivals
  - Tracie described safe arrival policy
  - Suggestion that prior to making the call home office double check with the class to make sure that the child is actually absent.

- Suggestion to hold the attendance back a few minutes for the first week while the kinks are being worked out;
- Question of whether volunteers are needed to help work out safe arrivals
- Suggestion about informing parents about lunch time monitoring to get volunteers
- Suggestion that emails be accepted as notification and that a special inbox be set up
- Form will be sent with names of holidays to mark down kids who will be absent
- Suggestion about repetitive reminders in emails, include special message in signature line
- Possibility for bulk text messaging for important communications – more information to be provided
- Bad language on buses
  - To be dealt individually
- Schedule for charities and fundraisers
  - To be tabled next meeting
- School curriculum – homework being assigned communication so that parents could assist at home.
  - Need for consistency per grade around homework.
  - To be communicated at curriculum night – date TBD
- Sports equipment funding
  - Question about what equipment will be provided
    - No playground to be onsite; will be adjacent to school in 2013
    - Not enough space for second basketball court
    - Will have bags of balls, etc. available for students; will take stock of inventory and ask council for any additional funding
    - Part of grounds will be restored to grass for primary kids to play
    - Suggestion to give kids access indoor facilities, but issues around gym availability and supervision
    - Suggestion that kids be taught to play games like foursquare, so that they can then play those games during recess
    - Not enough supervised staff for split lunches

### Action Items


**Adjournment**

Meeting was adjourned at 8:10

**Council Meeting Dates**

Next meeting: council elections: September 20, 2012 at 6:30