

George P. Mackie Junior Public School

School Council Minutes

Date: February 26, 2019

In Attendance:

- Jenny Gloria, Chair
- Anne Turner, Co-Chair
- Michael John, Treasurer
- Allison Crehore, Secretary
- Shirley Ponka, Principal
- Hassan Moutadayne, Staff Representative
- Nerissa Harley, Staff Representative
- Heidi Chrzan, Office Administrator
- Priti Atodaria
- Belinda Becker
- Stephanie Souza

Called to Order: 6:05 pm

Adjourned: 7:40 pm

Proceedings:

1. Welcome to Parent Council

2. Administration:

- Time keeper – Allison Crehore
- Minutes of January 15, 2019 meeting were reviewed
 - Edit required: Item 4. Principal report. Technology replenish request
 - Add: *“Jenny Gloria moved to approve the use of council funds to purchase 5 chrome books. Unanimous approval”*
 - Jenny Gloria moved to approve the minutes with the above noted edit. Priti Atodaria seconded. Unanimous approval.

3. Updates:

- Anne tested the Mackie Tattoos, they work great. Will be used for end of year gift to students
- Movie Night – Anne Turner
 - \$494.75 funds raised (February 7)
 - Thanks to all the volunteers and teachers!
- Pizza Lunch – Anne Turner
 - \$461.84 funds raised (February 22)

- Members continued last months discussion around granola bars:
 - Unsure whether they are halal, some kids do not take them
 - Apple delivery program through Food Share requires a minimum \$50.00 order; this would provide too many apples, concerns about waste.
 - Pizza lunch order envelopes are already printed and given council has not received a complaint, we will continue to provide a granola bar for the remainder of the 2018/19 school year and revisit this discussion in September.
 - Next pizza lunch March 29, Anne will send a call for volunteers
 - Lunch Lady – Anne Turner
 - Not enough people participating for it to be worth while for Lunch Lady to provide this service to our school
 - Last day for the program: Monday, March 4
 - Need to communicate this change to parents
 - Suggest survey parents re: alternatives to Lunch Lady

4. Principal Report – Shirley Ponka

- Thank you for successful and well-planned movie night and pizza lunch
- Successful reporting period-highly attended
 - Report Cards, Individual Education Plans, accommodations discussed with parents
- Successful Kindergarten registration - on par with projections
- School Improvement Team focussed on our three goals (Achievement, Well-being and Equity) preparing to share with Superintendent Nadira Persaud and Trustee Zakir Patel on March 5 – Jenny and Anne to check availability to attend as council representatives
 - Continued staff focus on mental health –advocating for additional supports: Child and Youth Workers, Special Needs Assistance, additional Social Work
 - Focus on Equity by introducing Key Concepts in Social Justice Educations
 - Continued focus on consistency in articulation of learning goals and success criteria
 - Planning with Artist Taya for all classrooms-with gratitude to SC
 - Booking Scientist in the School –all classrooms-with gratitude to SC

- Ongoing extra-curricular opportunities: house league (lunch), Mackie in Motion (am recess), Boys' Basketball, 2 Robotics Clubs (Grade 4 /5 and Grade 6), Forest of Reading, Learning Commons Team (LCT), Eco Club, Me to We, Drawing Club & more
- Eco Club-Bag 2 School Campaign -January 14 to February 1
 - thank you for your many contributions
- Facility-huge effort on part of caretaking to keep our building clear and safe in this weather
- Request: 5 paddle/shovels from Super Discount Store @ \$5.00
- Health-successful Lice Check, Vision and Hearing Clinic Complete
- Responses to Council Requests:
 - Follow up: Technology replenish requests 5 chrome books x \$285.45 = \$1427.25 approved? Yes.
- PIAC-Parent Involvement Advisory Council—February 21, no attendees from School Council
- Upcoming Students Opportunity: SOES –March 6-8
- March Break –March 11-15
- Coming in the Spring (events that affect the whole school and impact scheduling)
 - Need volunteers with PRC's for Science Centre Trip-April 10
 - Welcome to Kindergarten –June 11- 9:00-10:00-School Council to send two representatives, prepare welcome letter and attach PRC form, Mackie Tattoo for new students, provide healthy snack
 - Staffing, Planning and Projections 2019/2020- Two Parent Reps to consult with our staffing models, potential for all split classes up to grade 6.
 - Spring Concert-May 16
 - Track and Field
 - EQAO-May 21 to June 3
- Recognition for caretaking staff and their efforts to keep the grounds clear of snow and safe during this harsh winter season

5. Financial update – Michael John:

- Opening balance for 2018/19 school year \$2,653.38; current balance \$6,980.29
- January transactions:
 - Movie night

- Pizza lunch
- Projected 2018/19 closing balance \$746.29
- Confirm funding for Scientist in the School:
 - \$205.00 per workshop, 1 workshop per grade = \$1640.00
 - Jenny Gloria moved to approve the use of council funds to fund Scientist in the School. Unanimous approval.
- Artist Taya:
 - Coming to school for planning meeting next week
 - \$4000.00 earmarked for this activity, need to confirm cost asap
 - Ask Artist Taya for art grant suggestions to help with funding

6. Fundraising - Jenny Gloria

- Request for council finding support for Science Centre field trip
 - Bursary received (\$800 for bus and \$1,500 for excursion)
 - Cost of field trip is \$18 per student
 - Short by \$1,020, will charge \$5 per student, left with \$320.
 - Request for council to split difference with school and pay \$160 each
 - Jenny Gloria moved to approve council funding of \$160.00 for the Science Centre field. Priti Atodaria seconded. Unanimous approval.
 - Numbers to be confirmed 1 week in advance of the trip
 - Contingency plan needed for those who can't afford to pay or those who need to opt out and need supervision at school
 - Volunteers with PRC welcome, cost to attend = \$5 (for IMAX movie)

7. Parents Reaching Out (PRO) Grant – Jenny Gloria

- Date changed to Thursday, April 4th due to Dr. Doug and Social Worker's availability
- Budget = \$1000.00 to cover:
 - Presenters
 - Materials
 - Snacks/Drinks
 - Childcare (x3 staff)
- Current proposal is 3 x 35 minute rotating sessions:
 - Dr. Doug Schmidt (parents) / Mr. Moutadayne (children)
 - Social Worker Elizabeth (parents) / Nurse Heather James (children)

- Food and Nutrition interactive demonstration (parents and children)
- Members shared ideas and options for the sessions, key questions and comments included:
 - Is it possible to compile questions for Dr. Doug in advance? Suggest using SurveyMonkey.
 - Ms. Ponka to confirm with Dr. Doug how early he'd prefer questions, would they be helpful in preparing his presentation?
 - Food and Nutrition session – need to confirm presenter
 - Suggestions:
 - Rainbow Plate interesting but expensive
 - Maplewood High School student led nutrition workshop
 - Centennial College Culinary School
 - George Brown Culinary School
 - Belinda and Jenny to check for contacts and make calls
 - Heidi will send Maplewood contact information to Jenny
 - Grant requirement to provide participants with resources
 - Folder was time consuming and not eco friendly
 - Send PDF package following event via email, with links to websites
 - Create a “passport” (rotation schedule) to give families
 - Give an incentive for participants to complete an evaluation e.g. one of Dr. Doug's book suggestions
- Health and Wellness Night sub-committee to coordinate further details and report back

8. New Business – Jenny Gloria

- The Parent and Community Engagement is offering three webinars for school councils to help you better understand school councils, bylaws and school council effectiveness
 - Link: <https://www.tdsb.on.ca/Community/How-to-Get-Involved/School-Councils> Please consider listening
- Council Constitution – to be discussed/finalized in April
- A member raised concerns for the projected 2018/19 closing balance vs previous closing balances, key questions and comments from the discussion included:
 - The projected \$700 closing balance is appropriate

- Funds cannot be held for more than a year, ideally funds are used for students in the year they are raised
- Previous years there were two dance-a-thons and two movie nights
- Opening balance of \$700 is not going to support the same initiatives as in the past
- We will have to either spend less or increase fundraising in 2019/20

Important Dates

- **March 6–8** – Grade 6’s SOES trip
- **March 11–15** – March Break
- **Friday, March 29** – Pizza Lunch
- **Tuesday, April 2** – School Council Meeting
- **Wednesday, April 6** – SK & Grade 6 grad photos
- **Tuesday, April 9** – Health & Wellness Night
- **Wednesday, April 10** – Ontario Science Centre Mackie Field Trip
- **Wednesday, April 17** – Madagascar Mackie students @ Cedar Drive
- **Friday, April 19** – Easter Good Friday
- **Monday, April 22** – Easter Monday
- **Friday, April 26** – Pizza Lunch
- **Tuesday, April 30** – Lice Check