

George P. Mackie Junior Public School

School Council Minutes

Date: November 27, 2018

In Attendance:

- Jenny Gloria, Chair
- Anne Turner, Co-Chair
- Michael John, Treasurer
- Allison Crehore, Secretary
- Shirley Ponka, Principal
- Hassan Moutadayne, Staff Representative
- Petia Booyesen
- Priti Atodaria
- Stephany Sousa
- John Stafford

Called to Order: 6:05 pm

Adjourned: 7:40 pm

Proceedings:

1. Welcome to Parent Council

2. Administration:

- Time keeper – Stephany Sousa
- Minutes of October 2, 2018 meeting were reviewed
 - Jenny Gloria moved to approve the minutes. Priti Atodaria seconded.Unanimous approval.

3. Updates:

- TDSB email has been set up: mackie.parentcouncil@tdsb.on.ca
- Art grants submitted:
 - S’Cool Life Fund – Artist Taya (art supplies for mural project)
 - Gainey Foundation – Artist Taya (artist fee for mural project)
- Dance-A-Thon:
 - \$3472.05 funds raised
 - Thanks to teachers, volunteers and those who donated prizes
 - Ms. Ponka suggested finding an alternative to combining Dance-A-Thon with Halloween. It can be too much for some kids to manage. Reminded council to keep inclusiveness in mind as some student opt out for various reasons including: not wanting to dance, volume of music is overwhelming, Halloween theme itself.

- The Dance-A-Thon is the major fundraising event for the year. The activity draws excitement and participation.
- Suggestion of combined Fall Dance-A-Thon / Read-A-Thon to be held the Thursday before Thanksgiving long weekend in 2019.
- Council to survey parents in April 2019 for 2019-20 school year, what fundraising activity they would support.
- Health and Wellness Night, held on November 6, was a great success with good turn out
 - Received positive feedback from attendees
 - Thanks to teachers and behind the scenes volunteers
 - We would not have got to enjoy the event without the teachers participation!
- Photo Night
 - \$307 funds raised
 - Not as much participation as last year
 - Vendor suggested we not do it next year, wait for more new families to join Mackie
- Pizza Lunch
 - \$468.50 funds raised (October 26)
 - Anne provided info to teachers and they marked kids hands – this worked well
 - Left over pizza will be wrapped and placed in freezer for kids who forgot lunch
 - Aluminum foil provided in Kindergarten classes for left overs to go home
 - November 30: Anne/Petia to count on Thursday; Anne/Priti to serve on Friday
- Lunch Lady
 - Currently averaging 12 orders per week
 - Vendor suggested we move to once per month
 - Asked to keep orders at once per week (every Monday), suggested add ‘fun’ menu to encourage participation

4. Principal Report – Shirley Ponka

- School Improvement Plan at implementation phase
- Three goals:
 - Achievement goal
 - Equity goal
 - Well-being goal

- Looking to acquire more support staff, e.g. for kids with safety plan
- Working hard to continually improve safety at school
 - A lot of vandalism on property recently
 - Asked for school to be put on regular security patrol circulation
 - If you observe suspicious activity on school property outside of school hours, you can call the Security Operations Centre at 416-395-4620
 - Security number to be posted near front entrance and shared with neighbouring community so incidents can be reported
- Ongoing space issues
 - Shared space for Mr. Moutadayne, Mackie Snackie & music room
 - Support teams (SW, CAS, etc.) need confidential space
 - Council needs to use space (to count money etc.)
 - Ms. Ponka suggested council uses the staffroom, so that the other spaces could be used by support staff
- Office administrator
 - AM/PM entry times are critical times for attendance and safety needs
 - Please do not interrupt the office administrator during these periods
 - Book and confirm space needs in advance to help avoid interruptions

5. Financial update – Michael John:

- Opening balance for 2018/19 school year \$2,653.38; current balance \$6,734.34
- Projected income for 2018/19
 - Monthly pizza lunches
 - Movie night
 - \$1000 donation
- Future commitments for 2018/19
 - Repair of AC units (cost unknown)
 - Basketball backboard \$700 x 2 = \$1,400 (\$1,000 donation + \$400 council)
 - Jenny Gloria moved to approve the \$400 expense for two removable basketball backboards. Unanimous approval
- Toronto Urban Studies Centre (TUSC) Program – Outdoor Field Trips
 - Teachers have applied to attend
 - Suggested council fund transportation

- <http://daytrippers.ca/> reimbursement grant
- Ms. Ponka to reach out to School Improvement Team for suggestions e.g.:
 - Theater/play come to GP Mackie
 - Literacy Program
- Financial plan to be updated based upon discussions tonight

6. Outdoor classroom - Jenny Gloria

- Jenny Gloria reviewed the design, estimates and available grants for this project
- Key discussion and comments included:
 - Location: Near containers located beside the kindergarten playground
 - Estimated cost of project: \$27,000
 - Alternative designs may be considered to reduce costs
 - 100% funding required in advance to be 'put on the list'
 - We can apply for three grants:
 - TD Friends of the Environment Foundation Grant
 - <https://www.td.com/corporate-responsibility/fe-f-grant.jsp>
 - Grants are between \$2,000 and \$8,000
 - Winter submission deadline: January 15, 2019
 - Summer submission deadline: July 15, 2019
 - Canada Post Community Foundation Grant
 - <https://www.canadapost.ca/web/en/pages/aboutus/communityfoundation/criteria.page>
 - Grants up to \$5,000
 - Submission deadline: April 5, 2019
 - Tree Canada
 - <https://treecanada.ca/plant-with-us/apply-for-a-grant/>
- Outstanding questions:
 - If successful grants awarded in 2019 must funds be used in 2019?
 - If grant funds must be used in 2019, can they be extended?
 - When project moves ahead can construction take place during the summer?
- Ms. Ponka to inform all teachers and bring back suggestions/input
- Noted no large fundraising effort planned for the remainder of 2018/19
 - Suggest specific targeted fundraising plan for this project

- Decision to proceed with project, agree on timelines and submit grant applications required by next council meeting

7. Robotics @ GP Mackie – John Stafford

- John Stafford provided an overview of the First Lego League program
- Interested in running a Lego Mindstorm team at GP Mackie (10 students, grades 4-6)
- Requested funding support from council for various start-up costs, including:
 - Team registration \$325 (USD)
 - Robots \$420 (x2)
 - Expansion kits \$135
 - Competition table materials \$50
- Jenny Gloria moved to approve earmarking \$1,460 towards this project. Unanimous approval.

8. Fundraising Plan - Jenny Gloria

- 2-3 Library laptops – Ms. Harley to confirm needs
- End of year gift to students - GP Mackie logo tattoos – 1,000 for \$144
- Movie Night - date to be determined - tabled for January meeting

9. Grants – Anne Turner

- Green Apple School Program (\$1,000)
 - <https://www.greenapple.metro.ca/home.en.html>
 - Aim: To increase student consumption of fruit and vegetables
 - Requires: Pre and post observation, count and summary / report back
 - It was determined this was not a viable project. Application will not be submitted.
- Indigo grants https://www.loveofreading.org/en/literacy_fund_grant to be shared with Ms. Harley
- Grant research file was shared with staff in October – any interest?

10. New Business – Jenny Gloria

- Council Constitution – Anne working on draft to be discussed/finalized in January.
- Teacher/Staff Appreciation, holiday cake: December 14.

Important Dates

- **Friday, December 7** – PA day
- **Monday, December 24 to Friday, January 4** – Christmas Break

- **Monday, January 14** - Mackie Snackie starts
- **Tuesday, January 15** – Next School Council meeting
- **Thursday, January 17** – Vision & Hearing Clinic
- **Friday, January 18** – PA day
- **Monday, January 21** – School lice check
- **Friday, January 25** – Pizza lunch
- **Friday, February 15** – PA day
- **Monday, February 18** – Family day