



Market Lane School Council

The Parents of Market Lane Public School

<https://schoolweb.tdsb.on.ca/marketlane/School-Council>

246 The Esplanade, Toronto, ON M5A 4J6

Meeting Minutes – December 10, 2020		
Location	Time	
Zoom Link	6:00 pm – 7:00 pm	
Meeting Chair	Meeting Secretary	
Chandra Severin	Christine Ogonji	
Attendees		
Chandra Severin	Sara Gogani	
Duane Spencer	Thelma Matteer	
Christine Ogonji	Jessica	
Aman Ghebremeskel	Sharief	
Beth Murray		

#	Topic	Owner
1	<p><u>Opening Remarks and Introductions</u></p> <p>a. Introductions of current council. Principals welcome. “The purpose of the Council is “to improve student achievement and enhance the accountability of the education system to parents through active parent engagement.”</p>	Chandra Severin Sara Gogani
2	<p><u>Motion to approve the minutes of the meeting for October 2020</u></p> <p>a. Althea Munroe proposed the approval of the minutes and Aman seconded the motion to approve the minutes of the meeting from last month. The minutes were approved.</p> <p>School Council Minutes are sent out in the ML Updates and also in the Market Lane Website</p>	Chandra Severin Althea Munroe Aman Ghebremeskel
3	<p><u>Principal and School Update</u></p> <p>a. Sara gave the updates on behalf of Thelma, who is the Teacher’s Representative. Sara encourages the students to maintain health and safety Covid-19 protocols. We are one of the few schools that has no requests for a transfer to Virtual School in December.</p> <p>b. Sara shall send the Virtual links of the TDSB public forums so that parents can join in to participate. Board Meetings open to families <a href="https://www.tdsb.on.ca/Leadership/Boardroom">https://www.tdsb.on.ca/Leadership/Boardroom</a></p> <p>c. Sara has communicated with her staff to ensure that they are able to access Google classroom and Brightspace so that children can all access should we be required to pivot to online classes due to a Covid-19 outbreak at the school.</p> <p>d. Sara is keeping track of families who have not a single device in order to provide a device to the families in case of an emergency lockdown.</p> <p>e. Sara also asked the Staff to ensure the families provide their latest email address because that is the only way that the</p>	Sara Gogani Thelma Matteer



	<p>School can communicate important information to the families. The staff are currently trying to connect with about 40 families.</p> <p>f. Sharief asked whether ML would also be part of the whole school being tested like in Northcliff. It is possible that a class cohort can be sent home if there is a positive case. How this would affect the school depends on how the case is connected to the other classes.</p> <p><i>Sara responded that at this time the schools being tested are the ones deemed to be in areas with a high rate of COVID infection. Market Lane is not in one of those areas so there is no indication at this time that we will have testing.</i></p>	
4.	<p><u>Community Support Worker Update</u></p> <p>a. Duane Spencer has confirmed that since meetings have gone virtual, he is looking for feedback from the parents who are not tech-savvy so that he can help them to feel connected.</p> <p>b. One main area of focus is food security. As we approach the holidays families may need help after school hours. They are ensuring that they know where to get the resources they need.</p> <p>c. Another concern is that some families are burdened by the children feeling disconnected from their normal extra-curricular activities. One school Duane works with has started a Boys Group to help with this. The Boys Group is a small cohort – includes 2 boys in Virtual school who will join the in-person Boys Group.</p> <p><b>Action:</b> Council to work with School on activities or events we can implement for our students such as the one listed above.</p> <p>d. The system has inactive/Virtual school list so that the Principal can send out all the communication to both in-person and Virtual school</p> <p>a. <b>Action:</b> Chandra will modify a survey provided by Duane to send out to everyone. She will draft and send out the Council for feedback. Especially workshops focusing on mental health.</p> <p>e. Duane also added on that in 2021, there shall be a Parent Academy series to help parents understand the resources available to them.</p> <p>f. How parents with children in Special Education (Spec-Ed) were affected by Covid.</p> <p>a. Sara would be interested in hosting a workshop e.g. Understanding your Spec-Ed child’s IEP</p> <p>b. She also thinks is that there may be some teachers who would be interested in sharing and we can get the subjects from what the parents answers to the survey</p>	Duane Spencer



	<p>c. Sara could call in the use of TDSB Coaches. We must be creative, source locally for Writers, Artists and other professionals willing to give their time to allow the students to connect.</p> <p>d. Sara says Reading is a huge priority by TDSB. To read by end of Grade 1. From the tracking, at ML they have statistics reporting that 59% are currently not at level.</p>	
5.	<p><u>School Lunch</u></p> <p>a. Althea works with Isa and Damien to plan for and deliver the Nutrition Program at ML.</p> <p>b. Anyone can sign up to join the hot lunch program and parents can also donate separately.</p>	Althea Munroe
6.	<p><u>Committee Information</u></p> <p>We are still working on getting volunteers to form the various committees. Volunteers can be any parent/guardian with a child in the school and does not have to be a member of Council. Chandra encourages everyone to get involved, any time commitment at all is fine. We can work with everyone's schedule.</p> <p>a. <b>Fundraising Committee</b> – needed to help us raise funds for the needs of our students</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chandra gave an update that so far, with just 10 active users we have already raised over CAD100 in the past month just by using <b>Flippgive</b>. It allows everyone shopping online to raise funds for the school, just by doing your normal shopping at various stores e.g. No Frills, Amazon, Walmart, etc and a percentage of your purchases goes to your school. Chandra will also put up this update on the Facebook page to encourage families. Anybody can create an account and then join the Market Lane team. The code to Join Market Lane School is <b>7CBGKH</b>.</li> <li>• Aman requested Chandra to give this update on the “Parents of Market Lane” facebook page in order to encourage participation.</li> </ul> <p>b. <b>How to form a ML Black Student Success Committee:</b> Chandra will get the communication out with the survey. It needs to be Parent Owned and Parent Driven so that the parents are like the Advisory Committee to help ML improve / handle the anti-black racism and to celebrate the Black Excellence. It is a point to set up such an open meeting in January 2021.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Thelma : attended a Black local artist meeting at a museum that was like an informal social gathering</li> </ul>	Chandra Severin Sara Gogani



	<p>where everyone shared experiences and encouraged one another. We could apply the same format.</p> <p>c. <b>Social/Engagement Committee</b> – to bridge the gap between the school and our families. Especially important this year when much is done virtually.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Council organized a fun outdoor dance party with a DJ and with the help of several parent volunteers, had a successful time supervising the JK to Grade 4 group. The children were very happy. There is a focus is to do something for the older kids in January/February 2021.             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Thelma said from a teacher’s perspective that they too enjoyed seeing the children out there in a different kind of break.</li> <li>ii. Sara will take an informal poll to find out what the older kids grade 5 – 8 would be interested in. e.g. they are most recently interested in Spoken Word artists                 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Chandra will also reach out to Popz Barber Shop – the owner is a musician who might be interested in participating.</li> <li>2. Chandra shared an experience she had with her children at Body By Chosen Toronto on Church Street (<a href="https://www.bodybychosen.com/">https://www.bodybychosen.com/</a>) is a personal training company that is also involved in Community Mentorship for children. She will investigate opportunities with them for the older kids.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>If anyone is interested in joining any of these committees, please email the school or our School Council chairs.</b></p>	
7.	<p><u>Closing Remarks</u></p> <p>a. Schedule of School Council Meetings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- January 13 – 6:15 pm</li> <li>- February 10 – 9:15 am</li> <li>- March 10 – 6:15 pm</li> <li>- April 14 – 9:15 am</li> <li>- May 12 – 6:15 pm</li> <li>- June 9 – 9:15 am</li> </ul>	



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#	Outstanding Items	Owner
1	<p>Parent Representatives still able to join</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- We are still seeking parents to join the council as a parent rep. This means you are able to vote on any matters we are discussing. Please note that the time commitment is very flexible. You do not need to attend every meeting or participate on a committee to be a parent rep. If you cannot make a meeting you can still have your voice heard and vote on matters prior to the meeting date.</li><li>- <i>All parents/guardians are welcome to attend meetings but only those signed up as a parent rep are able to vote!</i></li></ul>	Chandra Severin
2.	School Statement of Need	Sara Gogani
3.	By-laws	Chandra Severin
4.	<p>Volunteers</p> <p>- we also need volunteers for the various events we'd like to hold and/or to join committees. Anyone interested in helping in any capacity at all should contact the school.</p>	Chandra Severin