



Mackenzie King Parent Council Meeting Minutes
Held in-person at MKPS on Wednesday November 13, 2024
6:00 – 8:00 pm

Attendees: Alex Herbert, Alyssa Campbell, Tracey Ebert, Kalya Tripp (Teacher), Sharlene McHolm (Principal), Lara Hopcroft, Mellissa Jeffery, Marta Dunn

Absent: Mary Litwiller, Denise Wardle, Heather White, Aimee Ross, Erin McCabe, Janine Brubacher

- 6:00pm – Meeting Commence
- Approve the minutes
 - Motion to approve Alyssa, seconded by Tracey – all approved

- **Teacher's Report**
 - Progress reports go home 18Nov2024
 - Winter Concert – 19Dec2024 9:30AM & 12PM
 - Upcoming Field Trips
 - Gr1s Museum – today 13Nov
 - Gr6s Waterloo Wellington Flight Center - December
 - Blue Jays Foundation Girls Baseball Program update – currently have ~60 girls (gr 3-6) interested in the program. This will start in April 2025 and is an 8-week program. The equipment package is expected to arrive mid-November
 - **Financial requests:**
 - 1) Track & Field - 1 case of paint for Mac Track (~\$150) and whistles & stopwatches
 - 2) Field Trip subsidies for all students to use at some point this yearNote: These requests were not voted on as there was not quorum at this meeting.

- **Principle's Report**
 - Mackenzie Kingdom outside area
 - Fencing & gates added to create a safe place for the Kindies to participate in outdoor learning.
 - The gates are locked during non-school hours to ensure community doesn't use it for off leash dog area.
 - Next steps to add other things into that space to support outdoor learning, for example, climbers for little people, mud kitchen, raised flower beds, raised sandboxes, different sized picnic tables, sail structure for shade and/or imaginative play. Suggested that the council consider some playground enhancement dollars to go into that space.
 - **Financial Request**
 - 3) Funds for radio replacements, \$400-500 per radio. School needs to replace 20 radios (have 30 total). Cost reflects the school board's requirements on acceptable radios.Note: This request was not voted on as there was not quorum at this meeting.
 - New school program: How to be a Scottie
 - Developed by our MK staff
 - Program will launch across the school in December with a school assembly
 - How to Be A Scottie

- **Speak Kindly**
- **Caring**
- **Offering Help**
- **Thankful**
- **Truthful**
- **Inclusive**
- **Empathetic**
- Highlights – staff catch kids doing the right thing (acting like a Scottie) and can reward them by nominating them. Each week 5 names will be drawn and our “winners” will have their names read on the announcements and get a small prize (pencil).
- Having a common language about how we treat each other is important for staff and families.
- All classrooms have a poster.
- Shoutout to the staff at this school as they are patient, kind, and giving.
- Remembrance Day service/assembly – classes made peace leaves and each class had a leaf that they added. It was a great ceremony. Thank you to MK staff who put all of this together.
- **Fundraising**
- **Vendor Market Update:**
 - Update sent in by Amiee Ross who was not able to attend; presented by Alyssa
 - Thank you to the council, Ms. McHolm, Mrs. G, Mrs. Watson and to our volunteers for making this event a success. Big thanks to Alex for sponsoring out lemonade stand and Slaman’s Quality Flowers for their generous donation.
 - ~200 ppl attended (fewer than last year by ~100 ppl); likely due to lack of online presence and potentially the warmth of the day, meaning many people were raking leaves instead
 - Funds raised:
 - \$206.90 in donations
 - \$144.59 MK swag table
 - \$340.00 Slaman’s Flowers
 - \$45.55 Lemonade Table
 - \$20.00 for 1 young entrepreneur table (1 table @ \$20/table)
 - \$1,440.00 for vendor tables (24 tables @ \$60/table)
 - Total: \$2,197.04 (\$144.59 going to MK t-shirts, \$2,052.45 going to council)
 - Council needs to decide if this event will run next year
 - Amiee is stepping back from running this event and is happy to provide another volunteer with information on how to run a safe and school friendly event.
 - Discussion:
 - Great day, but struggled getting enough volunteers
 - 2024 date was moved the date into October which likely led to lower chocolate sales at the event.
 - Crafty Crystal has mentioned that she is willing to play a bigger role in the event in the future if it continues to run
 - Other fundraising ideas that do not require as much preparation may be better at this time

- Bingo Hall nights
 - Bottle Drives
 - Re-marketing existing ongoing fundraisers (Factory Shoe, Mable's Labels, Flip Give); if school council can get some verbiage together, teachers can include this with future classroom calendars (Alex & Alyssa to follow up)
 - Dominoes/Harveys Night – use a code when ordering on a certain night and money from the purchase will go to the school
 - Ms. McHolm identified that our school council is more active than many she has worked with in the past.
- **Chocolate Bar Fundraiser Update:**
 - Money raised: \$5,686.33 (still need to verify all expenses have come out of this total)
 - Comparatively, last year we made ~\$7500 including ~\$900 donations
 - Fairly easy to track via google doc
 - Overall good feelings about the fundraiser, however, council is thinking about changing what is being sold for the next year's fundraising campaign
- **Nutrition**
 - Pizza – run by Janine Brubaker
 - Smoothies & Pita – run by the school
- **Waterloo Region Assembly of Public School Councils (WRAPSC)**
 - Alex is attending WRAPSC on behalf of MKPS
 - WRAPSC is asking all councils to vote on the following topic: Asking school board Trustees to require a letter be sent home to parents when their student has witnessed problematic situations/behaviours at school. There is a perception that children are internalizing witnessed problematic situations/behaviours and parents are not aware as currently only those students directly impacted will get information home.
 - Discussion:
 - Every classroom at MK has neurodivergent kids, and all kids are continually learning how to self regulate as they develop. If this was a requirement, Ms. McHolm estimates that 95% of our students could be getting a letter home daily because everyone is trying to regulate themselves and develop their ability to regulate emotions.
 - Currently, teachers address behaviours and debrief with the class when they notice that a situation has been difficult. Reframe the situation, and support their students. This happens as a group, and one-on-one if necessary.
 - If this was a requirement, the letter will be so generic (privacy reasons) and would likely just cause anxiety among parents.
 - If you have concerns about your child and/or your child's classroom, the best thing to do is reach out to your teacher and let them know that you're worried.

- Requested Ms. McHolm to provide a session for council/parents on how MK Staff debriefs at school and give us tips for doing this at home as well.
- **End of Year Event – Planning Committee**
 - Event – Bike Rodeo – Thursday June 19th 2025 (5:30-7:30PM)
 - Lessons Learned from last year – no balloons, no glitter, start planning sooner so that community supports, mechanic, food trucks, etc. are more likely to be able to attend
 - Committee members currently – Alex, Alyssa, Lara, Mary – reach out to any of these members if you’re interested in joining in the planning/prep
- **Playground Project Discussion**
 - Need to start a committee for the playground project so that we can get a better understanding of needed funds and timelines required
 - Need to vote as a council for % of raised funds to support the playground project
 - School Board will provide some financial support, but they will need to be provided with additional details (MK funds, timelines, status of our current equipment) in order to provide us with an estimate of what they will provide. If we give school board our top number (most we can raise for the project), they should be able to provide their support number.
 - Playground equipment is evaluated by a 3rd party; MK has not yet had their evaluation for 2024/2025 school year. At some point, our equipment will be deemed at the “end of life” (i.e. not safe and not repairable) at which point it will be roped off to prevent people from using it and it will be removed.
 - We haven’t received anything further from our school board playground contact. Ms. McHolm will reach out to see if he will send more.
 - Suggestion that someone from council reach out to Crestview PS parent council/school to get some details about their process and grants and such (Alex will do this).
 - Mackenzie Kingdom space – funds for outdoor learning features will need to come from this council. These elements have to meet a certain standard. There may be some grants available that are specific to the elements we’re looking for (i.e. raised flower beds)
- **Other Items**
 - **Food Drive** – Ms. Tripp going to take this back to the teachers and make sure something happens
 - **Movie Night**
 - A license is ~\$450 for the year and everyone at school can use it
 - Gym capacity of 350 means that we would have to limit attendees; this makes the event less inclusive.
 - Possible to project outside when the weather is nice.
 - Could have 2 movies/nights or 2 separate movie nights (junior and primary nights)
 - Suggestion to send out a survey on School Day to see if there is interest; council will need to come up with wording for the survey and work with Mrs. Watson to put on School Day.
 - An adult must be accompanying any student(s) attending.

- We have 385 students in the school this year.
 - To move forward with an event like this, it will take lots of planning to make sure this works and is inclusive.
 - May be able to use grant money to pay for movie license.
- **Pro grant**
 - Criteria for grant – must be an event that brings parents into the building
 - Council would like to use this for Inquiring Minds
 - Grant proposal must be submitted by the school council.
 - Ms. McHolm will send information on this as soon as it is available.
- 8:00pm – Adjournment

For any questions or for follow up, please email: mkschoolcouncil@gmail.com

Next meeting: December 11, 2024 @ 6-7:30PM in MKPS Library