



**Mackenzie King Parent Council Meeting Minutes**  
Held in-person at MKPS on Wednesday December 11, 2024  
6:00 – 7:30 pm

**Attendees:** Alex Hebert, Tracey Ebert, Kayla Tripp (Teacher), Sharlene McHolm (Principal), Lara Hopcroft

**Absent:** Mary Litwiller, Alyssa Campbell, Denise Wardle, Heather White, Mellissa Jeffery, Marta Dunn, Aimee Ross, Erin McCabe, Janine Brubacher

- 6:20pm – Meeting commence
  
- 6:20pm – **Teacher’s Report**
  - Food drive – over 600+ food items (36 boxes) collected. Each division (kindie, primary, junior) will get a dance party as a reward/celebration of efforts
  - Friday 13Dec “This is Me” Spirit Day – encouraged to wear something that represents them
  - Rm4’s (Mr. Schneider) Winter Clothing Drive – 12Dec-19Dec. Donations will be sent to the House of Friendship (non-profit). Asking for pyjamas, socks, hats, scarves, new boxers.
  - Thursday 19Dec MK Winter Concert – 2 times available (9:30AM & 12PM). Online enrollment required on School Day. Currently, enrollment is split pretty evenly between the 2 show times.
  - Friday 20Dec is the last day of school before break – each class is celebrating their own way (party, movie, snacks, etc.)
  - Monday 06Jan2025 is the first day back to school
  - Sports
    - Dodgeball intermural is wrapping up; led by Mr. Dyke
    - Floor hockey is ongoing; led by Mr. Sneider
    - Jr Jays update – we got the equipment delivered; program still targeted for the spring
  - Ms. McHolm (Principal) has organized MK to participate in a bullying and social competency program. This is a 5 week program where every Wed, 5 classes from Gr1 – Gr3/4 participate.  
Activities are geared towards:
    - How to be kind to others
    - How to handle emotions
  - Field Trips/Activities
    - 17Dec Gr 6 going to the Waterloo Flight Center
    - 03-07Feb Guelph Grotto will be onsite at MK and students will have a chance to participate in activities
    - 24Jan (& another day in Feb TBD) Kitchener Ringette Association will be onsite at MK and students will receive an intro to ringette. All grades will participate, but only on one of the scheduled days
  - “How to Be a Scottie” program
    - Launched Friday 06Dec
    - Teachers & Staff started handing out “Scotties” on Monday 09Dec
    - First draw for “winners” will be Friday 13Dec

- Staff is very happy with roll out so far
- 6:27pm – **Fundraising**
  - No updates
- 6:27pm – **Nutrition**
  - No updates
- 6:28pm – **January Movie Night**
  - Possible date - PD Day 17Jan2025
  - School Council to provide verbiage for a poll in School Day to understand if there is interest
- 6:30pm – **Principal’s Report**
  - Still have lots of fundraiser chocolate (open boxes that couldn’t be returned). This can continue to be sold at various school events throughout the year. Possible to sell prior to Winter Concerts on 19Dec; requires a parent volunteer
  - Playground Updates
    - Ms. McHolm reached out to the Principal at Crestview to ask questions about their recent playground upgrade
    - If the school has funds, the process can take less than a year.
    - Kelsey McLaren – “Love my Hood” grant contact
  - Scott Miller is acting as Interim Director of Education
  - Debriefing Process
    - Ms. McHolm explained the debriefing process used by MKPS teachers & staff. Materials are available from Ms. McHolm for more details.
      - Ensure immediate safety & calm the situation
      - Acknowledge the Incident – the debrief
      - Proactive Actions: Self-regulation, Problem Solving and Behaviour Expectations (ongoing)
      - Offer Support and Reassurance to Students
      - For the Student Removed
        - Calm & discuss situation
        - Involve parents/guardians to problem solve and support school/student
        - Plan for Reintegration of Student into the Classroom
    - Kids have conflict and get dysregulated. MK has amazing adults in this building who support our kids and call for help with needed.
    - Discussion:
      - Can we have a bigger conversation about school violence and have it specific to our school?
        - If we did this again with a larger audience, it wouldn’t be specific about our school, but rather statistics for schools in general. It would show the process for how we support all students, including the neurodiverse students in our public school system

- Can we do this online to make it more accessible? It is possible, but in-person sessions people are more likely to ask questions. There was a suggestion to advertise the event and have offer coffee/snacks.
- Standards of Behaviour – how is this standard applied to neurodivergent students?
  - Code of conduct/standard of behaviour applies to kids who know that their behaviour is inappropriate and act poorly regardless. There are many students who don't understand personal space/ownership/etc. due to age or mental capacity, and if child doesn't have that developmental marker to understand the Code of Conduct, then the consequences are not going to work to improve that behaviour. It is much better to support these students in their understand/rehearse situations/etc. so they have a better understanding.
  - How do you protect the kids within the classroom? As per the Education Act, any staff that sees violence must intervene (ex. put themselves between the altercation). PPE (knee pads, coats, face shields, etc) is available for staff as necessary. Staff are trained on a BMS process that teaches how to stay safe when intervening.
  - Overall, we need education, not punishment and further funding from ministry to reflect the needs so that we can have an EA for each child with an IEP (example)
- Are Calming Corners available in all classrooms?
  - Yes. They are called different things in different rooms, but every classroom has a space for students to regulate their emotions
- Does the school track/trend concerns for violence?
  - Yes, incidents are tracked, and there are regular connections points where this is discussed (ex. weekly staff meeting, monthly meetings with multi disciplinary school team). Monthly meetings can supporting bigger discussions to get feedback on how to support the student/situation from phycologist, social worker, etc.
- What is a “Body Break”?
  - This is a chance to get up and move (ex. dance to a song). There are popular videos on YouTube used within the classrooms to both “get moving” and “calm down” (ex. GoNoodle).
- 7:20pm – **Inquiring Minds**
  - ProGrant information will come out in Jan
  - Main actions required for the event: Book gym, tables, purchase boards
  - This will be discussed more in Jan meeting

- 7:23pm – **Additional Items**
  - Open Doors for Kindies – in previous years, the Kindies would have a regular time where they could move between Kindie classrooms, but this is not happening right now. Will they start doing it in the new year?
    - Ms. McHolm – currently the Kindies are focusing on structure and routine. The Open Doors changing the routine and it is not something that supports the classes at this time. This may be revisited in the new year.
  
- 7:25pm – Adjournment

**Next meeting: January 8, 2025 @ 6-7:30PM in MKPS Library**