

## **PARENT ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

École Morden Middle School

Date: February 17, 2024

Time: 7:00 PM - 8:25 PM

Location: School Library & Virtual (via Teams)

In Attendance (In-Person):

- Jeri (Chair)
- Crystal
- Rhonda
- Kristen
- Tiffany
- Stephanie
- Cathy
- Jordan (Vice Principal)
- Ashley (Vice Principal)

In Attendance (Virtual):

- Garth (Principal)

Two others (names not captured)

Regrets: None recorded.

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## 1. Call to Order & Review of Previous Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 PM. The minutes from the January meeting were reviewed. Key items from the previous meeting were recapped, including staffing updates, the Blazers Brew Crew, the roof leak, and plans for upcoming fundraisers (Jazz Choir donuts, Morden Nursery). The minutes were accepted as read.

## 2. Treasurer's Report

- Current PAC account balance: \$2,034.27. (No change from January).
- There is also a \$100 float.
- The February hot lunch (chicken fingers and fries) resulted in no net profit/loss due to the need to order exact quantities. The pre-order nature of the meal makes refunds for absent students difficult.

### Discussion: Chicken Finger Hot Lunch Logistics

- The meal was a huge success with 80 students, but the plating process was very slow.
- Grade 6-8 students at the end of the line had to rush through their meal.
- It was suggested that this menu item be reserved for smaller groups (e.g., only Grade 5s, or scheduled on days when older grades are on field trips) to manage the line and wait times.
- It was also noted that the form should explicitly state "No Refunds" due to the made-to-order nature of the meal.

## 3. Principal's Report (Garth - Virtual)

## A. Division Budget Survey & Calendar Feedback

- Budget Survey: The Western School Division has requested that each PAC submit a collective response to their budget survey, in addition to individual parent submissions.
- The group spent a significant portion of the meeting completing the survey together. Key themes from the PAC's collective response included:
  - Areas Doing Well: Emphasis on mental health, cyber safety, Indigenous learning opportunities, and strong communication (email, social media).
  - Areas for Improvement: Streamlining communication platforms (too many apps: Remind, Team Snap, Teams, Dojo), better access to extracurricular schedules, increased in-classroom support from EAs, and a new high school to address space constraints.
  - Top Educational Priorities: Literacy (instilling a love of reading, phonics), numeracy, financial literacy, and enrichment opportunities for students who are excelling.
  - Additional Supports Needed: Cyber safety/etiquette, AI education, digital literacy (basic computer skills like typing, printing, file management), and increased EAL support.
  - Resources Lacking: Classroom technology updates (printers, smartboards), outdoor/land-based learning spaces, and adequate funding for a new high school.
  - Barriers to Access: Large class sizes limit teachers' ability to meet individual needs; difficulty accessing support for students with needs that fall outside formal diagnoses.

## B. School Calendar (Early Closings)

- Administration requested feedback on the potential return of early dismissal days (4 per year) to provide staff with collaborative time for school improvement and provincial initiatives.
- PAC Discussion:
  - Views were mixed and highly dependent on family situations (working parents, age of children, childcare availability).
  - Some preferred early dismissals, while others preferred full-day closures (like PD days) if they must occur.

- The one-hour early dismissal on the last day of school was universally unpopular, seen as a waste of busing and not worth the disruption.
- It was noted that a full year's notice on the calendar is provided, making it a parent's responsibility to plan.

#### 4. New Business

##### A. Hot Lunch Schedule

- The previously scheduled February 28 hot lunch will be moved to Friday, March 9.
- The menu will likely be pizza, based on student requests. Ashley will confirm with Alma.

##### B. Jazz Choir Krispy Kreme Fundraiser Support

- Heather has requested PAC's assistance in running a Krispy Kreme donut fundraiser for the Jazz Choir's trip to Edmonton.
- PAC agreed to help create the order form, manage order collection and money counting, and assist with distribution.
- Details:
  - Order Deadline: March 9
  - Distribution Date: March 19 (Parent-Teacher Conferences)
  - Pricing: \$2/single donut; \$20/dozen box (approx. \$12 profit per box for the choir).
  - Distribution Plan: Singles delivered to classrooms during the day; pre-ordered dozen boxes available for pickup in the evening (location TBD, likely the music room, as the library will host the Book Fair).
- This volunteer support is in lieu of a direct monetary donation from PAC.

##### C. Upcoming Events

- Val Caldwell Presentations (Internet Safety): Confirmed for May 13-14. PAC's committed \$200 contribution will be allocated.
- Morden Nursery Fundraiser: Still planned for April/May (Mother's Day/spring gardening).

## 5. Adjournment

The meeting concluded at 8:25 PM.

Next Meeting: Monday, March 17, 2024, at 7:00 PM.

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Note from Secretary: My apologies for the delay in getting these minutes circulated.