

PARENT ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
École Morden Middle School

Date: March 16, 2024

Time: 7:00 PM - 7:42 PM

Location: School Library & Virtual (via Teams)

In Attendance (In-Person):

- Jeri (Chair)
- Crystal (Secretary)
- Cathy (Treasurer)
- Garth (Principal)
- Ashley (Vice-principal)
- Jordan (Vice-principal)
- Kristen

In Attendance (Virtual):

- Kim G.
- Stephanie W.

Regrets: None recorded.

1. Call to Order & Review of Previous Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 7:04 PM. The minutes from the February 17, 2024, meeting were reviewed and accepted. Key items from the previous meeting included the divisional budget survey, calendar feedback, and plans for the Krispy Kreme fundraiser.

2. Treasurer's Report

- Current PAC account balance: \$2,043.27. (A profit of \$9 was made on the March hot lunch).
- A cheque for \$2,560 will be issued to cover the cost of the Krispy Kreme donuts purchased for the Jazz Choir fundraiser.
- After the donut expense is deducted, \$3,464 in profit will be donated to the Jazz Choir to support their trip to Edmonton.
- An additional cheque from the school office (for e-transfers sent there by mistake) is expected to be consolidated and issued to PAC on Thursday.

3. Principal's Report (Garth)

A. Upcoming Events & Reminders

- Report Cards: Will be emailed home on Tuesday, March 17, between 3:30-4:00 PM.
- Book Fair: Currently underway in the library and will run through the end of student conferences.

- Krispy Kreme Pickup: Scheduled for Thursday, March 19. Individual donuts will be delivered to classrooms by Jazz Choir students; pre-ordered dozen boxes will be available for parent pickup during conferences.
- Spirit Week (March 24-28):
 - Monday: Decades Day (50s-early 2000s)
 - Tuesday: Tropical Tuesday / Tacky Tourist
 - Wednesday: Character Day (favourite TV, movie, book character)
 - Thursday: Twin & Squad Day
 - Friday: Red, White, and Blazer Day (culminating with the rescheduled staff-student hockey game).
- Student Conferences: Coming up this Thursday (19th) & Friday (20th). High participation is encouraged. In-person meetings are strongly preferred over virtual options to maximize student voice and engagement.
- Festival du Voyageur: The Grade 5 trips were successfully completed.

B. Grade 8 & High School Transition

- The Grade 8 winter activity day was successfully rescheduled. Students who were unable to ski enjoyed activities in Winkler.
- Grade 8 students have completed course registration for high school, which requires parent approval.

C. Band Program Update

- Due to space limitations at EDM, band will be moving back to EMMS for the 2026-2027 school year.
- The music room will become the band room during Grade 7/8 arts periods. 7/8 Choir will be taught in a different space (potentially a sound-treated portable).
- This change will allow for a more consistent arts schedule (every second day) for all students. Students will still travel to EDM for Human Ecology and Applied Technology (woodworking).

D. Athletics & Enrolment

- School enrolment is projected to decrease next year to a 10-15 year low due to the opening of Grade 8 at EDM.
- As a result, Grade 7 students will be eligible to try out for school sports teams next year. This returns the school to its previous practice and aligns with other schools in the region. Clubs and skills development opportunities will still be offered for all students.
- Basketball season concluded successfully, with thanks to coach Taylor Suderman for her work with the girls' team.

E. Other Updates

- Esports: Another team has qualified for provincials, which will be held at Gordon Bell High School in Winnipeg.
- Ice Fishing: The Outdoor Ed class ice fishing trip, supported by a grant, is rescheduled for Thursday due to weather. Community members have volunteered to help, with an eye toward expanding the program.
- Divisional Budget: The budget has passed with staffing levels protected despite declining enrolment.

4. New Business

A. Grade 5 Ice Cream Social (Request)

- The Grade 5 teachers have requested PAC support for a snack-making station during their mixer on Thursday, March 26.
- They require vanilla ice cream for approximately 130 students, with a dairy-free option for three students, and 3-5 peanut-free toppings.
- PAC Decision: Approved. Kristen will purchase the supplies (ice cream, sprinkles, crushed cookies, gummy bears, chocolate syrup, maraschino cherries) and deliver them to the school. PAC will also ensure some ice cream & toppings are halal friendly.

B. April Hot Lunch

- The next hot lunch will be held on Friday, April 20.
- The menu will be hot dogs.

C. Spring Fundraiser

- Morden Nursery: Contact has been made regarding a potential gift card fundraiser, but responses are pending. If successful, forms need to be sent home soon (before spring break) to allow for processing before Mother's Day.
- Co-op Gift Cards: If the Morden Nursery fundraiser is not feasible, a Co-op gift card fundraiser was suggested as a quick and easy alternative that typically performs well.
- Fundraising Incentive: It was suggested that any spring fundraiser be tied to a specific goal, such as raising funds for a new Gaga Ball pit, as this motivates both students and parents.

D. Krispy Kreme Fundraiser Logistics (Update)

- All donuts are sorted by grade. Students with individual donut orders are highlighted on class lists.
- Kristen has provided plates for distribution to avoid mess.
- Approximately 20 extra dozen donuts will be available for purchase on a first-come, first-served basis during pickup. A volunteer will need to track these sales.
- Any donuts not picked up by 8:00 PM Thursday will be resold.

E. Other Fundraising Opportunities (Discussion)

- A request regarding a potential major fundraising event was discussed. Based on the group's previous experience (Pritchard Memorial event), it was determined that the time and organizational commitment were substantial.
- The group opted not to pursue this opportunity at this time and suggested it might be a better fit for a larger group, such as EDM's PAC.

5. General Discussion

- A potential issue with online sign-up times for student conferences was noted, possibly related to the recent time change. Parents may need to double-check their confirmation emails for the correct time.

6. Adjournment

The meeting concluded at 7:42 PM.

Next Meeting: Monday, April 20, 2024, at 7:00 PM.