

EMMS PAC Meeting Minutes
October 21, 2024

Call to order at 7:04pm - Jeri Martens

- Attendance in person and online

1. Welcome

- a. Reading of September minutes.
- b. No additions

2. Treasurers report.

Balance is \$1503.68

3. Administration Report:

- a. We are now six weeks into the school year. Term one ends November 7, 2024. Teachers may be reaching out soon regarding how kids are doing in their classes, making sure the students are doing the best they can prior to report cards. November 8, 2024, is report card writing day. The school has purchased software to email out report cards, parents/guardians can let the school know if they would prefer a print copy. November 21 will be parent conferences.
- b. October 25, 2024, is MTS PD day, province wide. Teachers will be attending development workshops in Brandon, Winnipeg or locally. Local workshop about Building Thinking Classrooms in Math being led by Gerald Wiebe. 40 staff from Western School Division will be attending with a total of approximately 80 staff from other divisions. Gerald will be out more throughout the year to help develop classrooms that facilitate kids becoming critical thinkers. Gerald is the Manitoba facilitator of Peter Liljdahl's work.
- c. Code of Conduct/Safe Schools committee meeting took place. The newly edited and updated handbook is available on the website.
- d. School plan has been submitted to the division. The draft will be reviewed with Marianne Fenn and when finalized will be posted to the website. The plan includes the goals of improving numeracy, literacy, etc. Critical thinking and problem solving are key goals, working on implementing Mamahtawisiwin, strengthening executive function. Working on parent engagement with their students – finding ways to strengthen this/motivate families to get involved in their child's education. Lola Whonnock from the Division of Indigenous Excellence will be coming out to work with the school again in January to implement more of the Mamahtawisiwin document educational initiatives.
- e. Nutrition program: the school has purchased fridges and classroom buckets with lids to help with extra food storage. A meeting with Co-op to arrange food purchases, etc. took place. There will be perishable foods (yogurts/cheese etc.) in the mornings. Grades 7/8 first, as they tend to enter the building first, starting at 8:30 (exact times may still be adjusted), and grades 5/6 will be able to get their perishable snack at first recess. Granola bars, etc., will be kept in the closed

bins in the classrooms (lockable to prevent pests). Still working out the final details of implementing the whole program.

- f. Currently dealing with very few behavioural issues. However, we are struggling with racist language and casual racism coming from students. Have discussed with guidance how to educate and develop awareness of “othering” people. Some is targeted but much seeming to be generalized racist language, possibly stemming from youth culture/gaming/social media/etc. But needs to be brought to awareness and education.
 - i. Question from chat: Will parents be notified if their children were heard using racist language? Answer: yes, the parents will be notified.
 - ii. Last year by this time there had been 17 suspensions, this year there have been zero.
- g. Extracurriculars:
 - i. Cross country meet took place mid October. Usually, EMMS organizes the meet at the golf course. This year all the elementary/middle schools planned the meet. Winkler Elementary School also attended. There were categories for grade 3/4, 5/6, 7/8. It was a nice day.
 - ii. Soccer season has wrapped up with the Grade 8 Boys making it into the semi-finals and the Grade 8 Girls bringing home a banner [congratulations girls!]
 - iii. Volleyball has begun. Two grade 8 teams, Girls & Boys, as well as Skills clubs for the 7/8's and the 5/6's.
 - iv. Tons of clubs going with new ones popping up so keep an eye on the board. Some going right now are chess, robotics, reading, magic, and esports, etc.
- h. Playground: last year we started fundraising for the new play structure as the old wooden one must be dismantled.
 - i. Raised \$66,000 last year. A recent donation of \$4000 was just received, brings the total to \$77,000.
 - ii. Two quotes for structures have come in, both closer to \$80,000 but items can be subtracted or added to change the price. Picture renderings passed around. Discussion of the two. Changes can still be made but there are time sensitive grants, so looking to order before end of 2024.
 - iii. Some more fundraising may be necessary to cover extra costs, or installation costs.

4. New business

- a. Fundraising:
 - i. Discussed different fundraising ideas pros & cons. Some ideas: Co-op gift cards, Spentz pizzas, Peak of the Market, Little Caesar's, Bothwell cheese, Sausages, calendar raffle, online auction, Clara Clark bedding, Morden Nurseries gift cards, Chase the Ace, Touch a truck. Decision to try Co-op gift cards and Peak of the Market. Kristin Klassen will contact Peak of the Market and Co-op to get information/forms.

- b. Hot Lunch: 59 meals ordered, with 18 extra hot dogs ordered! They were wrapped in the cafeteria and distribution went quickly and smoothly. The kids knew from experience at their old schools how this goes. Cafeteria said another hot lunch for the price point could work again. Some more ideas discussed for different meals. Next hot lunch date of Nov 18 chosen, with confirmation needed from the cafeteria that it will work for them. Teachers had their lists and money collection was smooth, not a lot of over/under payment happening.
 - c. Next meeting to look at data from the school Parent Survey. Shows declining scores for parental engagement in children's education. Will try to see what we can do, looking for ideas to boost parental engagement.
- 5. Next meeting November 18, 2024, 7:00 pm.
- 6. Meeting adjourned at 8:15pm.