

PARENT ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Ecole Morden Middle School

Date: January 17, 2024

Time: 7:02 PM - 7:50 PM

Location: School Library & Virtual (via Zoom)

Attendance:

In person & online

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 PM.

2. Approval of Previous Minutes

- The minutes from the November 7, 2023, meeting were reviewed.
- Motion: To approve the minutes as presented.
- Moved/Passed: Unanimously.
- No additions or corrections were noted.

3. Treasurer's Report

- Current PAC account balance: \$2,034.27.
- December Hot Lunch had a profit: \$6.00.

4. Principal's Report (Mr. Garth Shindle)

A. Post-Holiday Return & Assessments:

- The return from winter break felt unusual due to snow days disrupting end-of-term activities.
- Provincial assessments for Grades 7 (Numeracy) and 8 (Literacy) are underway. These are teacher-reported outcomes that will be included in Term 2 report cards. Data is public on a provincial dashboard (by division, not school-specific).

B. Staffing Updates:

- Catherine Martin (Resource) retired.
- Karina Peters moved into the full-time Resource position.
- Danica Blatz will split her time: 50% Resource / 50% EAL.
- The school is recruiting for 25% Resource and 50% EAL support.
- Eric Tanguay has returned, covering a Grade 7 leave for the remainder of the year, with plans to return to Grade 6 next year.

- James Elias has returned from parental leave. Teresa Hildebrand, who covered his position, did an excellent job and may be called upon for future work.

C. School Activities & Events:

- Concerts: The Grade 6 Christmas concert was a success. The spring will feature the Grade 5 musical and other arts events.
- Basketball: Season is in full swing with multiple teams and skills clubs running daily.
- Ice Fishing Grant: Chris Nicholson and Norm Davis secured a \$500 grant for outdoor education equipment. The focus is on logistics and safety for class use this winter, with potential for a club or school derby in the future.
- Grade 5 Festival du Voyageur Trip: Scheduled for February, but subject to cancellation based on extreme cold forecasts. Permission slips are out. ***Parents will need to check their emails the day prior to make sure the trip is not cancelled due to weather***
- Grade 8 Winter Activity Day: Scheduled for Friday, February 27. Options include skiing or skating, bowling, and/or free activities at the MEC soccer complex.
- Pink Shirt Day (Feb 25): Focus will be more classroom-based. A larger anti-bullying push is planned for the next Pink Shirt Day.
- I Love to Read Month & Black History Month: Will be acknowledged and celebrated in classrooms throughout February.
- School Dance: The February dance is cancelled due to the DJ's unavailability. The June dance is still scheduled. Low turnout (65/300 students) at the last dance has prompted discussion about reinventing the event format (e.g., more game-focused).
- Staff vs. Student Hockey Game: Rescheduled for the last day before spring break (ice availability and less scheduling conflict).

D. School Initiatives & Facilities:

- Blazers Brew Crew: A fantastic success run by the Resource department. Students take and deliver coffee orders, building life, communication, and math skills, while fostering new friendships.
- Roof Leak: A significant leak occurred above the server room and an adjacent classroom, causing disruption. A temporary fix is in place; a permanent solution is being sought from the division.
- Playground/Ice: Temporary fencing has been installed near portables to direct foot traffic away from dangerously icy and uneven ground created by drainage issues.

5. New Business

A. Hot Lunch Schedule:

- Next Hot Lunch: Thursday, February 1 (Chicken Fingers & Fries). Pick-up will be downstairs.
- Following Hot Lunch: Friday, February 23.
- Cookie Day will be scheduled for March or April.

B. Fundraising Plans:

- Jazz Choir Fundraiser: Planning a Krispy Kreme donut sale. Distribution is targeted for Parent-Teacher Conferences (March 19). PAC agreed to provide volunteer support (organizing forms, money handling, distribution).

- PAC will run the Morden Nursery gift card fundraiser again in April/May (timed for Mother's Day/spring gardening).
- A previous commitment of \$200 to help fund internet safety speaker Val Caldwell's presentations (May 13-14) was confirmed.

C. Gaga Ball Pit:

- The current pit remains very popular. A request for a second pit was discussed but tabled due to space considerations (potential for future portable classrooms) and cost. The current priority is funding Grade 8 year-end activities.

6. Adjournment

- The meeting concluded at 7:50 PM.
- Next Meeting: Tuesday, February 17, 2024.