

Ecole Morden Middle School (EMMS) Parent Advisory Council (PAC) Meeting Minutes

Date: Wednesday, October 25, 2023

Time: 7:01 PM - 7:56 PM

Location: School Library

Chair: Jeri Martens

Secretary: Crystal Westfall

Treasurer: Cathy Dueck

Attendees:

In person (no online link for this meeting)

1. Call to Order. Approval of Agenda & Previous Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 7:01 PM. The agenda was reviewed and accepted as presented.

- It was noted that all previous meeting minutes are posted on the EMMS website under "Parents" -> "Parent Advisory Council."
- No changes were requested. Minutes are considered accepted as posted.

2. Treasurer's Report

- Current PAC balance: \$447.77.
- A net gain of \$4 was made from the last Hot Lunch program.
- A cheque for \$1,480 is expected from the "Peak of the Market" (Farm to School) fundraiser.
- The playground structure is now fully paid for, with a final donation of \$2,500 received from the Morden Elks.

4. Principal's Report – Garth Shindle

VP's Ashley & Jordan absent due to other events.

- Terry Fox Run: Raised \$8,832.40. While slightly less than last year, it is proportional to the smaller student population and remains one of the top fundraising schools in the province.
- Central Manitoba Youth Choir: Held a successful workshop and performance for students.
- Athletics:
 - Both boys' and girls' soccer teams won their league banners.
 - Cross-country running meet at the golf course was successful.
 - Volleyball is underway for travel teams, with skills clubs for other students.
- Playground: The new structure is fully paid for and heavily used. It is inspected regularly for safety.
- Upcoming Events:
 - Spirit Week (Next Week): PJ Day, Teacher Tuesday, Western Wednesday, Sports Day, Costume Day.
 - Blazer Clothing Store: Open until Sunday; items will be distributed in 3-4 weeks.
 - Remembrance Day Ceremony: Will be held on November 7th.
 - Yearbooks are available for purchase (\$22) in the office.
- Clubs: Numerous clubs are active, including Student Council, eSports (congrats to last year's Brawlhalla banner winners), Book Club, Minecraft, MRCA, Knit/Crochet, Gardening, Rugby, Theatre, and Choirs.
- Staff Development: Staff analyzed student achievement data, identifying areas for improvement (e.g., fractions). Noted challenge due to the elimination of early dismissal days for professional development.
- Bathroom Vandalism: An email was sent to parents asking for support in discussing proper behaviour with students. The school is implementing sign-in/sign-out sheets for bathrooms to increase accountability.

5. New Business:

a. Hot Lunch Program

- November Hot Lunch: Confirmed for Monday, November 3rd. Menu: Hot Dogs.
- December Hot Lunch: Tentatively scheduled for Monday, December 15th. Menu: Pizza.

- **Action:** The Hot Lunch form will be updated to state "Exact Change Only" to simplify transactions.
- Future Consideration: Exploring when is best to have students pick up lunches from the cafeteria instead of delivering to classrooms.

b. Fundraising Update

- Farm to School ("Peak of the Market"):
- Very successful, with a profit of \$1,480.
- Orders: 75 regular bundles, 48 donation bundles (donated to "Many Hands").
- Delivery & Pickup: Scheduled for Wednesday, October 29th. Order pickup for parents is from 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM.
- **Action:** An email will be sent to all parents reminding them of the pickup time and stating that unclaimed orders will be donated.
- Grade 7 and other student volunteers will assist with unloading and sorting.
- Top Sellers (won cafeteria meal tickets):
 - Grade 5: Gemma Martens (\$400)
 - Grade 6: Finley Driedger (\$160)
 - Grade 7: Kennedy Walker (\$160)
 - Grade 8 & Top Seller: Avram Loewen (\$460)

c. Cookie Day:

- Scheduled for Friday, November 21st.
- Forms will be sent home Thursday, November 13th, and are due back Monday, November 18th.
- Cookies are \$1 each, with a maximum of two per student.

d. Staff Appreciation:

A quick gesture was made for Support Staff Appreciation Week (in September). The group will plan for Staff/Teacher Appreciation Week (date TBD, typically in late Winter/early Spring).

e. Gaga Pit Project:

- The high-school welding shop has provided quotes for metal brackets. The wood is being quoted.
- Discussion on whether to install on grass or a cement pad. Decision pending, leaning towards grass.
- Installation will likely occur in the spring.

8. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:56 PM.

Next Meeting:

Date: Friday, November 17, 2023

Location: School Library