# Parent Council Meeting

Jan. 25th, 2022 – 7:00pm (Virtual)

In Attendance: Tracy Phillips, Tracey Kuchma, Lynn Phillip, Mary Ann Bowman, Katie Weed, Crystal MacDonald, Candace Hutchinson, Lynn Philp, Lisa Booth, Jenna Squires, Naomi McCulloch, Jennifer Hall, Belinda Wick-Graham, Alexis Rock, Courtney Dowling, Katy Groshaw, Nick Droog, Trevor Smith, Jessilyn Uhrig, Karly Therrien, Krista Rogers, Todd Rogers, Holly Armstrong, Kirsten Andrews, Rebecca Klumpenhouwer

*Meeting called to order by Tracey Kuchma @ 7:02pm*

*Minutes recorded by Rebecca Klumpenhouwer.*

## Welcome (T. Kuchma)

* review meeting etiquette for Parent Council meetings
* Great to see many newcomers here who will experience the flavour of PC meetings

## Land Acknowledgement (T. Kuchma)

*We take a moment to acknowledge the land we sit on today. This land was taken care of by people well before our time. We appreciate the land, especially at this time of year; it is cold this time of year, but beautiful. We have a land that is full of space as we have seen students spread out and play on it. (Paraphrased)*

## Review of Last Meeting’s Minutes

Reminder: These are always shared and posted on our school website.

*Motioned to accept by Rebecca Klumpenhouwer, seconded by Mary Ann Bowman & Lynn Philip.*

## Reviewing Parent Council Norms (T. Kuchma)

* Board website has procedures for Parent Council
* View the School Council Procedures Manual 201A at: <https://www.ugdsb.ca/wp-content/uploads/2017/07/201-A-School-Councils-and-the-Parent-Involvement-Committee-Procedures-Manual.pdf>
* 2 important points we remember about Parent Council - Section 3.24.7:
  + promote the best interest of the school community
  + seek to reach consensus in the decision-making processes of the council
* We come here to represent our school & students above everything else. We want parent voices to be heard as well as others in the community.

## Financial Report

The account balance is currently sitting at $20,235.08

Our balance has increased since the beginning of the year because of the meat fundraiser. There has not been much flux in and out of the account.

## Fundraising

During the last meeting, we voted to do one more meat fundraiser in May. At this time, we do not need to initiate anything for this. We also discussed bringing new ideas for fundraisers to this meeting in an effort to be more inclusive, offering things that are affordable and of interest to our community. We have traditionally gone with Harriston Meat Packers & Elmira Poultry. If a new option is introduced, time will be needed to enter the information into School Cash Online for managing payments.

### New Ideas:

A few new ideas were shared, and more options were suggested for further research. Seeking economically priced items is a high priority in this time of added financial burden that may be present during the pandemic. Things that do not require refrigeration will allow for greater flexibility in distribution to parents. These new options cannot be compared to the meat fundraiser profit-wise; margins vary widely across products. There was consensus that pursuing local products, when feasible, is a good idea as well as products that people use commonly. Adding a second option to our Spring meat fundraiser is a good way to test the desirability and feasibility of a new product. A number of parents were eager to see a new option made available. Tracey K reminded us that our fundraising needs to have a goal and that it can’t be done for the sake of increasing the school account. We are currently fundraising for the track repairs.

* Lynn P suggested:
  + Cinnabon – outlet in Waterloo for pick up, 3 easy steps, minimum order 50 units, orders submitted 10 days before desired pick-up date, full payment required 48 hours before pick-up, each fundraising pack can be sold $13 with $3 profit
  + Kernels Popcorn – has variety of flavours, not much info on website, need to find out more
  + Macmillans – meat as well as baked goods, cookie dough etc. though may require refridgeration
  + Costal Coffee Company from Goderich – email rec’d, profit about $5 per bag of coffee that you sell, 12oz. bags sell for $18, Example: 30 participants and 10 units per participants - profit is %5 per unit, Flavours: house blend, coastal dark, decaf, & single serve box (single filter for 1 cup)
* Jennifer H suggested:
  + healthy food options through Community Sponsored Agriculture (CSA) programs such as a weekly subscription box, has some contacts to explore
* Crystal M suggested:
  + Paper card options, FlipGive payout cards - can be done year-round, may have privacy concerns
* Lisa G & Jennifer H have experience with FlipGive, there may be better options for our community

### Subcommittee for Research:

Lynn P, Lisa B, Jennifer H, & Karly T agreed to form a subcommittee to research the current ideas as well as others that may be options for the Spring fundraiser. They will confer together to research and compile a list to be presented at the next PC meeting including their top 3 recommendations. They will consider profitability, variety, affordability, ease, timeline, distribution methods. If anyone has more ideas, please wait until the subcommittee has had a chance to confer before submitting further ideas to them.

## Track Repairs

No developments to discuss a third quote is needed to move this forward.

*Rebecca K will look at securing a 3rd quote.*

## North Wellington Parent Involvement (T. Kuchma)

Tracey shared a new initiative by our Superintendent Matt McCutcheon and Trustee Robin Ross to increase parent presence from our community at the UGDSB Parent Involvement Committee (PIC) meetings. North Wellington has not had good representation at the quarterly meetings held in Guelph, Ont. This newly formed ‘North Wellington Hub’ will open up opportunities for MCPS, along with other schools, to have better representation. Parents would meet alongside Trustee Ross to develop vision and help schools expand & grow. Names for this North Wellington Hub are requested from the MCPS community for a meeting being planned at the end of March.

Mary Ann B nominated Trevor S. and Lisa G is also interested. Trevor requested more information and time to consider. Tracey K will follow up with further information.

## Teacher Update (Naomi McCulloch)

Naomi began with a brief introduction for our newcomers. She shared her heartfelt thanks to all families for their participation in food and toy drive. We jumped thru hoops to run this program and it was a big success. After a short lesson, Mrs. McLaughlin’s class took off with this, made announcements, posters, and communications that went home with students. They even remembered to include donations for less common—but needed items—like can openers and powdered milk. The level of participation is appreciated; so many items were donated. When the trucks were being packed, volunteers were amazed. The whole front foyer of the school was filled. Photos were shared on announcements, the school Twitter account, and will be posted to the website. Students send their thanks to parents; the Clifford and Harriston Food Banks thank you.

Mittens were well received by the staff. Their survey was completed in record time, and these items have come in handy with the cold temps this week.

Hockey tables have been purchased and received at the school. This may still be coming out of the budget. We are waiting to use them for when cohorts can mix again.

It’s good to be back to in-person learning. Thank you, parents, for returning Chromebooks so quickly and caring for the equipment well. There was only one repair from 200 devices handed out. We’re hoping to not send them home again!

For Serve Day, we will be celebrating family literacy and focusing on reading. There are different ways to read: board games, conversations, drama activities, etc. Usually, we would invite families in but are working on classroom bonding through Google Meets. Students are encouraged to wear comfy clothes. The whole purpose is to snuggle up and read. This falls on Thurs. Jan. 27th, 2022

Teachers are working on wrapping up last minute assessments and documentation for report cards being written on Friday Jan. 28th, the PA Day. Electronic Term 1 report cards will come out Feb. 16th. Parents having troubling logging into their account may contact Naomi for technical support.

## VP Update (Tracey Phillips)

* Thursday is comfy clothes day, students excited in this frigid week to have literacy day in comfy clothes, good to see excited faces.
* breakfast program is back and running, tomorrow is bananas!
* Reminder every morning to do child Covid screening, parents please inform school if your child will be absent, rapid test kits should be used, more went home last week, More testing kits are not available from the school if all the testing kits have been used.
* Students: please bring their own water bottle, cups are available at school if needed
* Online learning was a success, thank you parents. Getting kids online, ensuring kids were learning, it was incredibly appreciated.
* Reminder from office, make sure kids are dressed for outside, Covid during winter - kids are encouraged to go outside when weather permits for extra learning time
* Lost & Found items are posted on school website and Twitter every Friday.
* Still looking to see if the program used to send emails to all parents can support pictures.

## Round Table

### Discussion Surrounding Recent Posts to Email & Facebook

In light of the recent resignations of Parent Council members from the council, a question was raised as to whether new PC members needed to be re-elected at this time. Tracey K has been in communication with our Superintendent; no elections need to happen until September. She will continue to mediate these meetings for the remainder of the 2021-2022 school year. There is benefit to having new parents present at these meetings to get experience as to how PC runs. There will be opportunity to volunteer for positions in September.

Focusing on events that have happened over email and Facebook is not the focus of this meeting. If parents have questions, they are encouraged to reach out to Tracey K directly. The Facebook group in question may undergo a name change to reflect it’s unofficial connection to the school. Reminder: MCPS does not have an official Facebook page for school communications. Please see the Board website, Twitter, or the weekly emails from the principal’s desk.

It’s good to think about how we function as PC as we move forward, making sure a new committee in the new school year goes through protocol and the PC manual. Having a separate meeting with the exec. council to go through the policy documents in the new year may be worth pursuing.

### Where Does Parent Council Meet?

Prior to Covid, meetings were at the school and always advertised and open to all parents. There are pros and cons to meeting in person and moving forward there may be a blended option for parents. Virtual meetings open up opportunities for more parents to join.

### Should there be a policy created to govern how Parent Council communicates with parents & students?

Moving forward, a Communication Liaison may be introduced. The lack of communication has been recognized and solutions to bridge this are being explored.

### Should the school pursue having an official Facebook page?

There are school media guidelines to follow. All posts would need to be moderated by Tracey K and she needs to be mindful of her workload. Looking at how other schools do it would be helpful, more research would be needed, and clear expectations for it’s use communicated. Tracey K will reach out to the Board for further information.

Lisa G has a lot of experience managing Facebook with her position moderating the Minto Dance Academy’s page. She is willing to meet with Tracey K at a future time to help explain how administration works.

### What would it take for a classroom or the school to be shut down because of Covid?

Attendance is listed daily on the Board website. If a school has 30% or more away, it is highlighted, Public Health is notified, and they will continue to watch the school. If Public Health sees a pattern or decline, they decide to close the school or not. Class closures would only happen if not enough staff were available to teach the students present. Teacher availability is checked daily. The Board reaches out if there are Staff absences and asks if they are covered. If too many teacher positions are vacant without coverage, the school may be shut down.

## Action Points

1. Fundraising subcommittee will convene to discuss & compile new ideas, present at next PC meeting
2. Rebecca K to research a 3rd quote for Track Repairs
3. Tracey K to email Trevor S & Lisa G re: PIC North Wellington Hub
4. Tracey K will discuss with Board re: Facebook page for school, Lisa G available for consult

## Date for Next Meeting:

March 22nd, 2022 at 7:00pm Virtual