**Parent Council Meeting**

Nov. 30th, 2021 – 7:00pm (Virtual)

In Attendance: Tracy Phillips, Tracey Kuchma, Stacey Jennings, Trevor Smith, Crystal MacDonald, Lindsay Cowan, Jenna Squires, Naomi McCulloch, Lynn Philips, Courtney Dowling, Devar Drummond, Hollie Armstrong, Mary Ann Bowman, Lisa Booth, Katie Weed, Rebecca Klumpenhouwer

*Meeting called to order by Stacey Jennings at 7:04pm*

**Review of Last Meeting’s Minutes**

*Motioned to accept by Lindsay Cowan, seconded by Mary Ann Bowman*

**Financial Report**

Prior to the Meat Fundraiser, the account balance was at $14,957.08.

Profits from Meat Fundraiser, $5159.00.

Closing Balance as of November 30th $20,116.08.

**Review of Events**

**Meat Orders**

The Meat Fundraiser was very successful. A big thank you to Crystal MacDonald who arranged the volunteers. It was an overall success. Highlights included:

* The use of School Cash Online made for a seamless process matching amounts and printing orders, there was no discrepancies between amounts collected and amounts ordered
* Michelle, our Office Coordinator, was saved a lot of time not needing to count monies
* Parents needing help with payment received assistance from Tracey & Stacey
* Payments were able to be made from Chequing Accounts & Credit Cards – good for families who don’t use credit
* The existing template now in School Cash Online will make future Meat Orders from these companies easier
* Pick-Up at the arena was smooth and efficient with many volunteers

Considerations for the future:

* This method of pick-up requires a good number of volunteers
* Some parents may have declined ordering due to the pick-up time being limited to before 5pm
* Sending a survey to parents to determine pick-up time preference would be good for future planning
* Tracey K suggested Parent Council submit questions for the survey to see what pick-up times would be ideal for parents

**Hot Lunches**

The Board has approved the return of hot and prepared lunches from Board-approved vendors. COVID protocols would need to be followed including distribution from a central location directly to the student. Parents on the Council were very eager to restart this and discuss all possible options. Staff discussed this at the Staff Meeting and were hesitant to “return to normal” as their plates are full. It was suggested that this take on a “special event” status with hot lunches being provided once a month. This would ease the teachers and students back in with minimal stress.

Pizza was more popular than pitas with an estimated 75% of students ordering pizza vs. 25% ordering pitas. Considerations include waste creation and cost as food items need to be individually packaged. Keeping cost close to, or under $5 is encouraged. PitaPit already meets these criteria, pizza is more difficult to package & distribute. A realistic start time would be in January/February with orders being made the previous month.

Approved vendor possibilities include:

* PitaPit – 2019 cost was $5.50 per pita, still an open spot for MCPS to sign up
* Dominos – $4 for 2 slices in a box, slice size to be determined
* New Orleans – still waiting for more info on price/slice size
* Subway – parents & staff not keen as there were many problems in the past
* Small Town Pizza in Palmerston - $2 per slice, Palmerston Public doing this

Other vendors in the area could be explored but would need to meet the guidelines set by the Board and go through their approval process. Parents may research new vendors keeping in mind the Board guidelines. Parents may submit research & findings. Suggested vendors include:

* The Raw Carrot
* Harry Stones
* Local Catering Companies
* Wrap Stars in Mt. Forest

**Spring Meat Order**

There was consensus that a Spring Meat order is a good idea and can be advertised well as a way to stock up for summer BBQs. Previous orders have been delivered just before the May long weekend.

*Motion to proceed with a Spring Meat Order by Lisa Booth, seconded by Mary Ann Bowman*

**Discuss Mitts & Meat**

**Meat Alternatives for the Meat Order**

Looking at alternate suppliers that would be more inclusive during our meat orders, such as a meat-alternative or Halal option, would be ideal. Parent Council is encouraged to research and supply options by the next Parent Council meeting. All relevant information including kick-back, and delivery guarantee should be provided.

Possible options:

* Halal Hot Dogs
* MacMillans
* Terra Cotta Cookie Company

**Mitts**

There is a growing need for mitts and hats for the students at MCPS. Mention was made on a parent Facebook page that these items should be supplied by Parent Council. Tracey acknowledged tis concern as coming from a good place and noted that initially schools were not permitted to accept donation of clothing items due to Covid protocols. As things are easing up, the school can accept new items only.

In the past, donated items in a clothing drive were not readily availed by parents. Some families may be uncomfortable seeking assistance through community programs.

A proposal from parent Council has been made to place an emergency supply of hats & mitts in each classroom with hand-out at the teacher’s discretion. – Naomi McCulloch will poll the Staff and find out by Wed. Dec. 1st if this would answer a felt need, and how many students would use it.

* Parent Council would motion to proceed with purchasing items by email-voting on this proposal.
* Lindsay Cowan mentioned the Child & Resource Centre’s program to provide winter clothing for area-families in need within a few days of request. This program will be announced in the next Principal’s update. Details of the program can be found at: http://www.communityresourcecentre.org for details.
* Tracey K mentioned that equity funding could be made available to meet this need; the responsibility does not and will not fall solely on Parent Council.

*Motion to make a final decision on this was tabled due to needing more information.*

**Hockey Tables Request (Josh Ellis)**

Mr. Ellis approached Parent Council for funds to purchase 5 tables that support tabletop hockey. He has run tabletop hockey tournaments in the past for students in grades 4–8 and as things open up, he is looking to do so again. The tables offer better support for the table-top hockey games and will be used for years to come by many grades within MCPS. Each table is currently $59.99 at Mastermind Toys and ships for free. Parent Council initially purchased 3 tabletop hockey games for Mr. Ellis, Tracey K also provided 1 and Mr. Ellis provided 1.

*Trevor Smith motioned to purchase the 5 tables for $338.94, seconded by Mary Ann Bowman.*

**School Report (Naomi McCullouch)**

December is here. It has been a fast-paced start to the year and all the Staff & Students are enjoying being back. Parent teacher interviews have come and gone. Students are signing out books like crazy. Having a sense of normalcy come back to school-life has been good.

Quite a bit is happening, including an after-school program on Tuesdays run by the intermediate teachers. This has been a big hit and has been easier to manage after classes are finished for the day rather than during nutrition breaks. Primary intramurals are going on and Covid precautions are being followed; attendance is taken any time mixed groups come together.

Naomi was able to partner with Josie McLaughlin on the Food & Toy Drive. Students have been creating announcements and have been excited to get involved in creative ways. It has been empowering to see how excited the kids are. Bins for the drive are in a central location. Staff drop off items or they are put directly into the collection bins. There has been lots of pride & enthusiasm. Naomi is available anytime to accept donations as well as children’s homeroom teachers.

**Track Repairs**

Stacey is still awaiting a third quote for repairs to the track before this can be submitted to the Board for consideration and approval. There has been difficulty getting companies to return calls for a quote. The two existing quotes range from $5000.00 to $15,000.00 dollars with Dennison Group being the lower. This is a local company, family-owned, whose children attended MCPS. Any knowledge or leads on another company willing to provide a quote would be appreciated. Please reach out to Stacey with details. Repairs include, but are not limited to, grading, levelling, resurfacing, and packing

**Playground Repairs**

Required playground rehave been completed. A yearly inspection is performed by the installation company prior to the start of school in September. Tracey Phillips does a walk around the playground equipment weekly to ensure there are no obvious items needing repair. As playground equipment is now closed for the winter, repairs are not anticipated until Spring. UGDSB Policy 307 states that Parent Council must keep 10% of the purchase price in their account for repairs. Tracy Kuchma will investigate the original purchase price for each of the structures. The Gaga Ball pit will also need to be factored into the repair budget, but repairs may be minimal as there are less parts.

**Principal’s Report**

Tracey highlighted that Staff are focusing on equity this year. It was overwhelming looking at all the events that could be celebrated, and so the Principal’s Friday Email last week had a poll to ask what celebrations are common for each family. This will hopefully result in a good snapshot of what’s being celebrated in our community. If those celebrations don’t have variety, then we will look at what else to add. The Grade 2 class intend to create daily messages with information about each celebration while learning about the celebrations around the world.

Report cards & interviews are completed. Tracey K & Tracey P are excited about how things went with parents & teachers with the electronic reporting and virtual meetings. Tech help was available and interviews were fairly well attended. Parents and Guardians are encouraged to reach out to their child’s teacher if they did not have a meeting as everyone has the right to meet.

The former Grade 7 & 8 vaccinations (HPV, Hep B, Meningococcal) are back in the school. This is managed by Public Health, and they are aware of which students need it.

The Remembrance Day assembly happened online. As each class contributed content, some classes watched it in segments. It was over an hour long. Kids were able to participate in the Remembrance Day poems and art submissions at the Legion.

Our snack program is going well and ordering online is easy. Cucumbers were a big hit along with Rice Krispies™ squares were enjoyed. Bananas went better than they thought, while apple sauce not as big of a hit.

**Reminders:**

* Parents still need to be doing daily Covid screening.
* Water bottles need to be sent with every child. The drinking fountains are still not in use for drinking, only filling of water bottles.
* Parking – The “Kiss & Drop” area needs to be for drop-off only. If parents are parking, please use the parking area. There have been too many vehicles parking at the drop-off area.

**Roundtable**

Michelle is away. If anyone needs to get in touch with her, contact Tracey K. Parent Council meetings will continue to be virtual until further notice.

**Remebrance Day Assembly**

Trevor Smith asked if there was a way parents could view the Remembrance Day Assembly as this was done virtually and parents were unable to attend. Tracey K will look into posting the assembly on the Google classroom for a preset amount of time so that those who want to watch can. It will not be possible to leave on Google classroom indefinitely due to privacy concerns.

**Lost & Found**

 Tracey P has been taking pictures of found items and they are posted on the daily live morning message. She will look into posting the pictures to the school website and have details by Friday, Dec. 3. Lost & Found items are donated if left unclaimed for 30 days. Parents will be notified once pictures are uploaded to the website.

**Pathway/Hardtop**

The snow plow driver has dug up a portion of the grass near the path from the church to the school yard. Tracy K will inspect to ensure it is not causing a trip hazard. The path is cleaned by the school custodian and salt/sand take time to melt the ice. Students are encouraged to walk safely in the mornings and play in the yard after a snowfall. The church parking lot is only plowed when snowfall exceeds 2”.

Next Meeting: Tuesday January 25, 2022 @7:00pm via Zoom

Meeting Adjorned at 9:15pm