# MCPS Parent Council Meeting

March 22, 2022 – 7:00pm, Virtual

In Attendance: Tracey Kuchma, Tracy Phillips, Jennifer Hall, Lynn Phillip, Lisa Booth, Crystal McDonald, Jessilyn Uhrig, Holly Armstrong, Alexis Rock, Jenna Squires, Naomi McCullough, Rebecca Klumpenhouwer, Trevor Smith

*Meeting called to order by Tracey Kuchma.*

*Minutes recorded by Rebecca Klumpenhouwer.*

## Welcome (TKuchma)

* Review virtual meeting & Parent Council etiquette
* Remote meeting again today, this may be the last fully remote one, but desire is to make these meetings accessible to as many as possible, so virtual option may continue

## Land Acknowledgement (TPhillips)

*Tracy shared the statement from the picture that hangs on the wall at the school.*

## Review of Last Meeting’s Minutes (TKuchma)

*Motion to accept by Lisa Booth, Seconded by Rebecca Klumpenhouwer*

## Review Parent Council Norms (TKuchma)

As a Parent Council we are here to promote the best interest of the school community and to do our best to reach consensus.

## Fundraising Updates and Ideas (JHall)

*Jennifer Hall was presenting on behalf of the Fundraising committee formed after the January 25th meeting. Jennifer Hall, Lynn Phillip, Lisa Booth, & Karly Therrien were members.*

### New Idea:

Eat & Grow Local. The committee wanted to find something different and unique, and to avoid copying all that’s happening with other clubs & groups in other parts of the community. The three options explored & being presented are Steckles, Hawthorn, & Fresh Start Bakery. The idea is to run all 3 simultaneously as they offer different items at different costs. This gives our school community an inclusive solution to fundraising as families may have a greater ability to participate as they are able.

### Option 1: Steckles Produce & Flowers – Salad Bag

* Local Farm located at 5857 Hwy 89, Harriston, ON
* Salad Bag – would include 4-5 items each week and be enough to make one family salad or 2 side salads.
* Sold in blocks of 4 weeks in June, July, and August, with pick up on Friday or Saturday.
* $80 total per “Unit” ($20/week for 4 weeks). Approx. 40 units available each block.
* School gets $5 profit from each one. If all sell, our profit would be $3000.
* Seasonal Items – depends on what is fresh each week.
  + Some kind of lettuce
  + 2-3 common veggies – carrot, celery, cucumber etc.
  + One less common veggie – radish, greens, etc.
* New program – Joanna (owner) has never done anything like this before. It will depend on what’s available and what will be cost effective for her. Not a concern that it will be disappointing, confident that Joanna will provide quality.
* Manpower/volunteers – setting up with Joanna required to get purchase prices to be entered in Cash online system. Pick up for parents is outside of school hours.

### Option 2: Hawthorn Farm Organic Seeds

* Local farm located at 5961 5th Line, Palmerston, ON
* Online sales with a coupon code entered at purchase to be shared with families
* MCPS gets cheque for 40% of all sales
* pick up at school, or sent out with youngest/oldest child (need to decide)
* seeds are about $4 package
* flowers, grains, veggies, pumpkins, etc.
* Orders would need to be sorted

### Option 3: Fresh Start Bakery – Items OR Coupons

* Local Bakery located at 6012 Perth Line 88, Listowel, ON and 107 William St Unit C, Palmerston, ON
* Sell either actual items with physical product pick up or coupon items, (families purchase coupon and then purchase items from a location in the future)
* Not a big profit for school, but it is a food option which sells well
* Gluten free options available, flexible products, we can choose what we want but suggestions have been made as to what would sell best,
* need to load info into cash online,
* if we do coupons, not a volunteer intensive option

### Spring Meat Fundraiser

* This could be added back on as an option if we’re just looking for cash
* Fundraising Committee prefers saving meat for fall only because it would be too much to run 4 fundraisers simultaneously (Eat Local & Meat Orders)

### Fundraisers Discussion

Lynn P – Minto Dance is also doing Harriston Packers, concerned about duplicate fundraisers in the community for same thing, many community programs/clubs do meat orders with Harriston Packers

Holly A – Pick up is today for figure skating meat orders

Alexis R – Clifford Skating Club also just did a Harriston Packers order, pick up last Saturday. Those two clubs did meat orders at same time as MCPS in the fall as well. The meat sales might be saturated.

Trevor – Fresh Start Bakery: retail price is same as in the store, likes the coupon book, easier to hand out and handle, parents could spread out their purchases, salad bag is great idea, 3 good options that hit different points

Crystal M – meat order for Spring is usually a big hit because people want meat for summer,

Jenna S – when will seeds come? Will this be in time for planting? What is typical for our timing for the spring fundraiser?

Jennifer - It is tight, doable, but will be later, not good for some things like tomatoes

TKuchma –re: timing for Spring fundraisers: meat order forms usually go home over Easter so kids can get family orders over weekend, delivery happens just before May 2-4 weekend,

Would Harriston Packers do a coupon packet for more convenient pick-up? Need to research this as many parents in this meeting expressed interest in this idea.

Trevor S – we’re not hurting for $$, committee recommends doing produce, seeds, bakery so support their research and decision, a good year to try something new

***Lisa B made a motion to proceed with the Eat & Grow Local - All 3 Options.***

***Lynn P motioned to accept. Seconded by Trevor S & Alexis R.***

## Review Budget (TKuchma)

We were previously sitting at $20,235.08. 2 things came out – mittens and hockey tables.

New balance $19680.19.

### Account Review

* Main account and one called Miscellaneous
* Misc. sitting at -433.79 for playground repairs, (TPhillips – playground was fixed in November – swing repair – Stacey J approved) cheque came out in Dec. 2021, no funds in account which put it in the negative
* Current Office Coord explained that School Council has an account that all fundraising goes into and secondary accounts for focus projects.
* Misc. account is our “Playground account” and houses funds to keep the equipment maintained, need to reconcile this negative balance with funds from main account
* Do we want to open up another account for track repairs?

### Accounts Discussion

Trevor S – makes sense to always have money in the playground account if we do always need a balance in there, recommends keeping $5K in the playground account so we always have enough for repairs/maintenance

Lynn P – re; Misc. Account as Playground Account - makes sense to have playground account since that’s an annual expense we always need. If we pull out what we know annually needs to be saved for playground, we have a clearer picture of what we actually need for other things,

Holly A - What balance would need to be kept for playground repairs? What is our average annual cost?

TKuchma – it was a playground percentage, but so old now that there’s no data from company on what it is, but we do have a number

Naomi M – doesn’t remember how much, thinking a couple thousand. We have 3-4 structures,

***Trevor S made a motion to pay off the negative balance in the Misc. account and transfer $5000 from the main fundraising account into the Misc. account for future repairs & maintenance on playground structures & gaga ball pits.***

***Seconded by Crystal M, Jenna S, and Alexis R.***

### $500 Annual Funding from Board

UGDSB provides $500 annually for parent council to use. This is to encourage parent involvement in our school. It has traditionally been used for photocopying for all the paper for events like spring fling, fundraisers, etc.

What will we use this funding for this year? The Board has provided ideas:

* Info session for new parents at end of year
* Community social – celebrate multicultural communities, sports, international dinner
* Buying books for parents to sign out
* Meet & greet social at school for parent council
* Advertise in newspaper or radio for promotions
* Informal breakfast & coffee for parent council to meet
* Teenage year specific booklets for transitions to high school
* Fridge magnets with important dates
* Create welcome package for parents with meeting dates and events at the school
* have to spend the money by end of June otherwise it is used by board as per ministry direction

Trevor S – people often look for schedule of what is coming, we could print a MCPS calendar populated with different events, spirit days, holidays, PA days, fundraising, printed copy that gets handed out at beginning of the year

Crystal M – it paid one year for council appreciation, and we went out for breakfast. Everyone that was on council attended

\*\*(Spring Fling Discussion happened here, but has been moved to the Round Table Section below for flow & clarity of these minutes)

## Track Repairs (RKlumpenhouwer)

3 quotes have been secured for track repairs from local companies. However, they are vastly different in their material requirements, so it’s hard to make an informed comparison. Quote totals are as follows:

1. Esche Compact Equipment Services Inc. - $14218.23
2. E. Dennison Contracting Ltd. - $7294.15
3. Great Canadian Landscaping - $10630.00

E. Dennison & Great Canadian have been out in-person to look at the track and assess needs for repair/refurbishment. E. Dennison has done work with the school previously, though not with the track (to our knowledge). Great Canadian Landscaping does track maintenance for all of the Avon-Maitland District School Board tracks and has done work on the North Perth Westfield Elementary School track in Listowel. There’s a lot of experience present with Great Canadian Landscaping and they would like to address the drainage issues in the track area as well as refurbishing the track surface. To the knowledge of School Council, the track has had no maintenance since it was installed. Nothing has been done to it in the last 7 years, and possibly longer. It is not known in which year the track was created at the school.

### Track Repair Discussion

Lynn P – likes the idea of someone that has done schools before & has experience, it is well worth it to have it done well as it costs a lot to repair, if track gets fixed and we have drainage issues, it would be unfortunate if it washed out

Crystal M – would like to support E. Dennison, but not sure how voting will happen with different quotes

Lisa B – if it’s been 10 years since the track has been repaired, maybe $10,000 isn’t unrealistic

TKuchma – we cannot address drainage issues without going to the Board for further approval, MCPS is on a flood plain,

Rebecca K – Great Canadian did see existing tile on the school property we may be able to tie into, also tile in the farmers field next door that he wondered if we could use, seems like there’s a municipal drain as well that could be accessed, lots of questions to answer

Trevor S – recommended putting a pin here until we see what Tracey K finds out from the Board on fixing the drainage issues,

Alexis R, Lynn P, Lisa B & Rebecca K all in agreement with Trevor’s suggestion.

***TKuchma will bring these questions to the Board regarding whether drainage issues can be addressed or not. TPhillips will follow up with TKuchma.***

***A 5th School Council meeting will be held at a later date—if needed—with the members present at this meeting to make a final decision on how to proceed with track repairs and whether we focus on refurbishing & pot-hole repairs, or also address drainage issues.***

## North Wellington Parent Involvement (TPhillips)

The next North Wellington PIC is happening Tuesday, March 29th, 7pm at Wellington Heights Secondary School in Mt. Forest. Watch for reminders on the MCPS Twitter feed and by email.

This is not just about education, but also a community-based hub to learn about the initiatives in the area. Lisa B attended the last one with Tracy P and both were impressed & excited. Our trustee Robin Ross is eager, excited, and motivated to see improvements and change for the better in our communities. Come if you are able.

## Teacher Update (NMcCulloch)

Feb. 18th was the 100th day of school—celebrated on the 22nd.  Staff dressed up, fun counting events were happening, and the kid’s enjoyed celebrating the milestone. There has been a shift in how classrooms look; we’re seeing more pairs of students working together, groups forming, desks shifting, and a return to pre-pandemic structure. Staff are taking a slower approach so our kids can get used to these changes. Regarding clubs & extra-curricular activities, Staff are still feeling way their way through how these will look. The main focus right now, especially after the March Break, is in reinforcing routines with students. Reading buddies are starting up again.

## VP Update (TPhillips)

We have accomplished day 2 of the new guidelines. Students are transitioning smoothly. There’s an emphasis on being kind and giving the choice to still wear a mask if desired. Everyone is excited to be back.

Grade 8 photos happened in February, but due to scheduling restraints with the company, there will not be retakes.

Report cards went home in February as well. Thank you for sending back the slips on the 3rd page—teachers are still expecting those. Please contact the office if you have trouble downloading your child’s report card.

It’s exciting to see the school twitter feed getting posts and comments. Mrs. Aitken’s retirement generated lots of comments. She was paraded around the school and every classroom gave a card and a rose; we will greatly miss her as she moves on and has new adventures with her family. We welcomed Mrs. Noble, now our full-time Office Coordinator. There have been lots of changes in Staff.

EQAO will be happening this year for Grades 3 & 6 students at the end of May or beginning of June. More information will be coming. Our Help Kids Live Free from Hunger Day was successful. Our kids were encouraged to make a pledge regarding something they could live free from for the day. The school raised over $700 during this event which goes straight to our breakfast program.

## Round Table

\*\*(transferred from above discussion on Review Budget) Is Spring fling happening?

There is much excitement about the potential of holding a “Spring Fling” event again now that pandemic restrictions have eased. Previous Spring Flings have included many events & activities which were discussed at length; a lot of teacher & parent involvement is required to pull off this kind of event. It’s all hands on deck. The main focus is to celebrate the school and have an opportunity for kids to show off their classrooms, teachers, and share their school world.

Positive elements include:

* Kids have an opportunity to showcase their work
* New parents & caregivers to the school can see inside for the first time
* New parents & caregivers can meet teachers face-to-face for the first time
* Parents & caregivers have an opportunity to meet one another & socialize
* Information relevant to parents & caregivers can be made easily accessible (e.g., mental health booth with information)
* Fun & welcoming way to connect as a school community

Challenges & questions:

* A traditional Spring Fling is too much to take on at this time
* Serving & monitoring food is a huge task requiring many volunteers and is a big time commitment
* Some may be uncomfortable with a busy, congested environment with lots of people
* What kind of food should be served and how?
* Can there be a book fair?
* Can community volunteers be approached to help? (with food/events/donations)

It was proposed that a sub-committee be formed to discuss and plan a scaled-down version of previous Spring Flings. Perhaps an open-house, or simpler event. Parent Council needs to be involved if we are to access the Board $500 funding provided to School Council.

***Lisa B motioned that a sub-committee be formed to plan a pared-down Spring event. The $500 funding from the Board would go toward this.***

***Seconded by Lynn P.***

***Sub-Committee formed and members will put together ideas for a Spring school event. Members include Naomi M (Teacher), Alexis R, Jessilyn U***

### Maker Space in the Library (NMcCulloch)

Now that regulations are opening up, Maker Space in the library is up & running. Some of the items are missing pieces, or in need of refreshment. Naomi is looking for add-ons/additions to the items. One student offered their tinker toys to top up the current dwindling supply.

Are there other toy rooms being cleaned out with items that could be donated?

(e.g., Lincoln Logs, LEGO, tinker toys, puzzles, games, etc.)

Lynn P may have some Duplo to donate.

### Books for Birthdays (NMcCulloch)

About 7 years ago, school council supported the birthday book program. Every student received a new book for their birthday which they chose from an age-appropriate selection. It would be great to start this up again. The cost would be about $2-$3 for books (all ages), so a $1500 School Council commitment. Is council interested in this? Is it something we want to support again? If so, knowing now would allow it to start up right away in September. They would pick from a collection/basket of age-appropriate books. The school may still have the stamp that was used previously which said, “Happy Birthday [student name] from your Parent Council”. Naomi will search for it.

***Jenna S motioned for School Council to support the Birthday Books Program with a cap of $1500 for September start up.***

***Crystal M & Alexis R seconded the motion.***

### Scooter Boards in the Gym (RKlumpenhouwer)

Scooter Boards are not working the best according to my 3 boys. Is there a plan to upgrade these? Does funding for this come from Parent Council?

TKuchma - Gym Equipment budget is set by Board/PE teacher. There are inklings that there might be some new ones coming next year.

### Breakfast Menu (CMcDonald)

Previously, it was discussed that there may be different options available once restrictions lift. Where is this at?

TKuchma – This was discussed today at the Principal Meeting. There will be some different options available, as we don’t have to stick with “grab and go”, but we will continue with the current program.

### Hot/Ordered Lunches (LPhillip)

Did we get more feedback on whether in school lunches could come back?

TKuchma – Yes, they are allowed to come back. This will be a teacher conversation that needs to happen as they need to be willing to manage it. There is a Staff meeting next week on Tues. and this is on the agenda.

### Official Facebook Group for the School (LBooth)

Was there feedback from the Board on a Facebook group?

TKuchma – We are looking at it for next year, talked with the Board and they gave similar feedback as was received in our last meeting. Tracey K will contact Lisa B in the future if things proceed.

### School Emails (JSquires)

Thank you for the weekly emails from the school, they are helpful. There was some confusion over Live Free Day – the more info that can be sent, the better.

TKuchma - Please connect with your children’s teacher or call the school if you ever have questions.

## Summary & Action Points

* Motions passed in this meeting:

1. *Proceed with the Eat & Grow Local - All 3 Options - for the Spring Fundraiser*
2. *Pay off the negative balance in the Misc. account and transfer $5000 from the main fundraising account into the Misc. account for future repairs & maintenance on playground structures & gaga ball pits*
3. *A sub-committee will explore holding a pared-down Spring event, the $500 funding from the Board will go toward this*
4. *School Council will support the Birthday Book program with a cap of $1500 for September 2022 start up.*

* This is our 4th and final official meeting for the year, subcommittee meetings will continue (i.e., track quote/repair updates & Spring event committee)
* A meeting *may* be set in the future to discuss and decide on track repairs once further information has been collected (TKuchma to contact Board).