## SMPS School Council Meeting Minutes

October 25th, 2023

## 6:30-8:30 pm

Steve MacLean Public School Library

| Present | Name | Position |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $\checkmark$ | James Shouldice | Chair |
| $\checkmark$ | Tristin Chi | Vice-Chair |
| $\square$ | Atif Rashid | Treasurer |
| $\checkmark$ | Patrick De Pape | Secretary |
| $\checkmark$ | Laurie Rogers | Volunteer Coordinator |
| $\square$ | Ray Tropiano | Pizza Coordinator |
| $\square$ | Lili Yan | Webmaster |
| $\square$ | Jessica Gwilliam | Parent-at-Large |
| $\checkmark$ | Kim Pescod | Parent-at-Large |
| $\checkmark$ | Lynn Vanesse | Parent-at-Large |
| $\checkmark$ | Marianne Gee | Parent-at-Large |
| $\checkmark$ | Tamara Webb | Parent-at-Large |
| $\checkmark$ | Christina Gillanders | Principal |
| $\checkmark$ | Ben Ovington | Vice-Principal |
| $\checkmark$ | Marianne Dietrich | Teacher Representative |
| $\checkmark$ | Samantha Lauzon |  |
| $\checkmark$ | Sarah Blackadder |  |

## Welcome (James)

- Call to Order
- Land Acknowledgement
- Agenda Approved
- September 2023 Meeting Summary Approved


## Update from Administration

## Overview (Christina)

- EQAO Snapshot: Check out the EQAO Steve MacLean PS (565750) school results. Math performance is consistently above the board average. No significant declines from last year.
- Climate Survey: Discussion postponed to the next meeting for in-depth analysis.
- Class Reorganization: Reorganization is done; currently seeking 2 ECEs and 1 French teacher.
- Enrollment: Currently, the school has 740 students. Maintaining 800 students is crucial to retain existing staff. Below 800, staff reductions are anticipated, leading to fewer resources to address issues.


## Challenges and Community Response (Christina)

- Shortage Impact: The shortage of staff has created a reactive environment instead of a preventative one. Community members are assisting, but there's a need for understanding and support from the school community.
- Teacher Movement: Some teachers moved to the Catholic Board, contributing to the overall staff shortage.
- Calming Corner Removal: The removal of the calming corner has affected the school environment; possible solutions need exploration.
- Solving Disruptions: Sibling photos caused disruptions; considering attaching such events to evening activities was discussed but not favored by the council.


## Parental Involvement (Christina).

- Volunteering: Parents encouraged to volunteer through ONFE and school-specific channels (website, Facebook page). You can_sign up to be an OVIE volunteer.
- Positive Intent: Emphasized the importance of assuming positive intent in all communications and interactions within the school community.


## Staff Update (Marianne)

- Impact of Reorganization: Staff facing additional challenges due to recent reorganization; extra support and understanding
$\square$ Laurie to contact potential volunteers in nearby communities (villas) to register through ONFE and school platforms. ras addressing challenges related to staff shortage
needed.
- Existing Clubs: Highlighted various clubs, including homework club, leadership club, art club, school musical (Beauty and the Beast this year), grade 8 band, grade 4 Minecraft Club, and sports teams (touch football, soccer, cross country running).
- Success and Challenges: Celebration of the Girl Team Tier 2 victory in their division, but no primary choir this year. Timing for the sister school program was discussed and deemed not feasible at the moment.


## Events

## Classroom Showcase (Tristin)

- Turnout: Excellent attendance at the Classroom Showcase event; parents and community members actively participated.
- Volunteer List: 33 individuals signed up to volunteer for various school activities, indicating strong parental engagement.
- Interactive Activities: The crayon guessing game was a popular attraction; Scarlett Nap emerged as the winner with 89 crayons guessed correctly. Additionally, the candy station received positive feedback from attendees.
- Feedback and Future Planning: Recognizing the success, the idea of using a Google form for organizing volunteers for similar events next year was suggested. This method aims to streamline the volunteer coordination process and enhance participation.


## Used Book Sale (Sarah)

- Event Overview: The 6th annual book sale mirrored the format of the previous year and was deemed a success. Despite a lower dollar value in sales, the event excelled in its primary objective: promoting literacy within the community.
- Volunteer Engagement: A remarkable total of 40 volunteers, including 15 high school students, dedicated approximately 200 hours of volunteer work to ensure the event's smooth operation.
- Success Indicators: The event's success was evident in its impact on promoting literacy. This year, the introduction of two book drives significantly contributed to the event's popularity.
- Increasing Popularity: Anticipated growth in popularity next year, attributed to increased exposure during the Classroom Showcase event. Attendees appreciated the availability of free books, enhancing the event's appeal and encouraging reading habits among children.
- Financial Considerations: A proposal was made to allocate a specific budget for providing books to children, ensuring accessibility and encouraging reading outside the school environment.
- Vendor Engagement: To further enhance exposure and engagement, there was a suggestion to invite the Churro truck

Use Google form next year to streamline the volunteer sign up process Allocate funds to buys books for kids who can't afford them
Look into inviting the churro truck for other book sale nights

$\square$Look into cards and touchless payments methods (Square)Launch a promotional campaign to boost spirit wear sales. Explore using school cash online to increase spirit wear salesFuture dances, set up a sensory/ kindergarten segment.
vendor back for future events.

- Payment Methods: An outstanding question was raised regarding the adoption of Square for payment processing. Further discussion is required to determine the feasibility and benefits of incorporating Square into the payment options for school events.


## Spirit Wear (Laurie)

- Vendor Continuity: Decision to continue with the current vendor for spirit wear items, ensuring consistency in quality and design.
- Sales Campaign: Launching a promotional campaign to boost spirit wear sales. Strategies include creating awareness through posters placed around the school premises and online promotion via the school's website and social media platforms.
- Inspiration from Terry Fox Event: Exploration of the possibility to implement a similar approach as the one used for Terry Fox t-shirts with school cash online to increase spirit wear sales.


## Mural Wall Completion (Lynn).

- Project Completion: Successful completion of the mural wall project, which has received positive feedback from the school community.


## Halloween Dance (Samantha)

- Event Update: Preparations for the Halloween Dance are proceeding smoothly. The DJ is confirmed, and logistics are in place.
- Volunteer Recruitment: Volunteers are still needed for various roles during the event. Efforts will continue to fill these positions to ensure the event runs seamlessly.
- Upcoming Dances: Future dances, set up a sensory/kindergarten segment. The gym capacity is 650, ensuring a safe and enjoyable environment for all attendees.


## November 17th 2023 Event (Roundtable)

Decision - Event will be a bingo night and Laurie will lead

- Event Details: The upcoming event on November 17th will be a Bingo game with prizes. Laurie is leading the organization to ensure the event's success.
- Inclusivity Focus: Emphasis on creating an inclusive atmosphere for all attendees, ensuring that everyone, regardless of age or background, can actively participate and enjoy the event.


## Other Topics:

- Maker Market for Council April Event: Discussion on organizing a Maker Market for the April event. Consideration of charging a nominal fee per table for participants to cover event expenses and ensure commitment.
- Pavement Painting Project: Exploration of the idea to use School Council Funds for painting game lines on the pavement outside the school. This initiative aims to enhance the school's outdoor space creatively and involve students, parents, and local artists.
- Gym Mural Proposal: Further discussion regarding a proposed mural in the gymnasium using the same artist who did the mural by the entrance.


## Form Carnival Committee (Roundtable)

Decision to establish a committee for organizing the school carnival. The committee will be co-chaired by Lynn, Tristin, Kim, and James. Initial planning and coordination will take place through an online meeting.

## OCASC September Meeting Debrief (Tristin)

Summary of the OCASC (Ottawa-Carleton Assembly of School Councils) September meeting. It served as an introductory session, where different committees were discussed, and plans were made for the Annual General Meeting (AGM) on showcase night.

## Pizza Program (Kim)

- School Cash Online Lists: Concerns raised about the confusion that happened because of the list and mix up with the class reorg
- Pizza Quality Concerns: Feedback received regarding the quality of the pizza served in the school program. Pizza were
- Exploring New Providers: Considering exploring alternative pizza providers to address quality concerns.
- More Pizza Bags: Considering purchasing more bags to keep the pizza warm because it is arriving early.


## Review outstanding To Dos and assign (Roundtable)

Reviewed the checklist for September, October and some of November. Refer to the checklist in the October 25, 2023 meeting_ agenda for a list of what was updated.

## Any Other Business (Roundtable)

- Principal Profile Update and Review: The school council discussed the update and review of the principal's profile, ensuring it aligns with the current needs and vision of the school.
- Treasurer's Report Reviewed: The treasurer's report was presented, reviewed and approved, providing insights into theReview bylaws at the next meetingMake sure the council has a presence at the parentteacher interviewsCreate survey to see if Wednesday is still the best night for council meetings
council's financial status and expenditures.
- Bylaw Review: Decision made to review the council's bylaws in the upcoming meeting to ensure they remain relevant and effective in governing council operations.
- Council Presence at Parent-Teacher Meetings: Discussion on the importance of school council representation at parentteacher meetings to facilitate communication and gather feedback from parents.
- Enhancing Meeting Accessibility: Exploring options such as providing babysitting services and food during meetings to reduce barriers to entry for parents' participation. Wednesday was identified as the most popular night for such events, maximizing attendance potential.


## Closing Remarks and Adjourn (James)

Meeting Adjourned

Next meeting: November 22nd, 2023

