

MONTROYAL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL BOARD/PAC JANUARY 15, 2015 MEETING

Members present: Jana Madill; Rebecca Rutter; Judith Brain; Shannon Harris; Hardish Garson; Shaheen Rehmat; Michelle Allison; Grahnia McDonnell; Lorna Moffat; Helen Casey; Scott Taylor; Cindy Hudson; Cindy Power; Tracy Todd; Janette Ferber

Call to Order

I would like to call the meeting to order at 7:06 pm.

Declare Quorum and Introductions

Jana thanked everyone for coming.

A minimum of eight voting members must be present. She declared that we did have quorum with 15 members present.

Jana noted minor changes to the Agenda. She introduced Mrs. Todd who would be talking about possible changes to the curriculum and Hardish Garson who would be talking about DPAC.

Approval of the Agenda

JANA MADILL: The Agenda for tonight's meeting has been circulated and posted. At this time, are there any amendments and/or additions to the Agenda?

Can I have a motion to approve tonight's Agenda as posted on Thursday, January 8th and as amended this evening?

Upon motion duly made by Helen Casey and seconded by Shannon Harris it is resolved to accept the amended Agenda as presented.

Approval of Minutes (previous meeting)

JANA MADILL: Minutes are typically posted on the MPAC website within two weeks of our meeting. The Minutes from our last meeting on November 20th have been circulated and posted. At this time, are there any corrections?

Can I have a motion to approve the Minutes of the November 20th PAC Meeting as posted on December 2nd?

Motion: Michelle Allison

Seconded: Shannon Harris

Can we please have a vote to approve these minutes? All in favour raise your hand. All in favour.

Upon motion duly made by Michelle Allison and seconded by Shannon Harris it is resolved to accept the minutes are presented.

Principal/Vice-Principal Reports

JANA MADILL: I would now like to introduce our Principal, Mrs. Tracy Todd, and our Vice-Principal, Ms. Cindy Hudson, and ask that they present reports from the administration, including a presentation on new curriculum plans.

JANA MADILL: Thanked Mrs. Power for being the teacher representative at the meeting.

Mrs. Todd gave a breakdown of what is happening in each division as follows:

Division 1: Mr. Teed has an old fashioned typewriter in his classroom. The students are taking turns adding to an ongoing story;

Division 2: Mr. Thomson's class is creating timelines for ancient civilization;

Division 3: Mr. E's class is creating models of the human body out of recycled materials;

Division 4: Miss Gill's class is focusing on mapping, human geography and biology. They have been watching videos of sneezes in slow-motion;

Division 5: Mr. Haag divided his students into tribes and they are playing aboriginal games;

Division 6: The classroom has been working on storyboards featuring social responsibility;

Division 7: Miss Bergstrand's class has been working on math vocabulary.

Division 8: Mrs. Power has been playing pocket math. Mrs. Power also talked about the Environmental Club's project called, "Have a Heart for Animals". A group of students will interview a shelter supervisor to see what animals they have. Another set of students will be doing interviews at school. Each class will get a box and families will be encouraged to donate to the shelter.

Division 9: The students have been working on geometry and art;

Divisions 11 and 12: The salmon eggs have arrived!

Library: Mrs. Hill is working with Mr. E to pick out a distinguished person to research.

Volleyball: Has started. The girls have not practiced but have had their first game.

Coin Drive: Student Council sponsors a child through World Vision from Tanzania. The Student Council went to all of the classes talking about the Sponsor Child. They will be asking families for spare change to contribute towards the Sponsor Child and will also be doing a bagel sale.

Pyjama Day: Scheduled to coincide with Literacy Day - Monday, January 26, 2015.

The students have been focusing on kindness since November. Points are accumulated every time you perform an act of kindness. Individual points are then put towards house teams. Random acts of kindness have included picking up garbage outside, holding the door open for

someone; being an awesome friend. Students have been recognized over the PA system for their kindnesses.

In January, the Grade 6's and 7's will be doing workshops on kindness and trying to understand how mindful acts of kindness can affect the brain.

February will be about filling your bucket. The tree at the top of the stairs will be replaced by a bucket. There will be conversations about what kinds of things fill the kids up.

The Library funding is done!

The technology fund has been spent. The desktops have been installed and the laptops are due to arrive Tuesday, January 20th.

The ski/snowboarding program forms went home last week. The dates were challenging with respect to professional days and Family Day. In the end, the decision was made to schedule the program for every Friday in February. There almost 30 kids signed up. They're excited and the PAC is happy with the number of students participating.

Red Cross Safety training is usually for Grade 6's but it did not happen last year so they will get it this year. We would like to offer it to Grade 6's and 7's this year but we would need more money.

There have been two new things this year:

1. First Peoples Principles of Learning being incorporated into curriculum. Posters are being put up in all classrooms. There is an effort being made to make this more about who we all are living on this land;
2. Beginning January 2015, there will be a traditional territory acknowledgement at every assembly, play, meeting, etc.

A new BC curriculum is being developed. It can be viewed at <https://curriculum.gov.bc.ca>. It is a total rethink of the way kids are being taught. We need to teach kids to be critical thinkers and good communicators. The draft curriculum has an IB feel to it in that it is more inquiry-based.

Mrs. Todd says a lot of the things that staff at Montroyal do is already part of the new curriculum and so it will not be a huge shift for them. They're up on their professional development. There is still lots of work that needs to be done. It is an exciting change.

QUESTION BY JANA MADILL: Asked when the curriculum would be implemented.

ANSWER BY MRS. TODD: They are hoping that it will be fully implemented by the 2016-2017 school year but will start to incorporate it next school year. It is an enormous change and will take a long time to figure it all out.

QUESTION BY JANA MADILL: Asked if the teachers will be using early dismissal days to go over this.

ANSWER BY MRS. TODD: She said that they will be using early dismissal days in that way next school year.

QUESTION BY JANA MADILL: Asked if teacher workshops are options.

ANSWER BY MRS. TODD: Workshops are but professional days are not.

QUESTION BY HARDISH GARSON: Will they be using the same math textbooks?

ANSWER BY MRS. TODD: Yes, they will continue to use the Math Makes Sense books as they still work but the approach will change.

QUESTION BY JANA MADILL: Is the implementation of an aboriginal curriculum a BC thing or is it Canada-wide?

ANSWER BY MRS. TODD: New Zealand has enjoyed great success with the implementation of a similar program. Canada looks at that. There are some provinces with large aboriginal populations not graduating. We need to embrace them provide support. For example, it could be beneficial to implement a First Nations Support Worker who would help groups of First Nations students improve their learning.

MISS HUDSON: Tells us that the Core Competencies will be changing. Distribution of report cards may or may not be affected.

QUESTION BY JANA MADILL: What is timeline for having a draft curriculum for senior high school?

ANSWER BY MRS. TODD: It is being worked on. She does not know how long it will take.

QUESTION BY LORNA MOFFAT: Who is working on it?

ANSWER BY MRS. TODD: More than half of the people working on the curriculum are teachers. Mrs. Todd will continue to give updates at PAC meetings. She feels that parent education is key. Separate curriculum nights for parents will be considered as will a Parent Night.

Financial Reports

JANA MADILL: I would like to introduce Shannon Harris and Scott Taylor to review the current Financial Statements.

SHANNON HARRIS: We are two-thirds of the way to our fundraising goals. We're at \$26,000 and need to get to \$36,000. Most of the expenses are incurred in the second term and we are on target to have the resources to support this year's budget.

JANA MADILL: At this time, we would also like to review the First Aid Training fund that was voted on as part of our budget at October's PAC meeting.

The current budget is for \$600. However, in reviewing the program offered by Red Cross, typically to our Grade 6's, it was noted that our current Grade 7's did not get a chance to

participate in the program last year. We would like to offer the program, as usual during class time, to all of our Grade 6's and 7's this year. This would require an additional \$150. We are confident that the increase in this expense will be covered off by additional revenues. Therefore, we would like to request that we increase the budget to \$750 for this program.

Can I have a motion to add \$150 to the First Aid Training fund as presented this evening?

Motion: Hardish Garson

Seconded: Helen Casey

Can we please have a vote to approve this budget? All in favour raise your hand. All in favour. Opposed? No one.

Upon motion duly made by Hardish Garson and seconded by Helen Casey it is resolved to accept the addition of \$150 to the First Aid Training Budget.

SHANNON HARRIS: Judith has arranged for all tax receipts to go home except for the last few that came in over the deadline.

Committee Presentations/Reports

Fundraising

REBECCA RUTTER: The Christmas Market made a little bit of profit which helped cover its costs.

The cheque drive was successful. The money raised will cover operating costs. A big thank you to all of the families who donated. Thank you to Judith Brain for her help with the tax receipts.

JANA MADILL: There will be a couple of Grade 7 fundraisers although she doesn't know what they are yet. The tree chipping event was a great success and raised \$1,200.

JANA MADILL: I would like to introduce Hardish Garson, our DPAC Representative, who will provide a brief overview of ongoing business in the district.

HARDISH GARSON: Talked about how there are grants available and that schools are being encouraged to apply for their grants. The October DPAC meeting focussed on having children continuously assessed and having them really understand how they're doing instead of being graded. The example she gave was that you don't walk out of yoga class with a C+.

MRS. TODD: Went to a presentation about the Surrey School District and she said it was quite well done. The Surrey School District is piloting this approach.

QUESTION BY JANA MADILL: What is the feedback from post-secondary schools?

ANSWER BY MRS. TODD: That is why Grades 10,11 and 12 are not up yet.

HARDISH GARSON: Outdoor school is now called Cheakamus Outdoor School. They're going to try and offer it to other districts to try and make money but North Vancouver will still have priority.

A North Vancouver Mom is setting up friendship groups in schools. She has a child, Jess, who has special needs. She found he had no friends and so she had everyone sign up to play with him. In the end, it helped all students understand that it is ok to be different. It helped to demystify special needs to kids. She is open to coming to any school to initiate the program.

QUESTION FROM SHAHEEN REHMAT: Do they talk about when Handsworth is going to be rebuilt?

ANSWER FROM HARDISH GARSON: Is going to ask at the next meeting.

Next Meeting Reminder: Thursday, February 26th and NO Meeting in March.

Adjourn

I move to officially adjourn the meeting at 8:10 pm. All in favour. All. Carried.

Thank you and goodnight.