

**MONTROYAL PAC MEETING SEPTEMBER 29, 2016
HELD IN MULTIPURPOSE ROOM at MONTROYAL
MEETING MINUTES**

1. Welcome/Call to Order

Meeting was called to Order at 9:01 a.m. by PAC Chair, Carol Sartor, who declared that with 17+ people in attendance, quorum was reached.

2. Approval of Agenda for MPAC Meeting September 29, 2016

Motion to approve the Agenda by Sandy Milone and seconded by Janet Carswell. All in favour. So approved.

3. Approval of May 26, MPAC Meeting Minutes

Motion to approve the Meeting Minutes from the MPAC meeting held May 26, 2016 by Janet Carswell and seconded by Ilona Kuligowska. All in favour. So approved.

4. MPAC 2016-2017 – General Introduction and Updates – by Chair, Carol Sartor

Carol started with an introduction of Montroyal's PAC Executive Members:

Chairperson:	Carol Sartor
Vice-Chairperson:	Dave Smail
Treasurers:	Scott Taylor & Ingrid Wood
Secretary:	Sandy Milone
Communication Coordinators:	Yvonne Smith & Jane Alpen
Fundraising Coordinators:	Position Available
District PAC Representative:	Nina Velasquez

Carol then introduced the various committees who enrich our school community:

Hot Lunch Coordinator:	Claudia Harrington & Lianne Jensen
Christmas Market:	Yvette Scott
Emergency Prep Coordinator:	Pearl Vandijk & Shannon Harris
Giving Tree:	Jen Roberts
Grade 5 Traffic:	Position Available
Library Volunteer Primary:	Nicole Sciamanna
Parent Resource Library:	Cathy Mount
Playground Committee Chair:	Still recruiting
Play Volunteer Coordinator:	Yvette Scott
Poster Design:	Signe Hougaard & Linda Tang
Program Committee Chair:	Shaheen Rehmat & Ilona Kuligowska
School Supplies:	Position available

Ski/Snowboard Coordinator: Nicole Sciamanna
Staff Appreciation Lunch (spring) Maura Rabiner

Meeting Housekeeping Items of discussion and review:

- Discussed various days and times this year for the PAC meetings per results from the parent survey – will have meetings at various times so that all have opportunity to attend.
- Tent cards being used at the meetings this year – include name, and your kids at school; helps for during the meeting. We will collect tent cards as our attendance, this will allow us to track which days and times are the most popular and the demographics of the group in attendance. Will help with future planning of upcoming meetings, including time and topics.
- Will be respectful of everyone's time and start and end in the time allocated for the PAC meeting; past events will not be covered at the meeting unless there was a need or concern, all reports will be posted on our MPAC website under ABOUT US – MEETINGS.
- These meetings are for sharing and gathering input, if you have items you would like to have added to the Agenda, please contact our Secretary, Sandy Milone, raise the item at the meeting and the following actions will be taken:
 - If time allows, we will discuss in the meeting
 - If time does not allow, we will table and set a follow up meeting to discuss the topic and send out the invitation to the school community.

Goals:

- School connectedness – Healthy, Happy, Safe
- To be more connected, which improves emotional aspect, resulting in healthy, happy, safe.

Upcoming Meeting topics:

- Sharon Shelby – managing relationships – October or early November
- January focus will be on emergency preparedness
- We will have a social event each term to help bring the school community together and be able to connect. Pointed out a Mom's night recently occurred, will be similar in upcoming terms, including Dad's night.

BBQ Report:

Is now online, take away item is that it is too soon after back to school to get everyone to order online, looking at pay on site (makes ordering tricky). Possible to get event coordinator for next year's BBQ.

Walk & Wheel – October 3-7; three days total

Have the street permit to close Sonora at both ends of Cliffridge in the mornings on these three days; special guests each day (police, fire, fitness coordinator). Grade 7's volunteered their time and all have been assigned their roles for these days.

Fundraising:

Carol pointed out past fundraising initiatives in the school – smart boards, new laptop carts, 1.5 year old computer lab. Putting money aside for future technology purchases and playground/outdoor class, educational enhancements.

Fundraising this year will be partly for investment for outdoor environment (playground); coverage of programs in school sponsored by PAC (table tennis).

5. Principal/Vice Principal Report - Tracey Todd, Principal

- Tracey started by indicating that it was nice to see large group of parents in attendance.
- Successful and calm start up to school year; all staff had been in place before school started.
- Fewer splits than ever; groups of friends/kids together a bit more.
- Curriculum night went well; Tracey open to feedback if tweaks needed.
- Students – best beginnings program
 - Broke kids into two groups of grade 2-7 (Kindergarten/grade 1's still adjusting)
 - Problem solving, good manners, recycling; overall school culture, how to be safe, happy
 - Grade 5-7 – recycling, laptop/internet safety, study skills, school clubs, leadership;
 - Kids responded well.

- New laptops in over summer, thank you to PAC. Using the still usable old ones with younger grades, in class.
- Club signup – generates excitement 363 names total, mostly grade 4-7. All wanting to be involved; Ms. Gill teaching photography wildly popular. Environmental and Fee the Children also very popular. Great to see so many kids wanting to be involved; Mrs. Palgova getting kids to help re first aide, etc due to broken hand.
- All new windows in on back wall first week of school, now on to metal siding – classes will be nicer to be in, old windows didn't close properly, cold and drafty. Now will be double-paned windows and insulated properly will make classes better.
- Paint has been freshened up; some interior touch-up done inside (around stage, etc).
- School is holding up nicely, great old building, has a lot of storage.

- Curriculum (what are teachers learning)
 - Aboriginal ways of learning incorporated into science and math; some very interesting, teachers appreciated.
 - New textbooks preview via publishers
 - K. Gill re National Geographic trip/British Isles trip – requested a 360 camera – Kristen did a workshop on it on how to use; other teachers have all sorts of ideas of how to use it.
 - Creative design component, great ways to use science, math, creative, problem solving. Teachers learned about the whole process. Maker Spaces

Parent Question – designated space? Tracey noted that multi-purpose has storage space for the components, would be great to incorporate, use in this room. Teachers would need more training, but will pursue as teachers think very valuable.

- New report cards
 - Changing formats; will have a parent portal, will get an access code and log into portal rather than piece of paper.
 - Will there be glitches – all of us will need to be patient through new process.
 - Have not actually seen it, but had a look at sample and reviewed some of the different reporting requirements. For instance, Fine Arts now broken down to movement, dance, drama, music etc.
- Handsworth renovations. Should have gotten letter about this, not sure of timeline as yet; falls into line behind Argyle.
- Family of schools - Grade 8's did for first time a get-away, seemed to go well. Tracey said Handsworth, despite age, looking good and has been painted, maintained.

Carol reviewed what parents can do to lobby with provincial government; how to brainstorm with family of schools; will be an agenda item in future meeting. **Family of schools curriculum night – set for Oct 26.**

- One more around school – remedial work on trees around school (brought to forefront due to Highlands incident). We don't seem to get as much wind, but nevertheless, loose, snags, leaning, some cut and removed. Tracey did walkthrough – now has been done on all school lands; can't control as much on the trees on surrounding lands – has reviewed but does not see anything of concern. **Any safety issue one notes please bring to office attention.** Anything of concern has been removed but please let office know if anything else noted.

Parent Question – has the surrounding houses been approached? Tracey said not as yet, Nina pointed out that some have been cleared as one tree fell through someone's house. Significant clearing.

Action item: PAC / David – will lead community letter re trees

Questions for Tracey:

Outdoor school change?

Because of new curriculum/aboriginal studies – still a two day program; Teachers looking for alternatives re program in town vs overnight away. Transition year for grade 4's big house – same idea as in-town.

Are they looking at kids to still have the experience?

Teachers may not be able to volunteer for big house (more hands on); but outdoor school has the counsellors.

NEXT DPAC meeting – there is a rep that deals with outdoor school – Nina to find out re DPAC who is the rep and what are they supporting.

Parent Question – where do we hear about the clubs in school for kids?

Tracey pointed out board in lobby; on website under students; notices do go out.

Parent Question – textbooks that were mentioned: when do they roll out?

Only one ready for grade 6; is a gradual roll out. Reviewing what they want here and teachers are actually creating their own via the new curriculum. A lot of the curriculum being rolled out does not have the supporting materials as yet; as mentioned on curriculum night, they are finding ways to teach, and the learnings will still be there. As a school and a district, we were already teaching that way, already going in these directions of teaching more creatively; our district has been doing work on this for 8-10 years. The topic is not the whole thing; it is more about getting kids to find new ways to explore/learn; teachers taking topics from new curriculum and working them in; don't think we need to worry as our staff particularly are working hard to do this – most worked through August, some are in on weekends, staying late. We have teachers doing a great job and are collaborating with each other to implement ongoing. A change in education was needed; classic way no longer works as effectively in teaching.

Event re poster from last year re parent input?

Tracey is working on getting the information and compiling and will be on website. Were busy with start-up and will be out there. Will provide follow-up and future PAC meeting will provide more info.

Parent Comment – we appreciate as a PAC what the teachers are doing, are they aware they can pull on us for resources, assistance where needed.

Scott – we have added a line item in budget to help support curriculum implementation that is there for the teachers.

Parent Comment – coding come into the school?

Understand one parent came in to teach one class; Tracey indicated that there is an offer there for an afterschool coding program. Indicated that need to also work with government about announcing coding training for kids – but need government to explain to teachers what supports are they bringing in for the teachers to teach it. Rather than just pull on community support, should have a mandate from government of how to implement.

Ilona commented on program committee – is one being looked at for this transitional year. Ilona said last year grade 3's did a session; but interesting concept that they are talking about coding (which is a huge thing).

Realistically, there is only so much time in one day to teach all the basics, and where would coding even fit in during a regular school system. Hard to see how to add more into the teaching day; also have social/emotional learning to focus on too.

Further discussion and detail on coding ensued – not all have the mathematical concepts that are needed (the basics) for coding. Comment: can teach calculus to a 3rd grader, but won't understand the context etc.

Carol – District indicated that 'coding' is really teaching the mathematical concepts; and more about the context of it; Christy Clark's announcement a bit mis-interpreted.

Parent Comment – what about kids in grade 6 that may miss the opportunity?

Ilona said she can put together on Parent Resources a list of links of how to learn coding.

ACTION ITEM: PARENT RESOURCE SITE – ADD RESOURCES FOR MATH, READING, LANGUAGE ARTS AND CODING ASSISTANCE.

Carol – Improvement of School reading.

Reviewed grade 7 results from last year. Two years ago guiding reading program implemented. Two years of intensive reading, reading out loud, no one in not yet exceeding. Tracey pointed out that a new test being piloted that is more in line of how are kids are learning.

It is noted that even grade 1's reading morning announcements has also improved immensely over past few years.

Some clarity on some of the words ... MSK is masked (can't see); writing is not cursive writing.

Parent Question: how are they teaching to exceeding or meeting?

Tracey clarified that we here don't 'teach to the test' (some private schools do).

Parent Question – Tracey implemented guided reading – is this continuing?

Tracey said it is a district wide program; have implemented it in our school. Discussed how by teachers scheduled

6. Financials – Scott Taylor, Treasurer

Review of June 30 final results - Did not have June meeting, so official final results being reviewed today.

Revenues – as people likely know, do a lot of fundraising, many meant to get involved, not with goal of only making big profit.

We apply for a gaming grant based on head count for school – we will get more or less; we got just over 7000; meant for prescribed things such as athletic enhancements, performance groups, i-girl/i-guy programs.

Biggest fundraising is the hot lunch – pretty conservative in our budget, blown away in both sessions.

In terms of budget for this year, we increased budget based on last year, and will allocate to school programs.

Jog-a-thon raised over \$8000 – note for future PAC, is a great way to fundraise for the school; relatively easy and promotes fitness.

Revenues up by \$12000 mostly due to hot lunch program. Big thank you for the support of the program, and for Lianne and Claudia and all their hard work with the program.

Parent Question – who gets receipts from teachers? Collected by Dianne and forwarded to treasurers. Fair to say each teacher uses it, but also fair to say not all use the max available.

Class enhancements – don't always get the full amount spent – teachers allocated \$350.

Programs – had only 3 of 4 performances – i-girl / i-guy – extra funds put to this as mentioned in past PAC meeting.

Parent Question – Principal's fund – teachers are aware of it; principal can help out those who may need the help. How to reach out to the families that may use it? Comments – Tracey could put in newsletter; teachers know their students best and may go through that way. Discussion re "Mother Hubbard" program, food on hand here.

Expenses: typically spend up to budget, we do put some away for reserve funds (playground and technology) as part of expenses.

As we were in a surplus position – went to the school and asked for wish list, and have placed orders for noise cancelling earphones and speaker systems in class.

Reserves and Surplus

Reviewed contributions from expenses; parent social (hugely successful) – when we have a gala like that, depending on year and timing, it might be to finance a current year operating budget – in this case, was solely for the technology laptop cart, with 18000 raised, and with all the other sources of funding (reviewed spreadsheet), means we had 40000 to spend on laptop carts. Cheque not yet cut, but the money has been spent. Surplus will be moved into playground.

Not going to review current year as just started.

BBQ – was a break-even, as it was meant to be.

Hot lunch – off to a good start, had changed from 8000 to 11000 and suspect we will be over-budget again.

Scott – have a vendor from last year that refused to invoice; we have been accounted for in our expenses, but no cheque/payment will be issued until invoices received. They have been contacted about this, have been made aware.

Has hot lunch participation gone up – 291 enrolled, that is our entire school program.

236 actual orders. Dave Smail willing to go back and pull last year's reports for comparison purposes.

Question – trying to confirm that okay for grade 7s to do TCBY (Dave will add for 2nd session, but funds not included as part of hot lunch); grade 7's to hand out orders on the Fridays. Cath confirmed was about 12 sessions last year.

Carol explained the Grade 7 fundraiser program, what for, types of past fundraising opportunities.

ACTION ITEM: PAC TO CONTACT COBBS ETC RE MONTROYAL FUNDRAISER.

Parent Question – re fundraising – are we doing another jog-a-thon this year? Carol responded that we will do a 'thon' but will get input from kids as to what type of a 'thon' we will do.

7. Director and Committee Reports

Ilona – review of programs currently offered, Kudzu full. Discussion on whether or not Kindergarten included yet through the afterschool program. Also, include Canyon Heights? Would have rec person needing to meet and walk up – Tracey pointed out would likely want to give priority to Montroyal students.

Why no art mania? Ilona indicated it has 'run its course' and had declining enrollment. We like art mania, no issues at all re vendor; however, maybe rotate with another program.

Talk of pro-d day art/classes –Tracey said it is hard when no staff in building – however, Susanna/Lorna may do out of home or basement. Tracey has no problem with them here on days with staff in building. Very respectful and clean up after themselves.

Ilona – any thoughts, questions, ideas – click through website for program committee.

Parent Comment: should help parents self-discover where to find the info on the website and via Sunday night email. People just don't read the communication; if you don't bother looking at it, you will likely miss the information.

Events coming up:

Orange shirt day – recognizing residential schools – Carol/Pac have provided orange ribbons. Will be an assembly at 9:00 tomorrow; Tracey will read a story. From Truth and Reconciliations.

Walk and wheel week next week – Sonora will be closed, kids reclaiming the street; permit to close the street, letter to residents (only their cars allowed in); teachers will be advised. Assistant superintendent on Wed; school trustee.

Picture Day on 5th

Harvest Lunch next week – details from Tracey. Copy from web.

8. Volunteers

Listed on website montroyalpac.com and names collected so far have been forwarded to the appropriate leaders; the more we put up our hands to be there, the more we get people to help.

9. Other

Cath – works with Saleema Noon – shared new book by Saleema. \$25. Has a trunk-full.

ACTION ITEM: PUT BOOK ON ORDERING SYSTEM. PARENT LIBRARY – allocate some funds for that.

NEXT MEETING – may be in strong start room.

Tuesday, November 15, 2016, 1-3 pm.

Meeting adjourned 10:57 a.m.

In Attendance:

Nina Velasquez

Signe

Scott Taylor

Ilona Kuligowska,

Yvonne Smith

Dave Smail

Cat Cantas

Mohammed

Bo

Janet Carswell,

Michelle Allison

Tracey Todd

Sandy Milone

Carol Sartor

Denise

Lianne Jenson

Layla

Cath Blythe

Total 18